



George William Gritchen 1928 - 2013

George William Gritchen was born December 6, 1928, at the Gritchen village in Grand Forks, BC to the family of Molly (nee Barisenkoff) and William Gritchen. He had four sisters: two older - Mabel and Polly, and two younger - Molly and Vera. He grew up in the Gritchen village and attended the nearby Fructova School, which is currently home to the Boundary Museum.

During his teenage years, he picked fruit in the Okanagan with his brother-in-law Mike Androsoff and, when not picking fruit, he began working in the forestry industry with his father and continued working full time in the industry until his youngest son Jim was born. George began farming full time in 1967, specializing in growing vegetables, selling and delivering his vegetables door-to-door in Rock Creek, Bridesville and Beaverdell. He continued farming full-time until his retirement age of 65.

George began dating his beloved Phyllis Makortoff in 1953, and on December 21, 1954 they were married. George and Phyllis began their married life in the Gritchen village where they started their family. Their first son Gary was born in 1955 and their first daughter, Katherine Sandra was born in 1957. In 1959 they purchased

land in Almond Gardens and began building their dream home which they moved into in 1960. Their third child, daughter Lorraine, was born in 1960, just after they moved into their new home and their family was complete with the arrival of their youngest son Jim in 1966.

George & Phyllis were living their dream life, raising children, working the farm and George was happiest riding his tractor, plowing his fields and singing a Russian song. In his youth, George loved the outdoors and loved to skate at Saddle Lake in the winter and play baseball in the summer. He always loved watching sports on TV - especially hockey. Owning and running a farm was a 24/7 job, and although he was not able to travel much, he and Phyllis visited their daughters in Calgary, and when their granddaughter was born in 1988 in Toronto, he and Phyllis flew to Toronto (this was the first time flying for both of them) and during this trip they also saw one of the Seven Wonders of The World -Niagara Falls. They travelled to Vancouver Island in 1994 and George actually stood on the shore of the Pacific Ocean....being careful not to go into the frigid cold waters—even though it was the end of July. They also travelled to Reno several times with his sister-in-law and brother-in-law Maureen & Bill Koftinoff. During the

years many family day trips were taken to the Okanagan and to Washington State.

In 2005 George became ill and had to sell the beloved farm in 2006, when they moved to their present home on 22nd street. Phyllis took care of George for five years until late 2010, when she could no longer take care of him at home, after which he resided at Sunshine Manor until his passing July 11, 2013.

George was pre-deceased by his son Gary in 2008, his mother Molly in 1950, his father William in 1954, his sister Mable in 2005, her husband Fred Postnikoff in 1989, his sister Polly in 2001, and her husband Mike Androsoff in 1992.

George leaves behind his beloved wife of 58 years, Phyllis, his daughter Katherine Sandra from Kelowna, his daughter Lorraine and son-in-law David Robertson from Okotoks, Alberta, his son

Jim and daughter-in-law Lila from Burnaby, his grandchildren Adam, Luba and her husband Tyler, Sarah, Brent, Molly, Kelsey, Robbie, Crystal, Trevor and Graheme and great grand children Mikaela, Blake, Griffin, Kylie and Hailey. George also leaves behind his sister Molly and brother-in-law Peter Podovinikoff of Surrey, BC, his sister Vera and brother-in-law Donald Negreiff of Grand Forks, and his many nieces and nephews.

George was a life-long USCC member and a proud Doukhobor, and he instilled his Doukhobor values of toil and peaceful life in his family. May he rest in peace.

A funeral service was held on Monday, July 15, 2013, at the USCC Community Centre in Grand Forks, with burial following at the Sion Cemetery; Paul J. Seminoff officiating; arrangements entrusted to Everett Baker of Grand Forks Funeral Home.



In Memoriam
Vechnaya Pamyat

Preserving the memory of our deceased family members and friends