

## George WILSON



WILSON, George F. July 11, 1936 - December 2, 2019

It is with profound sadness the family announces the passing of George Frederick Wilson on December 2, 2019. He passed away peacefully at home with his family by his side.

George's parents were potato farmers in Ireland until the famine became unbearable. They moved to Australia initially, then Washington and then settled in Saskatoon in 1930. George was born and raised in Saskatoon. At a very young age, while attending Pleasant Hill School, George worked in potato fields in a vacant lot beside his parents' house. It was at this stage that George was destined to be in the growing business; he had a natural green thumb. While attending elementary school he raised 25 turkeys and 200 chickens annually and would sell them at Christmas for \$10. He also worked for Miller's Hatcheries to help support his family and pay for his university education.

George's quest for knowledge led him to the University of Saskatchewan where he pursued a degree in agriculture, specializing in poultry. He was the first in his family to receive a degree. Upon graduation, he worked for Agriculture Canada as a Poultry Inspector for a number of years before working in plumbing wholesale for a short time until he began working for Canada Post. He delivered mail for 11 years.

His marriage to Doris Owen in 1966 was the highlight of his life - he always put her first and cherished every moment with her. Marriage to Doris whet his appetite to become a grower again, as she was a farm girl from Spinney Hill. She missed the farm and wanted a backyard garden and greenhouse, which eventually outgrew the back yard. It was a natural progression to purchase Hi-Way Greenhouse Ltd. when it came up for sale in 1975. His nurturing nature translated into his love and care for flowers and vegetables.

Conversation with George was easy; he was a natural storyteller and prankster; he could easily weave his life experiences into conversations with even strangers. George was committed to helping family and friends and was instrumental in helping many achieve their dreams. Many friends and family members saw him as their pillar of strength - always there to support them through challenging times. There isn't a more veracious, generous, kind-hearted man. George and Doris raised three children, Steve, Colin and Melinda. George was a devoted and loving

father and grandfather. His family will lovingly remember and treasure the family adventures they took to the States in the motor home and many fishing and camping trips shared with family. Family was everything to him. All his grandchildren shared a very special bond with him.

He is survived by and will be forever cherished by his wife of 53 years, Doris (Owen) Wilson, devoted children, Steve (Judy) and children Celine (Dallin) Harding and his first great-grandbaby Everett Harding of Grand Prairie, Alberta, Reese of Calgary, Alberta; Colin (Lindsey) and children Keely and Lexi of Saskatoon; and daughter, Melinda of Saskatoon.

George's final life-changing lesson for us was his graceful acceptance of his diagnosis and illness. He accepted it with bravery and dignity. The family would like to express their gratitude to the Palliative Care Nurses that helped him stay in his home and the excellent care they provided during George's brief battle.

A celebration of George's life and graveside service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at Hillcrest Funeral Home (210 Wess Road, Saskatoon, SK). In lieu of flowers please send donations to Palliative Care St. Paul's Hospital Foundation in memory of George F. Wilson (1702 20th Street West, Saskatoon, SK S7M 0Z9). Condolences may be left for the family at [www.hillcrestmemorial.ca](http://www.hillcrestmemorial.ca) Arrangements entrusted to Lisa Bos.