

Barbara Leslie Stephen

July 29, 1921 – November 16, 2011

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of our cherished Mum and Grandma this past November. Predeceased by her husband Hugh and sister Myfannwy, Barbara is survived by her children Michael, Susan (John), David (Astrid), and grandchildren Glynn, David, Megan, James, Miranda, Samantha and great grand-daughter Bianca.

Born in Clapham, England, and raised in Ewell, Barbara graduated from Stonar House School in Kent. During the first years of World War II, she worked for Imperial Chemical Industries near London. In 1942, following a trans-Atlantic proposal by telegram, she courageously undertook an Atlantic crossing in a convoy, then crossed Canada, to marry her love, Hugh, who had emigrated to Canada in 1938. He was then a Captain stationed at Fort Rodd Hill, and was soon sent abroad. Barbara made many lifelong friends in her new home as she started her family and volunteered in the community. Throughout her life she volunteered for such organizations as the Salvation Army, the Hospital Auxiliary and the YMYW-CA helping blind swimmers. Later, her love of flowers led to her supporting the Finnerty Gardens at UVIC.

With her genuine interest in all those she met, her graciousness and her sense of humour, she was a wonderful support for Hugh as he entered Municipal politics, becoming Mayor of Victoria

After Hugh's retirement they had the opportunity to travel together, enjoying many trips in Canada and abroad. But above all, Barbara cherished her family. She kept tabs on all their doings and was always there for each one with a loving smile and her support. Her favourite times were family gatherings, and this past July we all celebrated her 90th birthday.

Supported by family and friends in recent years, she was able to stay in her much loved home of 38 years with its magnificent ocean views.

Barbara slipped away after a short illness in November, surrounded by her family. We are grateful for the care and understanding of the doctors and the health personnel who assisted her, particularly the staff at Vic General. Our thanks to the many expressions of support and memories of our Mum that we have received. We miss her a lot.

A private family celebration will be held in the Spring. Condolences may be offered to the family below.

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