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SATURDAY MARCH 6, 2010

WILLIAM (BILL) EDWARD GRONAU Passed away February 21, 2010 at Henderson General Hospital in Hamilton, Ontario. Bill was born in Ottawa, June 18, 1924 to Marion (née Murphy) and Frederick Gronau, originally from Union City, Connecticut, and New York City, respectively. Beloved father of Anna C. Feldman Gronau, Victoria B.C., and James F.M. Gronau, Toronto, father-in-law to Joseph A. Feldman, Victoria, and grandfather to Magalí Gronau Toy and Evelyn Meigs Feldman. Fondly remembered by his former wife, Mary Alix Gronau (née Minhinnick), Victoria, and by his niece, Karen Gronau, New York City, and his nephew, John Gronau, John's wife, Joanna Bellamy, and daughters Maia and Sophia, all of Ottawa. Bill was pre-deceased by his dear brother

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James and sister-in-law, Doris. Bill's many passions included reading, walking in nature with the family's beagle, Ben, swimming, classical music, birdwatching, history, Gilbert and Sullivan, and Bob and Ray. Bill was stationed at Oulton, Norfolk, during World War II, and was with 100 Group - 214 Squadron, flying at night over Germany to support RAF raids. He was wounded on the night of March 3 and 4, 1945, when a German nightfighter attacked Oulton's airfield. After the war, Bill served in the RAF Reserve at Uetersen as part of the occupying forces in Germany, acting as an interpreter. His wartime experiences left Bill with a deep suspicion of those who glorify war, and a keen sense of the need to oppose the abuse of power. Upon returning to Canada, Bill attended McGill University and earned a degree in Organic Chemistry in 1950, the same year that he married. His children, Anna and Jim, were born in the early '50s. From 1956 to 1982, Bill worked at Diamond Shamrock Chemical Company of Canada in Hamilton, living for many of these years in the countryside, where he enjoyed gardening, walking in open fields, and birdwatching. After his marriage ended in 1972, Bill went travelling: to Columbia, New Zealand, Wales, and Scotland. On several occasions he toured the battlefields of Europe. During this time, he lived on Undermount Avenue in Hamilton, and his neighbours became like family to him. He loved to take Ben for walks along the Bruce Trail. Bill sustained a brain injury from a fall in 1992. This was followed by a number of further accidents, leaving Bill unable to live in his own home after 2003. His last

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years were spent at Ridgeview Long-Term Care Centre in Stoney Creek, where he continued to love reading, outings with friends, and watching birds at the feeder outside his window. Thanks go to the caring and patient staff at Ridgeview, and to Bill's caregivers from Above and Beyond Health Care who gave support and companionship when family was unable to. Particular thanks to Jean Parrell, who was a loving and constant friend in Bill's last months, days and hours. Bill will be remembered for speaking out against what he felt was wrong and for living a quiet, simple, non-materialistic life. Bill knew what was important to him, and his enthusiasms were infectious.

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