

Dorothy Mary Fletcher

Peacefully in Victoria, BC on May 25, 2009. Born 20 May, 1923, Dorothy (née Elvidge) was the beloved wife of Bob for 58 years; loving mother of Eric (Katharine), Steven (Martine), Janet (Ron Citynski), Terry (Monique), Greg (Michelle), and Laurie (George Schell). She will also be missed by her 14 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren.

Dorothy grew up in Alberta, and after teaching in a one-room schoolhouse in the Peace River district, served as a VAD during WWII, then graduated from UBC with a degree in botany – and a husband! She never lost her love of gardening and the great outdoors, as an intrepid hiker (hiking Baffin Island while carrying a 50-lb pack at 65), an accomplished sailor (who crewed across the Atlantic, and throughout the British Virgin Islands), a canoeist (she and Bob built a cedar-strip canoe at their Kinburn farm), a cross-country skier, and a snowshoer. Dorothy was imaginative and creative. She enjoyed drawing, painting, working with clay, and she helped Bob design, landscape and build a home in Agassiz, BC; a cottage in Quebec; and a farmhouse in Kinburn, Ontario. Dorothy loved to travel and explored new places and cultures with keen interest and sense of adventure.

While raising a family of six and enjoying her many grandchildren, Dorothy kept active in the community. During their years in the Ottawa area she volunteered at the Canadian Museum of Civilization (her specialty being First Nations of the Canadian West Coast), the University Women's Club (Ottawa), and the Kanata Library.

Dorothy also enjoyed her own sibling gatherings, notably a trip back home to England, to her father's Lincolnshire farmhouse.

She and Bob moved to Victoria, BC in 2000, where she particularly enjoyed visits with their grandchildren. Mom will be deeply missed: her quiet optimistic attitude and grace under pressure will continue to guide all who knew her.

The family gives sincere thanks to the caring staff of Mount St. Mary Hospital in Victoria.

A small memorial will be held in Victoria Monday, June 1 at 1 p.m. at McCall's Family Centre, Johnson & Vancouver St. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation honouring Dorothy's caregivers to the Mount St Mary Foundation, 861 Fairfield Rd, Victoria BC, V8V 5A9.