

GERALD CLAYTON



GERALD LAWRENCE CLAYTON The "Greatest Generation" lost a charter member with the passing of our dear father, Gerald Lawrence Clayton, 90, on December 27, 2015. He is survived by children, Reg (Lilita), Laurie, Karen, Alex (Susan), Sherry (Ken) and sister Eileen. Gerald was predeceased by his parents, older siblings, Elinor, Vaughan, Ray and our mother, Margaret, his loving and devoted wife of 49 years. Dad was born on the family farm near Gladstone on April 11, 1925 to D.W.R. (Reg) and Norma Clayton. During the Great Depression, he attended Palestine Public, a one-room school house just a short prairie commute by horse-drawn wagon or sleigh according to season. A gifted storyteller, Dad's dinner table tales of growing up on "The Farm" are fondly recalled. During the Second World War, Dad enlisted in the R.C.A.F. He was trained as an electrician and served with 420 and 425 Squadrons (Bomber Command) in England and later with 126 Wing, 83 Group, 2nd Tactical Air Force in Germany. After the war, Gerald enrolled in the University of Manitoba, graduating with a BSc in 1951 and later earning a MSc in Civil Engineering. He was employed by Water Resources Manitoba, eventually leading survey crews "up North" in preparation for the construction of hydro dams along the Nelson River. Gerald returned to the U. of M. in 1955, to accept a position as Professor of Civil Engineering. Teaching would remain his vocation for the next 32 years, until retirement in 1987. His work at the university also contributed to the construction the Red River Floodway. Gerry and Margaret were married on Grey Cup weekend November, 1952. They shared their love of travel with their children. The family's greatest adventure came when "The Professor" participated in a faculty exchange to Northeast Thailand from 1969 to 1970. The family shares life-long memories of the year Dad taught at Khon Kaen University. In later life, Mom and Dad retired to their cottage at Redditt, Ontario, where they gathered golden memories of good times shared with family and friends. Gerald's life is celebrated by his five children and seven grandchildren, Caroline (Austin), Jonathan, Lily, Isabel, Chantal, Christina and Clayton. The recent birth of his first great-grandchild Delilah Quinn Clayton was a great source of pride and happiness for Dad. Dad's passing is also mourned by his nieces, nephews and cousins, friends old and new, and the caring staff and residents at Sterling House. The family wishes to thank the Fifth Floor medical and support staff at Victoria General Hospital who did their best for Dad during his final weeks. The family is planning a memorial of Gerald's life in the spring with interment of his ashes to follow at Redditt Cemetery at a later date.