

Donald George Collis

"I thank you, God for most this amazing day, for the leaping greenly...spirit of trees...and for everything which is natural, which is infinite, which is yes." (E. E. Cummings)

Don passed away in his 95th year, May 14th, 2018. He was much beloved and admired by his four children, Donald (deceased), Kathe, Susan, Lyn; 15 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and treasured by his neighbors and friends in his wider community of Sooke. Don lived and loved his childhood growing up in the neighbourhood of James Bay. Later, still a teenager, he signed up and served as a pilot and instructor for the RCAF in WWII. He married Patricia Payte in 1945 and soon after was employed as a Federal Forestry Research Technician.

His work in the woods rekindled his passion for all things "green" and the vital importance of respecting and living within the balance of Nature. He was an environmentalist before the term was understood. Don was well known for his prize-winning vegetables, fruits and berries, and his unique hand-crafted home on 14 acres.

He also gave back to his community by being the Otter Point Volunteer Fire Chief, driving for Meals on Wheels, and serving on the local Parks Board. He had a strong belief that wildland must be preserved for all to enjoy, today and in the future.

Don was a humble man, remembered for his thirst for life, his environmental stewardship and his joyous heart. If you wish to personally remember Don, please donate to an environmental agency of your choosing.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 pm on Sunday, August 19, 2018 at Sooke Baptist Church, West Coast Road.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens

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