

Edward Joseph Oberst

December 30, 1925- October 11, 2010

Ed Oberst passed away
in Halifax, Nova Scotia
on October 11, 2010,
at age 84



A long-time northerner and Yellowknife resident, Ed was born in Kerrobert, Saskatchewan and served with the Canadian Army in World War II, stationed in London at the military's Khaki College. On his return he received his B.Ed from the University of Saskatchewan. During this time he also earned his journeyman's carpentry papers, and fine woodworking would be a constant hallmark throughout his life.

Ed moved north to Fort Smith in 1957 to join the Department of Education. It was here that he met his wife Ruth, with son David born in 1965 and daughter Ann Margaret in 1967.

In 1968 Ed took a sabbatical year to add a Bachelor of Library Science at the University of Toronto, after which the family moved to the newly relocated capital of Yellowknife. He established the Department's audio-visual library for the Territories and in later years moved to the policy division, retiring in 1990 as the Department's senior policy advisor.

Ed and Ruth moved to Nova Scotia in 1991, dividing their time between Halifax and the cottage Ed built on the north shore near Tatamagouche. Before Alzheimer's disease overtook him, he was rarely seen without a carpenter's pencil tucked behind his ear.

Longtime Yellowknifers will especially remember Ed's elaborate stage and set constructions that he created for local theatrical productions over the years. School gyms and hotel dining rooms would be transformed with rotating stages or Hawaiian palaces, while the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre hosted Don Quixote's dungeon, complete with descending staircase, for *The Man of La Mancha*. As one long-time actor said of Ed, "He was a master carpenter. If you said, 'It can't be done,' Ed would say, 'I think I can make it work.'" The 1975 version of *Fiddler on the Roof* was transported to Inuvik, and the locally written 1978 play *Two Hands and Forever* was similarly flown to Whitehorse for performance there.



Along with his family, Ed is also survived by brother Alfred (Carrie) and sister Ella Schmidt (Wendelin) and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his parents Frank and Barbara, four sisters (Mary, Rose, Helen and Eda) and three brothers (Frank, John and George).

His body has been donated to the medical sciences program at Dalhousie University. There will be no services at this time. Donations may be made to a charity of your choice or to www.fundypeacefoundation.org.