

Dorothy W. Ross

Dorothy W. Ross, visual artist, died on July 23, 2014 at age 90, with her son, Gordon and daughter, Janet, by her side.

Dorothy was a sweetheart. In the words of long-time family friend Terry, her kind and gentle way was a model to live by. That pretty much says it all. But there's more to Dorothy's life story than her good nature.

Dorothy was born in Yorkshire, England, immigrating to Canada as a war bride. During WW ll she worked at Bomber Command with the Allied Central Interpretation Unit developing photographic film. She was very proud of that work, and liked to tell of how she accidentally destroyed a roll of film. Mom was certain she'd be court martialled. She wasn't.

Creativity and a passion for art ran through her veins. She was a graduate of the Leicester College of Art, Victoria College of Art and later returned to university as a mature student, completing her BA with a major in History in Art. Dorothy's paintings now hang throughout BC, touching the hearts of those who enjoy her vivid colours and abstract expressionism.

Until a few years ago Dorothy was an active parishioner at Christ Church Cathedral. She easily earned the trust and respect of fellow parishioners, remaining president of the Women's Parish Guild even after her health deteriorated. She was especially proud of a program she worked on to feed street kids in the church yard. The program inspired a series of paintings that she later exhibited in a one-artist show.

Dorothy made friends with people from all walks of life. Together with husband Ian, summers were focused on Highland Games on Vancouver Island, on the BC mainland and as far as Portland, where she proudly watched her children pipe and dance.

To in part repay Mom for her loyalty and devotion, we three kids tried teaching her to swear properly and to not always try to be perfect. Our efforts failed until the ravages of Lewy body dementia released her inhibitions.

Dorothy was predeceased by her brother, Bernard, husband, Ian and son, David. She is survived by her son, Gordon (Janis), daughter, Janet (Richard), granddaughter, Amelia and four great-grandchildren. We thank all Dorothy's friends, her medical and care teams and family members who provided their support and love throughout the years. You made a huge difference and we truly appreciate your compassion and thoughtfulness.

A celebration of Dorothy's life will be held on her birthday: Friday, August 15 at 1 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral, 930 Burdett Avenue. In lieu of flowers, tributes would be appreciated to Mount St. Mary Hospital Foundation or Christ Church Cathedral. Condolences may be offered to the family below.

In Dorothy's own words: Don't cry for me. Live for me.

McCall Bros. Funeral Home

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