



## Mr. Stanley Alfred Skinner

April 24, 2016

Stanley Alfred Skinner

May 3, 1928 – April 24, 2016

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved husband and father, Stanley Skinner, in the early morning of April 24, 2016. He died comforted by the loving embrace of Loretta, his wife of 58 years. Survived by immediate family of Loretta Skinner, John Skinner of Germany, and Lorraine Skinner and Greg Leake of Victoria, granddaughter Jenny Leake and AJ Potter of Saskatoon, and grandson Willie Leake and Kirsten Booth of Vancouver. Survived by extended family in Saskatchewan of Sharon and Tony Soloducha, Emily Bissky, Doris Bissky, Dorothy Biskey, and numerous nieces and nephews and their families. Survived in England by his brother Bernard's children Jane Ryan and family, Nick Skinner and family, and by extended family of Donald Brewer and Sue Dixon, Hilary and Dennis Winwright, Stan and Pam Panton, and very dear friends Diana and Ken Spencer.

Predeceased by daughter Katherine Skinner in June, 2015, his brothers Albert (and Pat) Skinner and Bernard (and Jean) Skinner, and most aunts, uncles and cousins.

Born in London, England, Stan was evacuated to a safer location in the countryside during the war, and this had a profound effect on his life. A few years after the war, Stan emigrated to Canada, ultimately to Saskatoon to

attend the University of Saskatchewan. Finding his soulmate also boarding in his rooming-house, Stan and Loretta Bissky soon married. John and Lorraine were born in Saskatoon, and then in 1961 the family moved to England. Katherine was born there in 1963, after which the family moved back to Canada to reside in Toronto. Stan was Editor-in Chief at Longmans Canada for many years before finding an undiscovered talent for teaching. Stan cofounded the Publishing and Design program at Centennial College, where he taught and later became Programme Coordinator.

A memorial service to honour and pay respect will be held on Sunday, June 26 at 2 pm at the Colleston church, near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Stan's ashes will be interred in the Bissky family plot, where Loretta's parents and Katherine already rest. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the MS Society of Canada, North York General Hospital, or Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Thank you.

# Tribute Wall

“ I dreamed of Stan before I met him. Twice. The dream came again after meeting him. This is the pattern. Same dream, three times. It is not a déjà vu. It is a memory. I wake in the morning after the first two dreams and say, “Who is that?” I can count on two hands the people I first met in this way. Always I am given insight to the subject’s character; never is this wrong. Usually, I also see what they look like. Always—always—they are significant people in my life.

*In my dream of Stan, he is standing in the hallway at the Warden campus of Centennial College, outside the door of the classroom where he taught his editing class and held meetings in his capacity as Programme Coordinator in 1984-1986, the years I was a student in what was then his two-year Book Editing and Design program. In those days, the publishing industry enjoyed 20 years of program graduates, which meant I had no selling to do when I was looking for editing work in Toronto. I still think of Stan each time I reach for a book.*

*I travelled to and from Toronto’s west end in those college years by public transit and often would happen upon Stan enroute. In good weather we would walk together from the subway to the college in the morning or in the other direction at the end of the day. I was drawn to Stan, knowing I was in the presence of a precious being. Running in to him between classes were treasured moments I hoped for. His office door was always open, and given such easy access I had to consciously work at not abusing the privilege of his time, freely given though it always was.*

*I thought of Stan as my mentor. I wanted to be like him in his integrity and his generosity of spirit. These are qualities that know no professional or personal boundaries. They are about how to be in the world. I noticed in the years after leaving the college that I held him in the space out in front of and above me. I noticed I was appropriating the cadence of his speech and that I held my eyebrows much higher when my soul, not my personality, was*

*driving the proceedings.*

*He was lovely. Thank you, Loretta, for welcoming not only me, but also my husband and my brother, to your and Stan's home for our visits. My deepest sympathies are with you and your family in your profound loss of such a man.*

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**Vivian Elias** - June 25, 2016 at 11:37 AM

JZ

“ *I had the privilege of working for a number of years as staff designer with Stan when he was Chief Editor of the School Book Department at Longman Canada, and later as a design teacher when he was Programme Coordinator of the Book Publishing and Design Department at Centennial College.*

*Stan was a brilliant editor, innovator, teacher, author, mentor, and dear friend. I am deeply saddened by his passing.*

*Eva and I pass on our heart felt condolences to Loretta and her family.*

*John Zehethofer*

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**John Zehethofer** - June 01, 2016 at 02:26 PM

DS

“ *What good fortune we had meeting Stan and Loretta on a holiday in Devon in 1980. Stan became a truly great friend and we will always remember the wonderful times we spent together. Talking with Stan was inspirational. His strength of character, generosity and humour were priceless. We will miss him very much.*

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**Diana and Ken Spencer** - April 30, 2016 at 09:00 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Aftercare Cremation & Burial Service** - April 28, 2016 at 10:02 AM