

Jean Lawrence Macartney (nee Willox)

Jean Lawrence Macartney passed away in Victoria, B.C., on March 14, 2016, just months after the death of her beloved husband, Hugh, with whom she spent 62 years. Gentle and always mindful of others, she will be remembered with deep love and admiration by her immediate family, relatives and friends.

Jean was born in Calgary, Alberta on July 15, 1924 to her Scottish-born parents. She was raised during the depression and the onset of war. When she graduated in 1946 from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc (Chemistry), her adventurous spirit took her to post-war Europe with four university friends – the “unclaimed treasures”. These life long friends, 40 years later, retraced their steps on another trip to Europe. After moving to Vancouver, Jean worked as a lab technician at the Vancouver General Hospital. This is where she met and, in 1953, married a young medical resident from Northern Ireland, Dr. Hugh Macartney. Together they raised five children.

The family moved to Victoria, B.C. in 1965. Here, Jean created a warm and beautiful home, constantly full of friends and activity, complete with a menagerie that included son Malcolm's various reptiles. Jean was known for her Scottish Presbyterian no-nonsense “just carry on” work ethic, for her selfless generosity and kind spirit, and for the value she placed on learning. She had an artist's eye for colour and design, and was active in the Delta Gamma Fraternity, University Women's Club and Weavers and Embroiderer's Guild. Together with Hugh, she was an inveterate traveller. She also enjoyed bridge, hosting big Sunday dinners, researching her Scottish genealogy, minding her grandchildren and sipping the occasional glass of sherry.

She leaves her four sons: Dr. Donal Macartney (Renee) Kingston, Ontario; Dr. Malcolm Macartney (Margaret) Victoria, B.C.; Ambassador Kenneth Macartney (Susan), Stockholm, Sweden; Colin Macartney (Debbie), Calgary AB; and her daughter Shelagh of Victoria, B.C.. Shelagh was singularly devoted to ensuring, together with the wonderful staff at Hart House, that Jean spent her final years in as great comfort as possible, as dementia took its creeping toll. She also leaves nine grandchildren: Natalie, Ian, Thomas, Julia, Michael, Andrew, Emma, Sean and Liam; her sisters-in-law Carol Macartney of Crawfordsburn, N. Ireland, Eve Willox of Edmonton, AB and numerous nieces and nephews and their families, all of whom meant so much to her.

Please join us celebrating the wonderful lives of Jean and Hugh at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, 3475 Ripon Road, Saturday, March 26th 1 – 4 pm.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall's Funeral Home

www.mccallbros.com