

DR. LEONARD HYLARY SHEBESKI

DR. LEONARD HYLARY SHEBESKI, O.C., Dr.Sc., F.R.S.C., F.A.I.C. August 5, 1914 - August 3, 2010 Dr. Len Shebeski passed away at Broadmead Lodge in Victoria, BC on August 3, 2010. He was born in Aubigny, MB. At the age of three his family moved to a farm just outside of Arborg MB, where he grew up. He was predeceased by his wife, Laura, in 2007, his parents, Michael and Emilia, his brothers, Victor and Hill, his daughter, Elaine, and his son-in-law, Benne Harper. He will be remembered by daughters Janice Harper (Peter Mitchell), Kathryn Hatcher (David), Peggy King (Michael), grandson John Harper (Tammy), and great-granddaughter Alexandra Harper who brought him great joy. Len is also survived by sisters Rose Shebeski and Helen Wentworth, and in-laws, Joyce and Ray Reiersen. He will be missed by nieces, nephews, extended family, and many good friends and colleagues. Len received an undergraduate degree in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba in 1941, and then served in the R.C.A.F. - first as an Observer - and then as a Pilot-Instructor. He was Mentioned in Despatches in 1944. After the war, he completed a Masters degree in Plant Science at the University of Manitoba. He taught at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon until 1953, when he became Department Head of Plant Science at the University of Manitoba. In 1965, he was appointed Dean of Agriculture at the University of Manitoba, where he continued as Dean until his retirement in 1979. After retirement he continued to enjoy working on projects for CIDA and the World Bank, including a one year stay in Ibadan, Nigeria as Director of Research at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture. Leonard held honorary degrees from the University of Saskatchewan, the University of Manitoba, Queen's University, and the Warsaw Agricultural University of Poland. He was a Fellow of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, the Royal Society of Canada and a foreign member of the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Moscow. In 2004, Len was inducted into The Manitoba Agriculture Hall of Fame. In 1977, he became an Officer of the Order of Canada. The citation read; A teacher, administrator, and scientist who has gained an international reputation by his achievements in agricultural science, particularly in plant breeding. The family wishes to thank the staff at The Lodge at Broadmead for their kindness, care and compassion. A Memorial Service followed by a reception will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, August 9, at First Memorial Funeral Service, 4725 Falaise Dr., Saanichton. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to The Broadmead Care Foundation, 4579 Chatterton Way, Victoria, BC, V8X 4Y7, or a charity of your choice.