

Helen Burke-Gaffney (Ganz)

Helen died. Finally. She has been waiting for this day for years. She had lived a life full with hardship and with joy. But whatever was on her plate was never insurmountable, including her death. She was buoyed by her faith and her love, and this sustained her throughout her life and her death.

Born in Kamsack, Saskatchewan in March 1915, she died in Ladysmith on September 25, 2016. Can you imagine 101 years of life? A life of resilience, hard work, caring and selflessness. She was born the youngest child, shaped by the loving support of her parents and 2 brothers. She trained as a nurse, graduating from St Anthony's hospital in The Pas, Manitoba. She left nursing to raise a family of 7 absolutely wonderful children...or so she said. She returned to nursing at age 50, retiring at 65. She thrived in this milieu, unceasing in her commitment to others.

After their marriage in 1941, Helen and her husband migrated throughout northern Manitoba and Ontario following Ted's work, eventually settling in Winnipeg. After retirement, they moved to Victoria, BC and never looked back, enjoying their companionship and the sunny BC climate. They volunteered at their church, Helen until well into her 90's. After her husband's death in 2001, Helen had a slow, lonely journey of aging to a peaceful and long overdue death.

Her gentle spirit, quiet humour and loving kindness endeared her to all who crossed her path. She is treasured by many, and although she has outlived most, there remain many who will mourn her loss.

To all her caregivers, we are most grateful.

A funeral mass will be held Saturday October 1 at 1:00pm. at St. Andrew's Cathedral, 740 View Street.

Flowers gratefully declined. Donations may be made in her name with cheques payable to the 9-10 Club, c/o 740 View Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1J8.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens

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