

ELIZABETH FENIAK



DR. ELIZABETH (BETTY) FENIAK, CM On April 7, 2013, Betty passed away at the age of 92 years. Widow of Dr. Michael Feniak, she is survived by her two children, Barbara Peters (Abe) and Peter Feniak (Jennifer Chapman); she is grandmother to Michael Peters (Rebecca Widdicombe), Jeff Peters (Ann Park), Shauna Brinkman (Ryan) and to Christopher and Jay Feniak and great-grandmother to Alice Peters and Natalie Brinkman. An outstanding scholar, teacher and community activist, Betty was born on the family farm in the R.M. of Shoal Lake on June 17, 1920 to Joseph and Lillian (Wherrett) Hepworth, the eldest of four daughters. Her sisters are Marjorie (Keith) Douglas, Joan (Joe) Johnson and Patricia (Bill) Coleman. She began her education at Wolfe Creek School, a one room country schoolhouse, won an Isbister Scholarship to attend university and graduated first in her class from the School of Home Economics at the University of Manitoba. She continued studies at the University of Minnesota where she earned an MSc in Foods and Nutrition and met her beloved husband, Michael Feniak of Warsite, Alberta, a PhD student in geology. Betty and Mike were married in 1945 and in 1947, they moved to Yellowknife, NWT where Mike Feniak was the first Federal Geologist in Canada's North. In 1949, Mike died tragically by drowning, and in 1951 Betty and her two children relocated to Winnipeg, where she began her career teaching Foods and Nutrition at the School of Home Economics, University of Manitoba. Through the years, she earned her PhD, became a full Professor, Department Head, Acting Dean and was associate Dean of the Faculty of Home Economics. Betty was an active participant and leader in organizations supporting her profession and the good of her community. (She and graduate student Charlotte Moore piloted the Meals on Wheels program). She was a past president of the Provincial Council of Women, of the Canadian Home Economics Association, and chair of the Canadian Home Economics Foundation. In 1982, she was named a "Woman of Distinction" by the YWCA. She was honoured as a life member of the National Council of Women of Canada, of Manitoba's Provincial Council of Women and of the Manitoba Women's Institute. In 1988 Betty was named a member of the Order of Canada. Betty improved the quality of life of all who knew her - students, family, friends, colleagues and peers. She was a kind and gracious woman with a formidable intellect and a lovely, loving smile. Her faith and her family were her foundation. She never lost her pride in her rural roots, and in her profession. She will be deeply missed. The family would like to thank her nurses aides and other caregivers and all those who offered kindness and affection to Betty during the last six difficult years. Funeral service will be held on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Anglican Church, corner of Stradbrook Avenue and Nassau Street, Winnipeg. Interment on Monday, April 15 at 2:00 p.m. at Shoal Lake Cemetery. If friends wish, memorial donations may be made to the Canadian Home Economics

Foundation, P.O. Box 2582 Station Main, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 4B3 or in Betty's name to St. Luke's Church for the restoration of the Bell Tower, 130 Nassau Street N., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 2H1.