

ARTHUR STINNER



ARTHUR OTTO STINNER B.Sc., B.A., B.Ed. (U. of Alberta), M.Sc. (York U.), D.Ed. (U. of Toronto) Professor Emeritus (U. of Manitoba) July 3, 1934 - May 29, 2014 Arthur Stinner, our much-loved husband, father, opa, brother, colleague, teacher and friend, passed away after an extended illness on May 29, 2014 at Victoria General Hospital, five weeks before his 80th birthday, with family at his side. The oldest son of John and Elisabeth Stinner (deceased), Arthur is fondly remembered by his wife Ann, son Mark, daughter Lisa, son-in-law Jason and grandson Erik, as well as siblings Hilda Moorhouse, Jack Stinner (Sandy), Robert Stinner (Gail) and Eva Switzer, all of Prince George, BC, five nephews, and brother-in-law John Thornton (Esther) in Burnaby, BC. Arthur was born in Gyönk, Hungary in 1934, and as a young boy was displaced with his family by the upheaval of the Second World War. In 1949, sponsored by relatives in Canada, his family immigrated and settled in Prince George, BC, where they lived in a log cabin. Arthur worked for several years in a logging camp with other family members, one of his jobs being to look after the horses. He had the opportunity, at age 18, to finish high school in town, and completed all his studies in just one year. He excelled in the sciences and also in track and field. Later, at the University of Alberta, Arthur studied engineering briefly before turning to physics. After finishing his B.Sc. he decided to focus on the humanities for a time and studied modern languages, earning a B.A. in German and Russian literature, and later a B.Ed. During these undergraduate years, Arthur supplemented his parents' financial support by leading summer survey crews for the Department of Highways in northern British Columbia and, by selling Christmas trees on the street corners of Edmonton. Finally, armed with his many degrees, Arthur found short-term teaching positions in high schools in Edson and Edmonton where he taught physics and some German. Arthur then explored various career options in Canada and abroad. He began graduate work at Simon Fraser University, taught physics at a boys' school in Jamaica and at a college in Zambia, before returning to Canada to teach in the Toronto area. While employed at Oakville Trafalgar High School, Arthur met Ann, his soulmate and future wife. They were married in 1974 and within a short time had two children: Mark (1976) and Lisa (1977). He taught science for many years in Toronto high schools, most notably Marc Garneau Collegiate and Leaside High School. During this time in Toronto, Arthur completed his M.Sc. at York University and eventually his D.Ed. at the University of Toronto (O.I.S.E.). In 1989, Arthur began a very productive career in post-secondary education at the University of Manitoba. In addition to teaching undergraduate physics and science education courses, Arthur mentored many talented students taking graduate degrees in science education. An innovative and influential science educator, he pioneered a contextual teaching approach by developing imaginative ways of linking science, the humanities and popular culture. In particular, he wrote a

number of dramas integrating the history and philosophy of science. These plays were performed in Canada, the United States, Germany, and Hungary. Over the years Arthur enjoyed stimulating professional relationships with others: Prof. Ian Winchester of Calgary, and Prof. Jürgen Teichmann and other scholars associated with the Deutsches Museum in Munich, to mention just a few. With these and other science educators, Arthur was involved in many rewarding conferences, summer institutes and seminars in Canada, Germany, Italy, and Hungary. He was widely published in science and teacher education journals and was a visiting professor in Germany, Hungary, New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, and China. In 2003, Arthur became the President of the International History and Philosophy of Science Teaching group. Over the years, he was presented with numerous awards, most recently a Professor Emeritus from the University of Manitoba (2013). Arthur had energy in abundance and a zest for life, with an almost encyclopaedic knowledge in many areas. He was a self-taught violinist and an aficionado of classical music and opera. On their many travels, he and Ann loved learning about the geography, people, history, arts, and cuisine of the places they visited. Arthur was also a tennis fanatic, playing for many years in two tennis clubs in Winnipeg. He had a soft spot for animals of all kinds, particularly stray cats, Leo and Rafa being the two most recent ones to join the household. Lately, he had become a fan of equestrian events and in the past year published articles on the physics of horse jumping, a fusion of two lifelong interests. Arthur was, at heart, a family man. He was especially enthusiastic about the exploits and accomplishments of family members and spent happy times in retirement watching and discussing science documentaries with grandson Erik. A generous and adventurous individual, Arthur will be remembered and missed by his family, as well as friends and colleagues from around the world. The family would like to thank Dr. Johnson and the staff at CancerCare Manitoba, the Emergency and ICU units at Victoria General Hospital, and friends and colleagues for their kindness during this difficult time. Flowers are gratefully declined. If you wish, you might consider a donation in Arthur's name to the CancerCare Manitoba Foundation, Quagga Cat Rescue in Winnipeg or a charity of your choice. An informal reception celebrating Arthur's life will be held later in the summer. Messages and condolences may be sent to stinnera@yahoo.ca.