

John Michael Finnis

July 4, 1921 – November 20, 2015

Born in London, England, eldest son of Herbert Cobb Finnis, OBE and Gwendolyn (Addinsell) Finnis, he attended Wellington College. He enlisted at 19 in the Royal Artillery and served with the First Indian Field Regiment in Burma. After receiving a forestry degree at Lincoln College, Oxford he immigrated to Canada in 1948 where he worked for the B.C. Forest Service. He married Joan Turner on October 7, 1950 at St Mary's Kerrisdale, Vancouver. He obtained a Masters degree in Forestry from Oregon State University in Corvallis. In 1960 he moved to Olympia, Washington where he worked for the Department of Natural Resources until 1972 when he returned to Victoria. He retired from the Forest Service in June 1982. Retirement was a busy time as he spent time with his grandchildren, curled, looked after his bees and was a very active member of Christ Church Cathedral serving as People's Warden during the completion of the east wall. A favourite Thursday activity was "stewarding" and showing people around the Cathedral. He joined the Burma Star Association and enjoyed his time with others who had served in "The Forgotten War". Michael was an avid gardener and was very active with the Victoria Horticultural Society. He was well known for his sense of humour and creation of new words. He loved supplying fresh vegetables to family, friends and neighbours and would often say "One day I'm going to ask St Peter why God created earwigs".

Survived by Joan, his beloved wife of 65 years, sons David (Kathy Millar) and Mark and five grandchildren, Daniel, Stephen, Kathryn, Tristan and Emily Finnis. Sadly predeceased by his younger brother Tim. Thank you to Dr. Gary Nielsen, his physician of twenty-two years, and the staff of the Royal Jubilee Hospital.

Memorial service to be held Saturday, November 28 at 2pm at Christ Church Cathedral. Interment in Cathedral Columbarium at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation or a charity of your choice. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mccallbros.com.