

Farewell, Howard Clark

Obituary from Ferris Funeral Home

CLARK, Howard - It is with sadness that we announce the death of Howard William Clark of Simcoe, Ontario. He passed away peacefully at home on the morning of Friday, October 6, 2017 in his 90th year. Beloved husband for 65 years of Yvonne (nee Price), loving father of Rob and wife Elly of Simcoe, Rick and wife Judy of Binbrook, and Randy (predeceased August, 2015) and Mary-Ellen of Sault Ste. Marie. Proud and devoted grandfather of: Holly Clark (Charles Wardlaw) of Toronto, Laura Clark of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Brandon Clark of New York, Jacob and Dylan Clark of Sault Ste. Marie, and adoring great grandfather of Nayeli Wardlaw. He is predeceased by his parents Walter and Bessie Clark and his brother Bruce. He will be missed by his brother Gord and family of St. Thomas, Ontario. He was born on June 22, 1928 in Caledonia, Ontario. Howard graduated from London Normal School and was a respected teacher and principal in many schools in Norfolk County for 39 years from 1950 on. He followed this with 9 years of serving the Norfolk Board of Education as Trustee and Chairman. Howard was a member of REACH, Probus, and the Gentlemen of Harmony. Yvonne and Howard enjoyed their many friends in the Bridge Club and traveled the world extensively during their retirement years as well as wintering in Florida. Howard was a jack of all trades, machinist, carpenter, welder, plumber, musician, poet (he could recite numerous poems and songs from memory in his 90th year), master orator (he was often requested to preside at public and family events), nature-lover, a scientist at heart, gardener, sailor (he and Yvonne took the power squadron course and bought a sail boat), fisherman, and food connoisseur. He was the ultimate navigator as he knew every road in Southern Ontario. Those who were privileged enough to know Howard will agree that his witty sense of humour was infused into every aspect of his life. He will be sorely missed by his family and his beloved dog, Bud. Friends are invited to share their memories of Howard with his family at the **JASON SMITH FUNERAL CHAPEL**, 689 Norfolk St. North Simcoe for visitation on Wednesday, October 11th, 2017 from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m. A private interment of ashes will be held at Port Dover Cemetery at a later date. Those wishing to donate in memory of Howard are asked to consider Harmonize for Speech or the Kidney Foundation. Personal online condolences at www.smithfuneralchapel.com (519) 426-0199



Howard's Who Am I talk from September 2014

I was born in Caledonia, June 22, 1928. I attended public school there until grade seven. I will always remember my first encounter with the school. My mother was summoned to attend an interview accompanied by her son. I was requested to bring a 9" square of cloth, needle and thread, and four buttons. While Mother was being interrogated by Miss Hull, I was instructed to sew a button on each corner of the material! (an early childhood identification technique, I am sure.) I painstakingly sewed on two buttons, said "the heck with this" and overcast the other two. I was practically drummed out of the first grade before I started.

I completed my elementary and secondary education at Alvinston and attended London Normal School in 1947. I obtained a teaching position at SS 15 Moore Township, Lambton County. My first encounter with an actual student occurred at 8:30 am on the first day of school.

This rather large student parked his homemade motor scooter in the yard, came up to me and said, "Your name is Howard, isn't it?" I confirmed that he, indeed, was correct and after a short, intense one-sided conversation he agreed that I was really Mr. Clark. That lad's name is known by most Canadians — Jim Shaw, CEO of Shaw Communications (retired) one of Canada's largest cable companies. I also had identical triplets in grade 3. I never really knew who was who, even after two years. All in all, I learned a great deal about teaching and children in the first two years.

In 1950, I came to Simcoe and joined the staff of Elgin Avenue School, George Campbell as principal. In 1956 I was appointed Vice-Principal, a position which I held until 1969 when I went to Port Dover Composite School to teach geography for A.A. Burbidge.

In 1970 I was appointed Principal of Houghton Area Public School and in 1972 returned to Elgin Avenue School as principal, a position I held until 1986 when I was transferred to Lynedoch School for my final year.

On a whim I ran for school board in the fall election of 1987. I served on the board for nine years finally being defeated by a former student by 200 votes.

In 1950 I was fortunate enough to meet Yvonne Price. We were married on December 29, 1951 and we have just celebrated our 60th anniversary. Our three sons and their children all live close by and we have enjoyed watching them all grow up.

If I had it to do over again, I wouldn't change a thing! In retirement, we have enjoyed travelling.