Christine Eva Wooldridge

Christine died peacefully and with grace, surrounded by family, after a short battle with cancer on October 15, 2023. She was born on April 30, 1938, in Sutton, Surrey, England.

Christine is survived by her loving husband David and by her three sons, John, Andrew and Mark; grandchildren, Nicholas, Ethan, Oliver and Charlotte Wooldridge; Ben, Noah and Simon Watts-Wooldridge; and Devon and Megan Wooldridge. Chris will be missed by her many other relatives and friends.

Christine was educated at Saint Catherine's School for Girls at Bramley near Guildford, Surrey; Magdalen College, Oxford and Waterperry Horticultural School. Christine graduated in 1957 by examination as a member of the Royal Horticultural Society, finishing seventh out of 730 applicants in the country. Her ability to identify every plant and tree, wild and cultivated, was phenomenal.

Christine and David were married in 1961 after meeting and falling in love enroute from England to Canada on *The Empress of Britain* in June 1960; Christine was on a family holiday and David was emigrating to Canada. This whirlwind romance led to a long, loving and interesting life together, first in Calgary and then moving to Salt Spring Island in 1976, and then on to Duncan and Shawnigan Lake and with the last two years of her life in Victoria, sharing with David all their mutual interests, especially their three sons.

Chris' interests included breeding and showing horses and dogs, particularly Highland Ponies, Highland Pony crosses and Norwegian Elkhounds. She was committed to teaching children to ride and had a deep belief that a horse of a smaller stature would enable young children to develop a lifelong love of horses and horsemanship. She was also dedicated to gardening and horticulture and had a lifelong love of choral singing

including time with the Calgary Renaissance Singers, the Victoria Amity Singers and the Victoria Philharmonic Choir, of which she was a founding member. Christine started the BCSPCA branch on Salt Spring Island, motivated by her interest in animal welfare. As the first Inspector on the island, she rescued and rehabilitated many domestic and wild animals including bald eagles, raccoons and swans.

Christine was a member of the Elite Racing Club of the UK and she owned a small share of several top horses. Her memory again enabled her to remember and recount the breeding and history of the top 100 horses in the country.

A celebration of Christine's life will be held December 1, 2023, at Christ Church Cathedral, 930 Burdett Avenue, in Victoria, BC, at 11:00 AM. A reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the BCSPCA or the Victoria Philharmonic Choir.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

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