# Helen Mallett Gunter-Smith

With profound love and deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Helen Mallett, who left this world peacefully on June 17th, 2025, at the age of 93.

Born on September 20th, 1931, in Trail, BC, to parents of Ukrainian ancestry, the cherished daughter of Pauline and Michael Wizinsky. She grew up with three siblings and their early life was innocent, simple and full of love. Later she built a life grounded in values of faith, service, family, and a strong work ethic she credited to her parents.

To me and so many others, she was a pillar of strength, warmth, and unconditional love. Her hands were always busy – caring for others, cooking meals from the heart, baking muffins, gardening, volunteering and offering comfort with just her presence. She lived a life of quiet grace, never seeking recognition, yet profoundly impacting everyone who knew her. Helen was a pillar within the Holy Cross Catholic Church Community, one of the earliest members of the Cordova Bay 55 Plus Association, a longtime member of Uplands Golf Club, and resident of Berwick Royal Oak.

Helen served as a head nurse and supervisor in Victoria's St. Joseph's hospital in the 1950's and '60s after having trained with the nuns in a three-year diploma nursing program.

Helen then took on the challenge of educating thousands of health care workers as a Program Coordinator at Camosun College where she developed curriculum and taught students enrolled in programs such as practical nurse, long term care aide and the homemaker program. The programs she and her team developed in the 1980s are the foundation of the provincial curriculum for this level of health care worker. She retired in 1988 leaving a profound legacy within the Victoria, BC medical community.

Helen was the Matriarch of our family and a devoted mother, wife, auntie, grandmother and friend. She leaves behind her loving and devoted daughter Laura (husband Simon Reilly); daughter-in-law Cindy Mallett; grandchildren Ashley and David Mallett; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Helen joins in peace her beloved son Michael Mallett, husband Roy Gunter-Smith, sister-in-law Shirley Wizinsky, and siblings Nicholas Wizinsky, Ann Pattullo, John Wizinsky, and parents Pauline and Michael Wizinsky.

A funeral will be held on Saturday, July 5th, 2025, at Holy Cross Catholic Church at 11 AM with a celebration of life reception to follow at the church. All who knew her and loved her are welcome to attend and celebrate the life of this extraordinary woman.

We are especially grateful to Mom's many caregivers over the years including Dr A. Yue, Dr K. Yvorchuk, Dr J. Antonsen, and the 8th floor Palliative Care Team of the Royal Jubilee Hospital.

Mom, thank you for everything. Your love will continue to guide me, and I will carry you in my heart forever.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens
www.mccallgardens.com

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