

Douglas James WHARTON

Born 15 July 1937, Tralee, Ireland

Died 25 August 2012, Drumheller, Alberta, Canada

Parents: Thomas Wharton and Alice Wharton (nee Peevers)

Spouse: Agnes Palfy

Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada



Douglas James Wharton, longtime former resident of Grande Prairie passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on August 25, 2012 at the Drumheller Health Centre, in Drumheller, Alberta at the age of 75. Doug was born in Tralee, a provincial capital in the Republic of Ireland, to Thomas and Alice (nee Peevers) Wharton.

As a youngster, when not working hard on the farm, he enjoyed visiting the local beaches to pick mussels or catch fish to take home for his mother to cook. He also hunted quail and pheasant in nearby Ballyseedy Wood – becoming an accomplished rifle marksman. Young Doug had many aunts and uncles who visited regularly, and had great influence on the man he became; he had a strong faith, a lifelong love of reading, a wonderful sense of humour, a keen interest in politics and current events. His parents regaled Doug from an early age with stories of their experiences in Canada in the late 1920s and early 30s. Doug grew to be a proper gentleman, and was a natural romantic.

In his teens, Doug considered a Naval career, but instead opted to attend trade school to learn carpentry. By 1957, with the economy in decline, Doug decided to leave Ireland for the wild, young country he heard so much about growing up – Canada. He settled in the Saskatoon area, near his beloved Uncle Tom and Aunt Annie Peevers. In Canada, he expanded his skills into sheetmetal work, painting and building maintenance. Doug was a tall, dashing figure, well known in the area for his big, flashy, white Ford car and his fiery red hair. He was often in the company of his cousin Don, son of Tom and Annie.

In 1968, he met Miss Agnes Palfy at a social event. A whirlwind romance followed, and they were married in 1969. In 1970, their son Kevin was born in Watrous, Saskatchewan. The three of them moved to Grande

Prairie in 1972. Doug worked in home construction and later as a contractor until the early 1980s. He sold furniture, real estate and insurance when home building slowed. Doug was an engaged father and doting husband; whether it was driving Kevin to Army Cadets, playing catch with him in the back yard, or taking Agnes out to dinner and dancing.

In 1996, Doug and Agnes sold their properties in Alberta & Saskatchewan and moved to Drumheller, Alberta to slow down. Doug didn't retire or relax – opening a security and private investigation agency with Agnes and Kevin. Agnes passed away in Calgary in 2001, after courageously battling a severe organ infection. Through social activities in the church, Doug was introduced to English expatriate Miss Susan (Sue) Smith of Drumheller in 2002.

Sue and Doug shared many interests, including travel. They were married in June 2003, complete with an RCMP honour guard, granted with respect to Sue's position as senior Peace Officer for the town. Doug remained very active in his later years, accepting a seat on the church vestry, and forming two businesses with Sue. In his leisure time, he enjoyed woodworking in his shop, playing with his grandchildren, attending concerts and traveling with Sue.

Doug will be sadly missed by his wife of 9 years, Sue; son Kevin (Tracy); grandchildren Aidan and Keira; as well as numerous friends and relations in England, Ireland, America and Canada. He was predeceased by his parents, Thomas and Alice; brother Eric; and first wife of 31 years, Agnes. A celebration of Doug's life will be held at St. Magloire's Anglican Church, 176 2nd Street West, Drumheller at 2:00PM on September 22, 2012

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