



**WILSON,**

**William Donald (Don)**

**June 2, 1928 -**

**Oct. 23, 2024**

William Donald Wilson, aged 96 years, passed away at Manitou Lodge in the Watrous District Health Complex on Wednesday, October 23, 2024.

William Donald Wilson was born in Rouleau, Sask. on June 2nd, 1928 weighing in at a whopping 11 1/2 lbs. Don attended school in Rouleau and started working for SaskTel as an apprentice Districtman in Moosomin, Sask. It was at a hockey game in Moosomin in 1954 that he met a girl named Audrey Bater who happened to work for SaskTel as well. The two courted and were married in Fleming, Sask. on July 16th, 1955. They welcomed their first child in November 1956, a son they named William Stephen. In 1958 the family moved to Wadena, Sask. where their daughter, Christine Heather, was born in August 1959. On October 31st, 1961 they moved to Watrous as Don had been promoted to Districtman in Charge and then to District Switchboardman "A". In 1963 Don and Audrey purchased their home on 3rd Avenue East where Don resided until September of 2024. Don retired from SaskTel in 1983 after 30 years. He took a locksmithing course the same year and practiced this trade for 40 years retiring in 2023 at the age of 95.

Don was a devoted lifelong member of the United Church and loved singing in the choir. He was a proud member of the Watrous branch of the Royal Canadian Legion serving as president in 1977 and was involved with the Watrous Air Cadets as a Supply Officer for many years. He was a HAM Radio operator for most of his life under the call sign VE5IM.

He enjoyed "rag-chewing" with radio friends throughout Canada and even as far away as the Cook Islands. Don

was one to keep busy and enjoyed carpentry, welding, electrical work, square dancing, gardening, tinkering around in his shop, watching the Toronto Blue Jays and strolling around town with his love, Audrey. Don and Audrey enjoyed travelling the prairie provinces mixed in with some further distance trips to places like the east coast of Canada and New Zealand. A fond family memory is sitting in the living room while they shared a slideshow from their most recent trip.

Don lived a long, full, happy life and leaves many family members and friends that he hoped would remember him with a smile. He is survived by his beloved wife of 69 years, Audrey, son Stephen (Peggy), daughter Christine (Al), four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by his parents William Arthur and Thurza Wilson, infant son Peter, sister Shirley Nicholson, brother Lorne Wilson and trusty dog Brookfield.

Memorial service was held at Watrous United Church on Nov. 4 conducted by Rev. Joan Kessler.

Urnbearer was Stephen Wilson. Linda Pankratz and Maggie Chamney were register attendants. Ushers were Max and Katherine Wilson. Amanda Dezotell gave the eulogy. Pianist, organist and choir leader were Lil Gingrich, Elva Turner and Shelley Engele.

Private family interment at Watrous Columbarium.

Memorial donations directed to Watrous United Church or the Manitou Lodge Auxiliary would be appreciated.

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

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