

COOKE, John Denis (Denis) [UNTD STAR (OAC) '55 U-16445] (1935 - 2007) Age: 72

Peacefully and surrounded by his family, Denis died on October 27, 2007 at age 72. He is mourned by his beloved wife of 47 years, Marilyn (nee Cruickshank), his three children David (Silvia), Andrew (Shelley) and Susan (Steve) and his grandchildren, Mathew, Mikaela, Robert, Trevor, Brendan, Megan and Angela.

Denis was born on October 16, 1935, the second son of William Cooke and Helen "Bobby" Haun, who died in 1945. His father later married Agnes (MacCannell) Cranston who became his much appreciated step mother for the next 49 years. He will be deeply missed by his brother, Barry (Sharon) of Salt Spring Island, B.C., and his sister, Grace Reany (Bob) of Port Elgin.

Denis graduated from Paris District High school, earned his Bachelor of Science and Agriculture degree from University of Guelph (honours chemistry and biology) and his Masters of Education from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. He began his teaching career at North Toronto Collegiate Institute and was later appointed Head of Biology and Chemistry at Monarch Park Collegiate.

In 1978 Denis became a science consultant and later, Co-ordinator of Science for the Toronto Board of Education. He initiated the Science Kit program in 1980, exposing elementary school children to new and exciting concepts in science. As well, he was an Associate Teacher at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Education. Denis authored two books on science education and a host of experience-based curriculum resources. After retirement he worked in Oman developing science curriculum, and consulted with educators in China on science education.

In 1994 Denis was awarded the prestigious Jack Bell Award for Leadership in Science Education by the Science Teachers' Association of Ontario. Upon his retirement in 1996 his work was recognized by the Association with the presentation of an Emeritus Award.

The family will receive visitors at SMITH'S FUNERAL HOME, 485 Brant Street (one block north of City Hall) BURLINGTON (905-632-3333), on Friday from 7-9 pm. A Memorial Service of thanksgiving for his life will be held at West Plains United Church, 549 Plains Rd. West, Burlington, on Saturday, November 3, 2007 at 4 pm. A private family interment will take place at Paris Cemetery, Paris, Ontario. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Denis' name to Joseph Brant Hospital or The Carpenter Hospice, Burlington, Ontario.

Denis had 3 UNTD summers; '56, '57, '58.

He was promoted to SLT RCN(R), sen. 1 Jul '58, O-15406, attached to STAR.

He was a Charter Member of the UNTD Association of Upper Canada, when it formed in 1988. At that time he was living in east-central Toronto.

Bill C