

Ardith Joan Roy

There's a folder of old love letters posted to "Sweetheart" from a boy overseas and matching files from the boy-turned-husband. There are boxes of handwritten letters and cards addressed to "Mother Roy", Mum, "Ardith" and "Mrs. Roy". There are clippings from articles about gardening, harvesting, canning, cooking, baking, sewing and homemaking. There are filing drawers and albums filled with photos of a life well lived. The sum paints a picture of a woman who loved her family, her home, a small circle of friends and a succession of tabby and tortie cats. A Cape Breton girl, Ardith was born prematurely weighing less than 4 and a half pounds and grew up to be a comely, physically confident, and energetic woman. She could be equally an elegant lady in a gorgeous gown or a practical woman in boots and blue jeans. She was similarly a skilled seamstress and milliner and stonemason. A child of the Depression, Ardith embodied ingenuity and a strong work ethic and loved the challenge of fixing things and making do. Happiness could be an hour browsing in a hardware store, or creating something fashionable, or turning out seven loaves of bread. A freedom-loving skinny dipper, she took pride that she didn't own a swimsuit and took her last private paddle at the age of 90. Charming and vivacious, funny and tenacious, tender and gracious, Ardith put her heart and energy into everything (and everyone) she took on.

Remembering her are sister Sally; brother Roy and their families; daughter Franklyn (Alan); granddaughter Miranda (Jason) and great grandsons Henry and Hart.

Ardith's spirit has left an imprint on those who knew her. Her spirit is also embodied in Miranda's shop, Ardith, a store devoted to helping women feel confident and stylish in their athletic pursuits.

"Werda", we will miss you dearly but we'll think of you often

as we observe the wonders of nature that you so enjoyed.

Please consider a donation in Ardith's memory to the BC Cancer Foundation – Vancouver Island, 2410 Lee Avenue, Victoria, BC V8R 6V5. All donations will be directed to ovarian cancer research.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

Sequoia Gardens Memorial

www.sequoiagardens.com