



REMEMBERING
Henry Schellenberg

September 2, 1930 - December 3, 2023



Henry Schellenberg was born on September 2, 1930, in Alexanderkrone, Ukraine, to Heinrich

and Maria Schellenberg. Shortly after that, the young family of three joined a group of

refugees fleeing the growing discrimination in the Soviet Union and eventually settled in the

northwestern Chinese town of Kulja. Five other children were born during this time. Yet, only

the youngest, Jacob (1936), survived because the family struggled with the poverty caused by

the external and internal wars plaguing the Chinese countryside. Their situation worsened in

1939 when local communists imprisoned Henry's father. Two years later, they sent him to

the Soviet Union, never to return, yet God continued to provide and protect them. In 1946,

the Schellenbergs left Kulja with the surviving refugees and arrived in Shanghai in September

1947. It was there that Henry responded to the Gospel and trusted in Christ as his Saviour. In

Shanghai, the MCC connected Henry's family to his maternal aunt in Abbotsford, B.C., and

arranged for her to sponsor them. Finding passage on a freighter, Henry's mother,

Maria, and

her two sons arrived in Canada on March 18, 1948, and settled in Greendale, BC. Henry

started working immediately. One of his first jobs was filling sandbags during that year's

flood.

Henry enjoyed getting to know his new cousins as he settled into Canada by attending night

school and getting a job at a sawmill in 1950. He loved learning, enjoyed the fellowship at

Greendale M.B. church, and was baptized during this time. Through Greendale M.B. church,

Henry met Evangeline (Lena) Penner. They were married on March 22, 1953, and celebrated

the birth of their son, Melvin Henry, a year later. Though the family lost three stillborn

children during the following five years, their faith in God's sovereignty stood firm, and, in

time, He provided two additional children: Darlene Ruth (1960) and Douglas Neil (1963).

Henry also exhibited his faith when a work accident caused the loss of his index and middle

finger on his dominant right hand in 1961. Rather than grow bitter, Henry never considered

himself disabled, secured a job at Crane Potteries and moved his family to North Delta B.C. in

1964. There they joined Kennedy Heights M.B. Church and served faithfully for decades.

In the summer of 1971, labour strikes and a worsening economy led the family to London,

Ontario, where Henry and Lena worked for a nursing home. While there, Henry joined a new

M.B. church work in nearby Komoka before returning to North Delta, Crane, and Kennedy

Heights in January 1974. In 1982, Henry became the maintenance man at the Swedish

Canadian Rest Home, where Lena worked as Head Cook. He retired in 1995, and they moved

into an apartment so they could travel to see their grandchildren in Indiana, take

cruises to

Alaska and the Panama Canal, and visit Israel. By 2010, Lena required additional care so the

couple moved to the Emerald in Elim Village for assisted living. For two years, they enjoyed

all the community activities. In July 2012, Lena's health deteriorated, and she was in

extensive care until her passing in September.

For the last 11 years, Henry continued to live at the Emerald and felt increasingly supported

by the great community there. Eventually, in 2015, God blessed him with a wonderful friend,

Valerie. They had so much fun and joy together! During this time, Henry was also actively

involved in his grandchildren's lives whenever possible. In addition to going on a mission trip

to Mexico with his granddaughter, Bethany, Henry went on numerous trips to Indiana to visit

Mel & Sue and family and to Jon & Hannah's wedding in Toronto. Henry poured himself into

his family, giving them the greatest example of being a Christ-follower.

His faith and trust were built upon seeing God's faithful providence throughout his years. Henry's Bible was

always open for devotions the next day. He was a faithful prayer warrior -

especially for his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. His prayers and encouraging words were

comforting for everyone. Henry passed away to be in the presence of Jesus on the evening of

Sunday, December 3, 2023, at the age of 93.

He is predeceased by his wife, Evangeline (Lena) Schellenberg - married for 59 years and

three unborn children. He has left behind his children, Mel (Sue) Schellenberg, Darlene (Ed)

Neufeld, and Doug (Helen) Schellenberg. His grandchildren, Stephanie Schellenberg, Justin

(Shannon) Schellenberg, Jonathan (Hannah) Neufeld, Bethany (Jonathan) Kalf, Micah

Neufeld, Emma Schellenberg, and Jared Schellenberg. His great grandchildren, Allison

Schellenberg, David Schellenberg, Samuel Neufeld, and Tyson Kalf. His dear friend, Valerie

Duina. His brother, Jake (Ruth) Schellenberg, and their family, as well as family from "the

Penner' side. He will be missed by the loving staff and dear friends at the Emerald.

