

PROJET DE
MAISONS NEUVES
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COHEN

Edgar Horace

Date de décès:

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OBITUARY EDGAR HORACE COHEN Peacefully at home, on Thursday July 13, 2006. Ruth Goldberg Cohen, his beloved wife of fifty-seven years, was at his bedside. He was ninety-two years old. Edgar Cohen was born in Montreal on October 28, 1913. He was the son of Abraham Zebulon Cohen, who was a coal merchant, an orator and scion of the Jewish Community, and Malca (Vineberg) Cohen, who was an erudite and witty conversationalist. He was the brother of Arthur, Riva and Elsa. He attended Roslyn School and Westmount High School. He studied literature and history at McGill University and graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Arts in 1934. Upon the sudden death of his father in 1937, he abandoned plans to study medicine and became president of L. Cohen and Son Ltd., founded by his grandfather, Lazarus Cohen, in the late 1880's. There he introduced innovations such as profit-sharing and radio tankers and rebuilt a struggling business. He sold the company in 1961 and entered real estate, forming Yarco Building Corp. and LJA Investments; he successfully represented a consortium of investors in making astute real estate investments in the United States and Western Canada. His real loves, though, were travel, writing and learning. After thirteen trips to Europe and extensive archival research, he wrote *Mademoiselle Libertine*, a well-received biography of Ninon de Lenclos, the 17th century French Libertine. The book was published in Canada, the United States and Britain. He also wrote poems, limericks, short stories, commentary and satire, which appeared in publications including *The Canadian Forum*, *The Jewish Frontier* and *The Montreal Star*, as well as a novel and memoir (unpublished). From 1977 to 1980 he was president of Canadian PEN, where he was succeeded by Hugh MacLennan and Margaret Atwood. He was a life governor of the Jewish General Hospital, a trustee of Congregation Shaar Hashomayim and the Montreal Chapter of the Hebrew University, chair of his McGill class reunion, and a member of the Friends of the McGill Library, the Writers Union of Canada and World Federalists. He was a member of Lord Reading Yacht Club and the Montefiore Club. A student of history, biography and the Bible, a lover of opera and the outdoors, a sailor, a skier and a tennis player, a wry and funny observer, a loving husband, a caring father and grandfather and an unfailing friend, Edgar H. Cohen was a renaissance man in the 20th century. He is survived by his wife Ruth, his sister, Elsa Rubin; his children Lenore, Judy and Andrew, and their spouses, Paul Harris, Michael Jacobs and Mary Gooderham; his grandchildren Michelle, Kenny and Andrew Harris; Jesse Jacobs; Alexander and Rachel Cohen; and his nieces and nephews. The family thanks his loyal secretary of twenty-five years, Hyacinth Moulton, and our other family Marieta, Venus, Cynthia and Amapola who cared for him in his later years with affection and devotion Special thanks to Drs. Peter Lipes, Rubin Becker and Robin Billick. Funeral service from Paperman and Sons 3888 Jean Talon W. on Sunday July 16 at 12 noon. Burial at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim Cemetery, Mt. Royal Blvd. Shiva private. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Ruth and Edgar H. Cohen Endowment Fund c/o Jewish General Hospital Foundation, (514) 340-8251 or to the Ruth and Edgar H. Cohen Endowment Fund c/o Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, (514) 937-9471 Published in the Montreal Gazette from 7/14/2006 - 7/15/2006 Published in the Montreal Gazette on 7/16/2006

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