

John ALTENBURGER

FUNERAL HOME

Henry Walser Funeral Home
507 Frederick Street
Kitchener, ON

Passed away on November 30, 2021, at home surrounded by his loving family, at the age of 90. Beloved husband of Mary for 68 years. Cherished dad of John (Alex), Monica, and Michele. Loving Opa of Erin (Paul), Alison (John), and Kendra, Alan and Mark, and John and Peter. Great Opa of Fritz and Barnes, Lucy, Benjamin, and Avery, and Robbie and Mary. Dear brother of Clara Keller (late Willy), and brother-in-law of Mike (Kathy). Predeceased by his parents John and Klara, his parents-in-law John and Marian, his sisters-in-law Katie (late Gus), Helen (Rudi), and Betty (late Matt). Much loved Onkel Hans of Willy, Kurt (Pat), Ted (Donna), Rick, Susi (late Jim), Jason (Kathryn), Eric (Sandi), Tanya (Clint), Arlene (Aaron), and Ken. John was a member of the 1948 Swiss Olympic gymnastics team, where he specialized in the pommel horse, rings, and horizontal bar. He arrived in Canada in 1952, and was extremely proud of his Swiss and Canadian citizenships. He met the love of his life, Mary, at a dance in Kitchener, and they continued to dance over the years at the German Canadian Hunting and Fishing Club, where he was a lifetime member. He loved to be the life of the party and was known as the "Mayor of Mannheim" during past Oktoberfests at Hubertushaus. A tool and die maker by trade, John worked on the landing gear for the Avro Arrow, and later had his own trucking company, and his own construction company. He then made the switch to a demolitions expert. ("If you know how to build them, you know how to tear them down.") A talented carpenter and cabinet maker, John also built a beautiful mahogany cabin cruiser with his dad. That was one of many boats that John drove around Honey Harbour, where he and his family loved spending weekends at the cottage from spring until late fall, and as much of the summer as possible. John was known for his interesting vocabulary, including Yokelheimer, Doohinkey, Schnickelfritz, Strubbelkopf, Wurstelkopf, Hanswurst, and Mostkopf. He'd be happy to hear you sprinkle those into your daily conversations. Private Cremation has taken place. Arrangements entrusted to Henry Walser Funeral Home, 507 Frederick Street, Kitchener, 519-749-8467. Interment to take place at Woodland Cemetery at a later date. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Grand River Hospital Foundation, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, or the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters would be appreciated by the family (cards available at the funeral home).

