

Gavin Arthur Kemp, Ph. D.

Dr. Gavin Kemp passed peacefully into the arms of the Lord on March 24th, at the Saanich Peninsula Care Center. He is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Ruth, and 3 children. Gavin will be missed by son Neil (Patricia) and grandson Alex of Ottawa, his son Leon (Peggy) and granddaughters Bethany, Sarah and Grace of Calgary, and his daughter Catharine (Darryl) and grandchildren Raphael and Evangelina of Victoria. Gavin will also be missed by his two brothers Cpt. Frank (ret.) of Ottawa, and daughter Patricia; and Wally (Adele) of High River, Alberta and their children Martin and Lori.

Gavin was born March 18, 1926 in Olds, Alberta, to Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Kemp. He graduated from Olds Agricultural College in 1947 and graduated from University of Alberta with a B. Sc. in Agriculture in 1951. Gavin married his sweetheart, Ruth Sorensen, from Dickson, Alberta in 1951, and they took up residence in Lethbridge. Dr. Kemp's entire career (1951 – 1988) was spent at the Lethbridge Agricultural Research Station, other than leave to obtain a PH. D. from U of Minnesota in 1961 and work exchange in England from 1968 to 1969. Gavin is best recognized within scientific circles for the development of cold-temperature tolerant tomatoes, and for upright field beans, which are grown extensively in western Canada today.

Gavin enjoyed many hobbies throughout his life, including photography, wood-working, stamp-collecting, nature-walking, and genealogy. Gavin's green thumb was renowned, and he was well-known for the beautiful gardens he kept at his own home, and the gardens of St. Augustine's Anglican Church in Lethbridge. He was always an active participant in community affairs, enjoying many clubs and activities, including the bridge club, Gourmet food club, and the Alberta Institute of Agrologists. Gavin always enjoyed orchestral music, and

attended classical performances whenever possible. He was involved with the Anglican Church, in the choir, a licensed lay-reader, and a member of the vestry for many years. Gavin was also heavily involved with Scouting, the Nikka Yuko Garden (Japanese-Canadian Centennial project), including several stints as president, and the River Valley Development Committee in Lethbridge.

Gavin and his wife Ruth retired to Victoria, BC in 1988 where he made many friends, and enjoyed the longer growing season, and the beautiful scenery. In later years Gavin was involved in writing a family history book, advocating against genetically modified organisms, continued with his wood-working, and especially enjoyed his time with Raphael and Evangelina. A Celebration of Life service will be held at St. Peter's Anglican Church (Lakehill), at 2:00 PM on Monday, April 6th. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Primate's World Relief Fund.