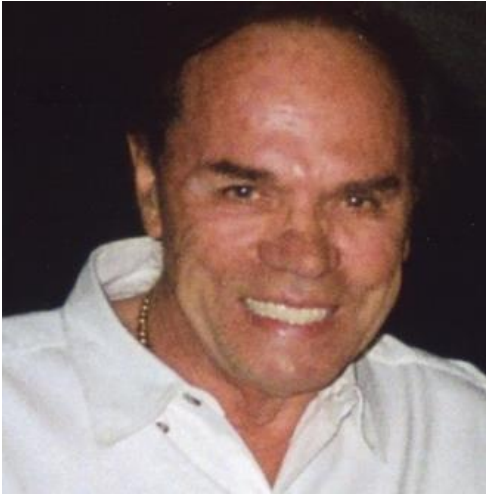


## THE MUSIC AND TRAVEL/TOURISM INDUSTRIES MOURNE THE LOSS OF A LEGENDARY FIGURE



### BOB NAGEL

Peacefully on May 19, 2021, Bob passed away with rock and roll music playing in the background.

Born in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Bob lived a full, rich life. Music and travel were his passions, starting his adult career at a young age working with music promoters and **big-name stars**. Bob moved to Edmonton in 1962, eventually marrying and settling down to raise a family.

Bob and wife Pat both come from an entertainment background and have always been very involved with music. Bob was instrumental in starting several marching bands in the Edmonton area. He founded and organized the **Edmonton Girls Drum and Bugle Band** and their first performances were for Canada's Centennial in 1967. Later he founded the **Alberta All Girls Drum & Bugle Band**, the largest of its kind in the world. In the fall of 1970, Bob and Pat had four marching bands, each with over 100 members. The four bands included the Alberta All Girls Senior Band (age 14-21), the Alberta All Girls Junior Band (age 10-14), the Alberta Boys Band, and the Hobbema Girls Marching Band.

The Alberta Girls performed for many international events in North America and Europe. Their first overseas performance tour was highlighted with an invitation to perform for the traditional "*Lighting of the Flame*" that signified the start of the **1972 Olympic Games** in Munich, Germany. A surprise performance at the Arabella Hotel in Munich helped boost Edmonton's successful bid for the **1978 Commonwealth Games**. In 1974 The Alberta Girls performed before a combined live and televised audience of over half a billion people when they were invited to be the official entertainment for the final game of the **World Cup Soccer Championships** held in the Olympic Stadium in Munich, Germany. **The National Film Board of Canada** produced a movie on location. Columbia Pictures had the distribution rights to the movie *Alberta Girls* and it was shown in movie houses across Canada, Europe and Japan. Their last European tour in 1977 included performances in 13 different countries and featured a performance for **Pope Paul VI** at his summer residence home, Castel Gandolfo, Italy.

During their travels in Europe, Bob was impressed with the motorcoach companies that organized tours for seniors. He returned to Canada with the idea that they could do the same thing. He wanted to improve on the quality of motorcoaches that they used for their band performance tours and could do this if they used the coaches year-round rather than just during the summer season.

In the 1970's the transportation industry was very regulated. When they made application to the Alberta Transportation Board to provide a motorcoach service for senior citizens, every major carrier opposed the application. After several long and expensive public hearings over three years, where over 100 senior citizens spoke on their behalf, Bob finally had the operating authorities they needed. Family businesses, **Nagel Tours and Nagel Coaches**, have continued to provide escorted group tours to destinations throughout North America using their own deluxe motorcoaches for almost five decades.

In 1999 they became the third largest passenger train owner in Canada when Bob purchased 22 vintage train cars, the last surviving stock from the Super Continental Passenger Train of the 1950s and 1960s, from VIA RAIL. The **Okanagan Valley Wine Train** operated out of Kelowna for several years as a scenic rail excursion with a Las Vegas style dinner show complete with musicians and talented dancers dressed in lavish costumes. The excursion was forced to discontinue when the Canadian National Railway company (CN) made the decision to remove the train tracks.

Bob impacted the lives of so many and his larger-than-life persona will not be forgotten.