



Stefano Savioli was born in Roma, Italy, on the 26th of September 1949 and is survived by two older brothers, Luciano and Maurizio. Stefano married his first wife, Danila in the early 70's, and they had a son together, Christiano, born April 1975.

The family moved to Canada in 1977, settling in Chatham Ontario as neighbors to his best friend, Stefano Perdisa. The Savioli's bought land and became farmers, raising corn and soybeans on the fertile farmland of Southern Ontario. In the winter of '78 they drove together to Belize, the first of many journeys Stefano would make to Latin America.

In 1980 Stefano sold the farm, and moved to BC to live on a boat in the Gorge Harbor. He discovered Cortes on his first trip to BC, and had fallen in love with the island. The family

separated, Danila and Christiano moved home to Italy, and Stefano bought the house at the corner of Robertson Road, next door to Trudes Café.

In 1983, he became a land-partner of the property at Thunder Road, and over the decades he transformed the land into a unique expression of his creative vision, building gardens, a guest cabin, shop, studio and house, while living off the grid. Long before people heard of sustainable living Stefano was practicing a minimalist life, conserving, salvaging materials, and putting many long hours of hard work into the land that he loved so much.

Over those happy years he fulfilled his dream of becoming an artist, painting Cortes Island, and Islanders, in ways that reveal how the eye of the artist perceives the world and shows it to the viewer anew in ways we never imagined. With a gift for color composition, landscape and a vivid imagination, not to mention a touch of political and social satire, Stefano became a well known and much loved Cortes artist. He was unfailingly generous, giving anonymously to both individuals and community groups, while living a modest, quiet country life that gave him creative inspiration and inner satisfaction.





In January 1996 he travelled to Cuba, and met Abigail, his love and muse for the rest of his life. In 1998 they married in Havana, and came home to Cortes together in the spring. They were inseparable, working long hours together in the garden growing their own food, and expanding the house to make room for Abigail's son Samuel, who was finally allowed to leave Cuba in 1999 to join Abi and Stefano in Canada. Abigail and Samuel soon learned to speak English, Samuel went to school, and the family lived an honest, simple life filled with love.

They experienced many adventures together, travelling to Cuba, Peru, Italy, Paris, Holland and Mexico, often with just a small backpack, visiting out of the way places and sharing one another's dreams. As the years went by Stefano, Abigail and Samuel were well loved and well

respected in a small community where a person's worth is based on their word, their deeds and their actions.

Having come to a tragic and untimely end has left us heartbroken and sad beyond measure. We ask how this could happen to a man with such a good heart, solid values, and so much love and respect on this Island called home. There are no answers to our grief and our suffering, other than to remember that the light is always stronger than darkness. Stefano led by example, showing us ways to live in community within the spirit of love, compassion and friendship. We can honor Stefano's spirit by expressing the positive, giving with a humble heart, and sharing our kindness and love with one another. Stefano always had a sparkle in his eyes, because he saw magic in the world around him. We will forever miss the gift of his light in our lives.

