

Walter George (Wally) Hughes – VHS '32

HUGHES, Walter (Wally) George Born December 24, 1913. Passed away peacefully on February 19, 2015 in Victoria, BC. Walter was born in Victoria, the oldest of 3 sons born to George and Marion Hughes. He graduated from Vic High where a plaque has been placed to mark his 100 years. At 19, Walter served briefly in the police force where it was discovered that he did not have a driver's license. He worked a series of odd jobs during the depression, and then in 1936, began working for the BC Forest Service. That led to a lifelong career. He started in the Surveys Division at the Cowichan Lake Experiment Station. He ferried supplies and passengers across the lake and worked on the roads. He cruised timber in 1938 in the wilds of Seymour Inlet. In 1939 he worked on a special 30 mile trail building project in the newly established Lord Tweedsmuir Park. In 1940 Walter enrolled at the [University of Washington](#) in Seattle. There he met his first wife, Peggy who was studying journalism. He completed his Bachelor of Forestry degree; they married and returned to BC, to Powell River, where Wally worked in the pulp mill laboratory and where they started a family. In 1943 he joined the RCAF as a navigator and completed active service overseas flying with Squadron 437, 'The Huskies'. They flew transport: men, supplies, equipment. He returned to Victoria in 1946, completed his Master of Forestry degree in Seattle and rejoined the Forest Service to work in many capacities: as Forest Service Party Chief on the north coast, Forester in Charge of Working Plans Division, and District Forester in Prince Rupert, where Peggy enjoyed a career in journalism with the newspaper. They finally returned to Victoria when Wally became Assistant Chief Forester in Charge of Operations. They raised two sons, were involved in the community, enjoyed bridge and travel. They were regulars on the Norwegian Cruise ships until Peggy died in 1978. Wally is also predeceased by second wife Doreen Hughes and his brother Rex. He is survived by his wife, Marion Sawyer, by brother Darrell, sons, Grant (Vi) and Brian (Alice), by grandchildren Alison (Andrew) and Michael (Megan), great-grandchildren Bella, Olivia, Max and Emi, and by Marion's family, Dean (Barbara), daughter in law Alison, grandchildren Melanie (Kevin), Jarret (Becky), Krista (Edgar), Jason (Stephanie), many great-grandchildren, a niece and nephews and their families. Marion called Walter the last 'gentleman in Victoria'. He enjoyed photography, golf, music, especially jazz piano, reading, discussing world events, and a glass of good Scotch. Walter played the piano and organ and enjoyed musical concerts. In his later years Walter was a 'mall walker' logging over 1000 kilometres around Hillside Mall where he met Marion. He was a long-time member of the Uplands Golf Club in Victoria and celebrated his 100th birthday party there in December 2013.

