

Gerald John Godfrey JAMES

1926 - 2014

On November 24, 2014, Gerry James of Westbank, BC passed away peacefully at the age of 88 years.

Gerry is lovingly remembered by his two sons: Geoffrey of Kyrgyzstan, and Steven (Janelle) of Yellowknife, as well as his two precious grandchildren, Madison and Carson. He was predeceased by his wife, Lily of 55 years, in 2012.

Gerry was born on March 24, 1926 in Birmingham, England. He received his early schooling in England and with the start of World War II, he volunteered and joined the Army at the age of 17. He started with the Royal Armored Corps, then he later joined the 6th airborne division where, on his 19th birthday, he was in a glider heading over the Rhine River in Germany. During his service he was a prisoner of war and later released, he was then stationed in Palestine as a peacekeeper until he left the Army in 1947.

Gerry immigrated to Canada in early 1953 eventually finding his way to Alberta and the Northwest Territories. In 1955, he found employment with the Northern Transportation Company and ferried barges up and down the Mackenzie River in the NWT. From then on he held numerous employment positions and later owned and operated several other businesses in the



Yellowknife area. Gerry had many interests and obtaining his commercial pilots' licence was one of his many major accomplishments.

In 1957, Gerry became involved with the Yellowknife Fire Department, first as a volunteer, then leading to the position of Deputy Fire Chief, in 1976 and Fire Chief in 1979. In 1981, he became the Director of Public Works and Safety for the city of Yellowknife until his retirement in 1987. During this time he received the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal for over 30 years of service.

Gerry and his wife, Lily enjoyed their 25 years of retirement and enjoyed many travel ventures throughout the world including Europe, the Caribbean and Eastern and Western North America. In addition to the travel, Gerry was an active member of the Royal Canadian Legion for over 60 years and the Masonic lodge for over 50 where he held various positions. He had several hobbies including the restoration of vintage cars... Gerry will always be remembered as a dedicated family man and a man who did many years of volunteer work for the betterment of the community.

A celebration of Gerry's life will take place in Westbank in the summer of 2015.