

George Burton Wallace

Born in Sandycove, County Dublin, Ireland June 7, 1920. Died in Victoria, BC July 17, 2009.

George is probably best remembered as a teacher and artist. Educated at St. Columba's College, he went on to read philosophy at Trinity College, Dublin (1939-44). On leaving Ireland, he held temporary teaching posts at Radley and Eastbourne Colleges, married Margaret and continued his studies at the West of England College of Art, Bristol. For the next eight years, with a growing family, he taught at the Falmouth School of Art, Cornwall. In 1957 the family emigrated to Canada, where he taught at Ryerson, Toronto and Blakelock High School, Oakville, before moving to McMaster University, Hamilton. There, he was instrumental in developing the Fine Arts Department and in creating an art collection which now includes the Herman Levy bequest. His large, public, welded steel sculptures from that time reflect "The Steel City" and may be seen at McMaster University, Mohawk College, the Art Gallery of Hamilton, the Jewish Community Centre, the MacDonald Stewart Art Centre in Guelph; as well as in London at the Church of St. John the Divine and at the Halton County Court House. When George retired to Victoria in 1985, he explored one media after another: drawing, etching, painting, sculpting and making monotypes. He researched historical techniques and, an acknowledged expert in the history of printmaking and paper, he spent hours cataloguing the print collection at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. He has had 13 solo exhibitions in major galleries, including both the Art Galleries of Hamilton and Greater Victoria. In 2007, although suffering from Alzheimer's, he continued to draw in St. Charles Manor Care Home. These last works will be on display at a celebration in remembrance of his life at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria on Sunday, August 9, from 2-4 pm.

George is mourned by his wife, Margaret, Kit (Patsy), Julia (Randy), Mark; and five grandchildren.