Linda Leslie Allen

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beautiful mother, Linda Allen.

Surrounded by her children Gareth and Bronwen and Gwyn Symmons, Linda left us on August 15th, 2022. Prior to her passing, her grandchildren Beau and Byron and close friend Lissa had been able to visit her.

A person of remarkable energy and drive, Linda made everlasting contributions to her profession, voluntary sector, and family. She was an accomplished downhill and cross-country skier and enjoyed outdoor activities such as cycling and canoeing earlier in her life.

Born in Windsor, Ontario on February 17th, 1949, Linda and her family soon moved to Oakville, where she had many fond memories growing up. Later she studied Community and Regional Planning at the University of Waterloo and received her Master's degree at Carleton University.

Early in her career, Linda moved to Edmonton and worked with the Alberta Task Force on Urbanization when the province was transitioning from a predominantly rural society to an increasingly urbanized one. Returning back to Ontario in the late 70's, Linda became a Senior City Planner for the City of Ottawa. She worked on a variety of impactful projects including the City's Official Community Plan and the creation of the Rideau Centre.

Always looking for a new challenge, Linda moved to BC in 1983. Settling in Victoria, she set up CitySpaces Consulting – a planning and development consulting firm – with partner and co-founder Gwyn Symmons. Linda was the President for 35 years and spearheaded the company's growth, establishing its long-term commitment to "building lasting, livable communities". A brilliant strategist, Linda developed the company's core

values and expanded the business into Vancouver and throughout the province. She was a skilled policy analyst, enthusiastic researcher, excellent writer, and superb organizer.

Throughout her career, Linda tirelessly advocated for affordable housing. She was also an inspiration and mentor to many young planners, especially young women. Linda was the President of the Planning Institute of BC from 1995 – 1997 and co-chaired the Canadian Institute of Planning National Conference in 2013. In the twilight of her career, she was appointed a member of the Real Estate Council of BC and served in this capacity until 2021.

Linda loved baseball and enjoyed watching her son and daughter play at Fireman's Park when they were young. She served as President of Oak Bay Little League and later Carnarvon Baseball, championing a number of positive upgrades at both clubs. She was also involved with the Oak Bay Parks Recreation and Culture Commission and Community Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria.

Linda will be greatly missed by her family, friends, and colleagues at CitySpaces.

She is survived by Gareth, Caryssa, Bronwen, Beau, Byron, Lissa, and Gwyn.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a time yet to be determined.

Donations may be made to the Victoria Foundation. https://victoriafoundation.bc.ca

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens
www.mccallgardens.com