

ANDERSON, Eldon George



Eldon George Anderson was born in a three-room homestead farmhouse near Cadillac, Saskatchewan in 1927. Growing up in the dirty thirties listening to Tommy Douglas on the radio while drinking Scandinavian coffee strong enough for the spoon to stand straight up, Eldon organically developed a sense of compassion for the well-being of others and the need to work together in a spirit of cooperation.

Despite his humble origins, Eldon distinguished himself as unusually capable, graduating from University of Saskatchewan in Agriculture and rising to press writer for Tommy Douglas. He spent 25 years working in the cooperative movement and eventually finished his career as corporate secretary for Credit Union Central.

Eldon believed passionately in the achievements of economic democracy through cooperative action. He never ceased to stress the human goals of cooperation and the need for maximum participation by an informed membership. His duties took him throughout Saskatchewan, as well as to third world developments overseas. Embracing the causes of social welfare, Eldon founded the first food bank in Saskatchewan and was instrumental in organizing Regina's first Cooperative daycare. He chaired the Western Institute for Public Policy, a progressive think tank group, and served as director for many community services.

In 1954, Eldon married Jean (nee Vanstone) in Lang, Saskatchewan; on June 19, they would have celebrated their 60th anniversary. In 1998, Eldon and Jean moved to Kelowna and rapidly integrated into the community and their church, Mission Creek Alliance.

Eldon was a wise, compassionate, and loving husband and father. He will be greatly missed by Jean, their daughter, Tanya Humphries of Winnipeg and her husband Shaun, children Hannah, Avery, Joshua, and Paul, as well as their other daughter, Carmel Anderson of Kelowna and husband Colin Comfort, children Shelanne, Keira and Joel.

Memorial service to be held 1:00 pm Saturday, June 7, at Springfield Funeral Home, 2020 Springfield Road, Kelowna, BC. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Kelowna Food Bank, 1265 Ellis Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 1Z7.