It is with deep sorrow that we announce the death of Robert (Bob) Ferguson on January 18, 2015, age 94. Bob passed away peacefully at Victoria General Hospital with family by his side following a brief illness. Bob was born on February 5, 1920 in Galt (Cambridge), Ontario to Alexander Galt Ferguson and Harriet Henrietta (Bury) Ferguson. His parents and his brother Ian predeceased him. Bob will be sadly missed but always remembered by his beloved wife, Margaret Warren Ferguson, his sister Mary Phelps, his three children Lyn Ferguson (Nick Martin), Robert W. Ferguson, and Marnie Ferguson (Dave Skidmore), and by his sister-in-law Mary Campbell. A loving grandfather and mentor, "Buzz" will be missed by his four grandchildren, Graeme Schwindt (Donaya), Christopher Ferguson-Martin (Karen Orr), Gillian Ferguson-Martin (Brad Keizerwaard), and Madeleine Skidmore, and his two great-grandchildren, Ian and Clare Schwindt. Also mourning his passing are his nieces and nephews, many relations across Canada and by a wide circle of cherished friends, colleagues, former students, and acquaintances. Bob grew up in Galt, Ontario and graduated from Galt Collegiate Institute in 1938. He earned a B.A. (1942), M.A. (1943), and PhD (1948) from the University of Toronto. Bob had a long and distinguished career in mineralogy and crystallography. He joined the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Manitoba in 1947, and led the department through three decades of rapid growth in mineralogical and crystallographic research. He retired as a Distinguished Professor in 1985, and continued his research and participation in the department as a Professor Emeritus. He was honoured with the Hawley Award by the Mineralogical Association and he was a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. Bob met his dear wife Margaret in Winnipeg and they married December 29, 1948 in Edmonton, Alberta. They made their home in Wildwood Park where they lived very happily for 62 years. During his career Bob took three research leaves and he and Margaret cherished their time living in Cambridge, England (1949-1950), Oxford, England (1972-1973) and Adelaide, Australia (1979-1980). Bob loved to travel and he and Margaret made many fondly remembered trips to several world locales and to Ontario and British Columbia to visit family and friends up until 2012. Bob had a very close relationship to his church community, the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg. Joining the church in its earlier location on Banning Avenue in 1959, Bob and his family were regular attendees and participants in church life for many years. Bob volunteered his time in many ways to the church, as board president and member of many committees over the years. It was through the church community that he and Margaret met many of their dearest friends. In 1968, Bob and Margaret built their cottage on Big Duck Island in The Lake of the Woods. Bob loved "the lake." Whether he and Margaret were spending time with their family and friends, hosting Unitarian weekends or working on a building project, Bob
cherished his many memories of cottage life. During the winter months, Bob took an active interest in and avidly supported Winnipeg's cultural community, the Manitoba Theatre Centre, The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, The Manitoba Opera, and the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Bob was a passionate humanist and supported many organizations that promoted peace, social justice, and equality for all. A memorial service will be held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Winnipeg, 603 Wellington Crescent on Saturday, February 7 at 3:00 p.m. The family would like to thank the staff at Victoria General Hospital for their care and compassion. In lieu of flowers, friends may make a donation to an organization of their choice. NEIL BARDAL FUNERAL CENTRE 204-949-2200 neilbardalinc.com