



**VANTHUYNE,
Dennis Rene
Oct. 4, 1945 -
Sept. 27, 2024**

On October 4, 1945, in Simpson, Sask., the world was gifted with Dennis Rene Vanthuyne. He was the fourth child of Harry and Helen Vanthuyne (nee McDade). In time his family would grow by 10 more siblings, giving him nine brothers and four sisters. Like his siblings, Dennis developed a fierce devotion for

family, something he held all his life.

Dennis went to school in Simpson, but his energy and curiosity could only be contained until grade 9. Leaving school to work was not uncommon those days, but his uncle still tried to convince him that academics were better than hard labour. After several weeks of working long hours every day without complaint for Jules G. Vanthuyne, a different lesson was learned, that Dennis was too valuable of a worker to send back to school!

In 1966 Dennis's attention was captivated by Edith Lynn Donison, daughter of Peter and Anna Donison (nee Rodger) of Liberty, Sask. He made many good decisions in his life, but this was his best. Dennis and Edith were married in 1968, and both worked hard to support themselves and pay for their cozy little house in Simpson (total price \$1,500). Edith worked at the Royal Bank in Imperial, while Dennis worked at Royalite, Gulf, and Shell in Simpson and Imperial before being hired by the Simpson Co-op in 1973, a position he held for 47 years. He also drove the school bus in Simpson for 47 years. Providing for family was paramount, and Dennis proved that ambition and work ethic are the key factors in achieving goals.

In 1972 more space in their tiny home was needed, as Alan was born, followed by Darin, in 1973, and Dana, in 1978. Dennis and Edith raised their kids with the same love for family as they were blessed with. Christmases and birthdays were celebrated with intense energy and joy. In 1978, after two house changes, they moved into their "forever home" on Douglas Street.

A gifted athlete, Dennis was an important part of any baseball or hockey team he played on. Playing many years in both minor and senior leagues, Dennis was a league scoring champion a number of seasons and helped his Simpson Flyers win seven provincial hockey championships from 1966 to 1980. He also won a provincial championship with Watrous in 1976. In 2015, Dennis and the Flyers were inducted into the Saskatchewan Hockey Hall of Fame for their success during those years, specifically from 1966-1973, where six provincial titles were won. After senior hockey, Dennis went on to play a number of years of "old

timer" hockey and was an original member of the "Old Vanthuynes" or "OV's", a team that still exists today, two generations later.

Anyone who knows Dennis knows his passion for hunting. The outdoors was his classroom, and he earned his doctorate. Guiding bird hunters at the age of 12, he would eventually lead a convoy of eager hunters most fall mornings into a stubble field and explain exactly how things needed to be set up. If you followed his instructions, you were rewarded with your limit of birds. As a big game hunter, he provided many people with winter meat and over time amassed a collection of trophy animal mounts that required a separate building in his yard. "Dad's Den" was so full of interesting animals from across North America that school classes would take field trips through it. Like him, his hunting stories were legendary.

Dennis didn't retire until he was 75 years old. In retirement he would spend more time at his hunting cabin near Greenwater Provincial Park, or fishing at Last Mountain Lake with his grandson Cody, and he developed a knack for gardening. He also enjoyed helping out friends in the field and looked forward to a spin around the field in Richardson's combine or moving cows from the pasture at the Oakes farm. Every morning when weather permitted, he and Edith could be found together in their sunroom enjoying the sun and birds. Their later years were truly golden together. When Dennis would go away for a night or more he would always call in the evening (and usually two to three times during the day) to say "I love you".

Dennis/Dad/Poppa passed away suddenly on September 27, 2024. He was predeceased by his parents, Harry and Helen Vanthuyne, brother Robbie Vanthuyne, and son Alan Vanthuyne.

Dennis is survived by Edith, his wife of more than 56 years, son Darin (Jeanette), daughter Dana (Wayne), grandchildren Dallas, Dylan, Chayce, Jaylin, Brin, Savannah, Cody, siblings Marlene Lockwood (sister in law/Robbie), Florence (Wayne), Betty (Ron), Bing (Wendy), Glendon (Wendy), Ray (Louise), Lyndon (Marlene), George (Nancy), Jerry (Norma), Mona (John), Keith (Cindy), Shelley (Rick) and Daryl (Sharon), as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Interment will take place in Simpson Cemetery.

Memorial donations directed to Simpson Cemetery Fund would be appreciated.

To leave online condolences, tributes or to make a donation, please visit <https://fotheringham-mcdougall.com/>


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