

The Leonard and Gladys Burt Legacy



Thank you to the Rivers and Area Community Foundation for the opportunity to honour our parents (grandparents). The Rivers and Area Community Foundation has allowed our family to mark their time in this community and to keep our memories alive.

Our Grandpa, Leonard Burt was born in Lothair Daly in 1909 on the family farm. Our Grandma, Gladys Burt (nee Fletcher) was born in the Cardale area not so far from Rivers. In 1937, Leonard and Gladys married in Oak River, Together they raised five spirited children, Marlene, Mayvis, Jack, Brian and Linda.

In 1973, Leonard and Gladys Burt retired from the farm to Rivers, Manitoba. Today Brian and his son, Brent continue to operate the family farm. Once they moved to Rivers, Leonard took a position as custodian at the Rivers Collegiate and Gladys worked at Paddock's Bakery. (We honestly believe that Grandma spent everything she made on cinnamon buns and jam busters for everyone who visited!)

Leonard and Gladys enjoyed the community and all the events it offered. Our Grandpa was so honoured when he received a booster jacket from the River's Jets Hockey Team where he helped out where he could. Our grandma always had a book of tickets to sell or was buying tickets. A family legacy that lives on – believe me! There were cards (whisk, crib and 500), pool, hockey, ball games, fair day, bingo at both the Ukrainian Hall and the Legion, lawn bowling and meals on wheels. Our grandparents would inevitably have one grandchild or another along with them for the activities. It would hurt us to help set up chairs or mow the old senior centre lawn...and we were more than glad to go along because we always stopped for a treat!

Our grandparents gave generously with an open warm hand, but our family would never be considered rich in terms that many think of...instead we are rich in the values that they instilled in us ...to do what you can!

Grandpa passed away in 1982 at the early age of 72. We can only imagine the involvements we would have shared if we had him longer. Grandma passed away in 2010 at the age of 94. Together they are buried in the Oak River Cemetery. But how will Rivers remember them? That is where so many of our

memories are from. They lived in a modest two bedroom house on Third Street that held many gatherings of all of us that really should have been held somewhere bigger... but we all fit.

Rivers always had room for us. Rivers is where we visited on weekends, school breaks and summer vacation. We always came home to Rivers. Rivers was a big part of our grandparents' lives and our lives.

So today we start a family fund- it will likely be a modest fund but it is to mark the values of the community and "**doing what you can**". That is what our family lives by. Our family fund may never be the outstanding contribution to the community but please know **it is started with a warm open hand.**

On behalf of the Burt Family, I stand here to say thank you to the Rivers and Area Community Foundation for giving us this opportunity to start the **Leonard and Gladys Burt Family Fund** and I hope that each of you will consider honouring someone in your life. The foundation is the best way to guarantee their legacy can live on in your community. Submitted with a warm open hand, Karen