

Walter Griffioen

AUGUST 29, 2018

Walter Griffioen was born to Jacobus and Wjntje on a farm in Baambrugge, the Netherlands, the second of twelve children. His early life was shaped by his parent's living out their faithful commitment to God and church. Growing up he loved classical music, playing the organ and roaming around with friends. He went to agricultural school but really didn't want to "shovel shit" the rest of his life. He enjoyed the company of the young people at church, particularly that of one attractive young lady whose home he frequently visited, ostensibly to hang out with her older brothers. He served two years in the Dutch army before travelling to western Canada in 1956 in hopes of a new future that didn't include farming. After establishing himself and untold numbers of letters that crossed the ocean, he returned to Holland to marry his love, Marion, in 1958. A week later they honeymooned on a ship across the Atlantic and a train across Canada.

Walter and Marion settled in Port Coquitlam, BC, where Walter soon established his own drywall business. Daughters Helen and Carla joined the family in quick succession. After seven years the family moved to New Westminister and became members of the New Westminister Christian Reformed Church with Walter serving many years as an elder. He especially loved being a friend to the young adults. Walter was also involved in the seaman's ministry and loved to sing in the choir. Meanwhile, the family was blessed with the births of two sons, Mark and Bruce, and Walter started his long career as a building contractor. Throughout his life



Walter was deeply committed to Christian education, serving on the board of Fraser Valley Christian High School, The King's University College and the Institute for Christian Studies. In 2005 Walter and Marion moved to Langley and joined the Willoughby CRC.

Walter and Marion loved to travel together, exploring places as diverse as Indonesia, Brazil, Greece, Portugal, China, South Africa and Australia along with many others. Walter also enjoyed touring with Marion in their motorhome across the United States and Canada. They enjoyed spending time at their cabin at Whistler and bicycle touring including the Sea-to-Sea cycle tour which they joined in Ontario and finished at the Atlantic Ocean. Playing and watching hockey were also favorite past-times for Walter.

A source of great joy for Walter were his fifteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. His favorite part of a family gathering was watching the little children play and encouraging them as they grew into beautiful young adults. Classical music filled his soul and was a constant source of renewal and peace. His unwavering faith in God assured him of the Home that awaited him after his passing.

Lovingly remembered by his wife, Marion, his children Helen (Art), Carla (Ron), Mark (Tricia), and Bruce (Kristy), eight brothers and sisters, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Loved ones who have gone before him include his parents, three brothers, and his great-grandson, Kohen.

You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence for the family.

Messages of Condolence

Sincere sympathy to Marian, children and grandchildren. We knew Walter as a very kind and compassionate friend. He always asked how our sons were doing by name. Always considerate and helpful when we needed that. He will be greatly missed by many!

May God comfort you with His love and promises!

— **Harry and Joanne Boessenkool**

My sincere sympathies on your loss of Walt. I remember him as a warm, generous, and active man with a deep love for life and for people.

He lived well.

— **Jessica Alexander**

Dear Marion,

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Walt and are keeping you in our prayers during this time of grieving his loss. We fondly remember the time we spent with you both out at your cabin in Whistler. We look forward to seeing Walt again one day when we meet for eternity. For now we pray that the Lord would comfort you and your family and give you some special memories of all the time you spent with Walt.

— **Johnny and Ellen Walker**

Dear Marion and family,

We are so sorry to hear about Walt. I have so many wonderful memories of your family. Walt and you were such kind, supportive neighbours... we will be praying to send you strength and comfort during this sad time.

Love Heather

— **Heather and Dwayne Winnichuk**



<https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/griffioen-walter>

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