

WALTER WILLBORN



DR. WALTER WILLBORN March 21, 1923 - July 20, 2014 On July 20, 2014, at the age of 91, Dr. Walter Willborn, a teacher and student to his last days, passed gracefully from this life. Left saddened, but with many happy moments to celebrate are his loving and devoted wife of nearly 60 years, Vera, his children, Sabina (Allen Wall), Annette (George Amabile), Marlaine (Blaine Timlick) and Harold (Nancy), and his grandchildren, Evan Amabile, Lauren and Cale Timlick, and Otto and Dashell Willborn. He also leaves many relatives in Germany, including his brothers Horst (Charlotte), Erich and Rudolph (Anneliese), as well as sister-in-law Helga (Wilfrid) Lüth and brother-in-law Detlef (Helga) Michaelsen. He was predeceased by his parents, Luise in 1946 and Walter in 1954 as well as his sister-in-law Ingrid in 2006. Walter was born in Hamburg, Germany on March 21, 1923 just 16 and a half months after his brother Horst. In 1939 he began his apprenticeship at the prestigious Hotel Atlantic in Hamburg. His misadventures at that hotel provided many stories in later years. In 1941 he joined the German paratroop division and served until March 1945 when he was wounded on the Russian front and, after a dramatic rescue by Dr. Karl Hugo Krüger, sent home. After the war, he rejoined the staff at the Hotel Atlantic - now under management by the British military - as an accountant. He often said the compassionate treatment he received from the British during this time impressed him and influenced his view of the wider world. To build a better future, Walter took night classes completing his high school, and then earned his Diploma Volkswirt (Bachelor of Economics) at the University of Hamburg. In 1951, after noticing her lively spirit during a ski trip, he asked Vera Michaelsen to check coats at an event. By the end of the evening they both knew they were meant for each other. Walter and Vera married in 1954 and, through this steady partnership, drew on each other's strength for the next 60 years and achieved many of their dreams. In 1958 Walter and Vera immigrated to Canada with three year old Sabina and Annette on the way. They were embraced as family and introduced to the love of cottage life by Walter's wartime rescuer, Karl Hugo, his wife Eva and their family in Steinbach. Soon Walter found a small apartment for his family and a teaching position at Tech-Voc High School in Winnipeg. In the following years, two more children were born - Marlaine in 1960 and Harold in 1965 - and Walter joined the School of Commerce at the University of Manitoba in 1964. He earned his Master of Arts in Economics in 1961 and his Bachelor of Education in 1963 at the University of Manitoba as well as his Doctorate of Sociology and Economics at the University of Innsbruck on July 21, 1971. His professorship in Production Management continued until his retirement in 1991. In his specialized field of Quality Assurance Management he found his passion and published a steady stream of books and papers. He was internationally active in standardization and auditing quality assurance systems and a Fellow of the American Society for Quality. In 1969, Walter and Vera purchased a cottage

on an island on the Lake of the Woods which remains a treasured place for the whole family. In his retirement, he travelled extensively with Vera, spent every moment he could at the cottage and worked on his project, QuoLi (Quality of Life), which applied the principles of Quality Assurance to personal life. Throughout his life, Walter was curious about the world and loved to initiate provocative discussions. The length and good quality of his life were, in great part, due to his dedication to daily routine and personal discipline. Never underestimate the power of a morning shave and exercise! He had a mischievous sense of humour, found pleasure and comfort in nature and its cycles and enjoyed telling and re-telling stories of his adventures. Through these stories and the ones we will tell of him, his presence will be felt by generations yet to be born. The family would like to thank the staff of A4 South at the St. Boniface Hospital for their compassionate and professional care in his final days. Our thanks are also extended to Dr. Michele Evans for the excellent care she's given over the years and the staff at The Waverley for their kind consideration. A memorial service will be held on Monday, August 25, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Epiphany Lutheran Church, 200 Dalhousie Drive in Winnipeg. Family and friends wishing may sign a book of condolence at www.glenlawn.ca.