

Fiona Mary Hyslop (née Anderson)

Born in Hong Kong December 27, 1931, to Dr. James William and Sheila Anderson. Died July 5, 2022, in Victoria, BC.

During the war, Fiona, her brothers and their mother were evacuated from Hong Kong to Victoria where they lived with their grandparents. She had fond recollections of her childhood in Victoria.

In her teens, she attended the University of Hong Kong, followed by schools in Switzerland where she developed a love of languages. She was fluent in French, accomplished in Spanish and she dabbled in Italian and Russian.

Her Italian helped her serve the Italian film industry while she lived in London. French served her well at work in Montréal and later in the public service and socially in Ottawa.

For more than 20 years Fiona lived in a paradise called Kingsmere nestled in the Gatineau hills. She was an avid cross-country skier, hiker, and sailor. Her first paycheque from the civil service went towards a lime-green Laser sailboat which she campaigned in the weekly races on Kingsmere Lake.

Her career with the Federal Government included the International Women's Year Secretariat and the Office of Official Languages. She began mentoring young women in their careers and continued to do so, touching the lives of many.

When she moved back to Victoria in the 1990s, Fiona threw herself into community service, volunteering for many organisations, notably the Victoria Foundation where she remained an Honorary Governor, Leadership Victoria, the

Minerva Foundation, the United Way and many arts organisations, such as the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Volunteering for the crisis line presented situations that strained her proper and perhaps slightly sheltered understanding of the world. She was honoured with Leadership Victoria's Lifetime Achievement Award in Community Leadership (2006) and the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers (2016).

Fiona had much love for and is loved in return by her brother David (Sandra), her son Alex (Kelly), grandchildren Briar and Annabel; nieces Melissa, Marianne, and Zoe and nephew James; stepson Peter, step-grandchildren Fraser, Seth and Jude. Husband Tom and brother Malcolm (Moir) predeceased her and were missed. Fiona considered family precious, and she was a binding force. She was also blessed with many great friends who she cherished.

Fiona was generous with her time and her wisdom. In her last years her failing cognition and covid restrictions shrank her world. She delighted in receiving visitors, two- and four-legged. Thank you to all who took the time to sit with her, talk to her, and listen to her.

She is free now of the dependence on others which took a toll on her pride. In her next life, may she recover the agility of her youth, the determination of her mid-life and the adventurous spirit of her retirement years.

Donations can be made to a community or arts charity that makes your community stronger. Condolences may be offered to the family below.

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