

## WALTER HENSON



PROFESSOR WALTER ROBERT HENSON, PhD After a long illness surrounded by family, Professor Walter Robert Henson passed away at the Victoria Hospital in Winnipeg on Saturday, April 14, 2012. Born in Toronto, Ontario, Walter went to UTS and then Queen's University. After graduation, he went to Yale University, obtaining his MS and PhD degrees in Biology. Walter defended his PhD in Forest Entomology at the age of 24, and went on to have a distinguished career at Yale, reaching the rank of tenured full professor. He returned to Canada to work for the government, but his first love was academia, so he returned to University life when he moved to Winnipeg to become the Director of the Natural Resources Institute at the University of Manitoba. Walt loved his family above all, but he was also a true renaissance man. For a start, he was an accomplished mountain climber with several first ascents of mountains around Banff. He was an accomplished violinist with a particular fondness for the scrubby bits in Mozart's concertos. In addition, Walt was a life-long sailor, sailing on Lake Ontario in his youth, then at the family cottage, and finally at the Falcon Yacht Club in Manitoba. Professor Henson is the last of the "Hartford Boys" - Professor, Scholar and Teacher; he loved words, science, nature and knowledge. Professor Henson was devoted to and fiercely proud of his students, many of whom went on to have distinguished careers of their own. Left to mourn are his wife of 57 years Pauline (nee Earl), his sons Hal Henson, Doug (Lori) Henson and his four granddaughters who he adored; Natalie, Rebecca, Alexandra and Bridget and his daughter Liz (Craig) Hamanishi. The family would like to extend their gratitude to Dr. Brian Sharkey for his exemplary care of Dad over the past 30 years. Flowers gratefully declined. Donations in Walt's memory can be made to the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation for Research, so his daughter and her colleagues can continue to do the research in cancer biology which gave him so much pride. THOMSON "IN THE PARK" 925-1120 Condolences may be sent to [www.thomsoninthepark.com](http://www.thomsoninthepark.com)