Ida Clarkson

Ida passed away peacefully on the morning of Friday, July 13, with her daughters by her side. Born in Victoria on April 23, 1927, she was the youngest of four daughters of John and Elena Bianco and was always proud of her Italian heritage. After graduating from Vic High in 1943, she embarked on a lifetime career in broadcasting, first on CJVI radio and then for 30 years as the host of the Noon Show and later of the Ida Clarkson Show on CHEK TV. Generations of Victorians thought of her as a family friend. In 1949, she married her soul mate and favorite dancing partner, Vince Clarkson. They raised three daughters in a house filled with love. We know that they are dancing together again. Predeceased by her beloved Vince in 1980, Ida will always be lovingly remembered by her daughters and their husbands: Cathy and Glenn Lavoie, Paula and Bruce Smith, Chris and Kenn McLaren. She was a wonderful mother and our treasured friend. Missing their Cool Nana are Erin (Lance) Long, Dan (Leigh Ann) Smith, Mark Lavoie and Lonnie McLaren and her new great-granddaughter, Harper Smith. Predeceased by her sisters, Laura Elliott and Josephine Mann, she is survived by Bruna Lepoidevin, by many members of the Bianco and Clarkson families and by two women who were like sisters to her: Betty McQuaid and Betty Fleming. Sincere thanks to Dr. Karen Klingenberg, Dr. Sally Smith, the Home and Community Nurses and the angels of the Palliative Response Team and Hospice.

A Celebration of Ida’s life for family and friends will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, July 23 at Uplands Golf Club, 3300 Cadboro Bay Road. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Victoria Hospice, 1952 Bay Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1J8. Condolences may be offered to the family below.

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