

# Margaret Grace Wheeler

Born in Ilford, Essex, England on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1931, daughter to William and Mabel Surry, Margaret grew up in London, much of it during the war, where nightly air raids were common place. Margaret was 14 when the war ended and in 1946, her family sold up and moved to Guernsey in the Channel Islands. There they lived in a large house known as Himalaya, where William ran a nursery growing tomatoes, and grapes while Mabel took in boarders, including the composer John Longmire, with whom the family enjoyed many good times, and his friend John Ireland. It was also during this period that Margaret worked in a wool shop selling, among other things, the beautiful embroidered linens made by her mum. She also spent spare time with her sister, Betty, picking violets on the hedgerows which were bundled up and exported, along with her father's produce, back to London.

After a number of fondly remembered years on Guernsey, much of the family, along with Margaret, emigrated to Canada. The family settled in Toronto and were eventually joined by Denis Wheeler, who stayed for a short time before moving west to work in southern Alberta. During their time together, Denis and Margaret had formed a friendship, encouraged by Mabel, and they were eventually married on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1962 in North York, Ontario, before immediately heading west to begin a marriage that was destined to last until Denis passed away 45 years later in 2007.

Over the years, Margaret and Denis lived in, or near, such diverse communities as Canmore, Cardston, and Calgary, Alberta, Alert Bay, Port Alberni, and Victoria, B.C., Kenora, Ontario and Whitehorse, Yukon. While in Alert Bay, Margaret operated the island's only flower shop earning respect for her truly beautiful flower arrangements. Margaret was especially fond of Whitehorse, where she and Denis lived for a decade

raising their children Christopher (Joanne), Ceri (Michael) and Ian (Janette) before finally retiring to Victoria. Margaret enjoyed a happy retirement in Victoria where she lived until her death on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

Margaret is predeceased by Denis (2007), along with her older brothers, John (1994) and Arthur (2006). She is fondly remembered as a selfless, gentle, caring and happy person by all her children, their spouses, and her younger sister and brother, Betty (Ron) and David (Jean), cousins, nieces and nephews around the world. She is greatly missed by her grandchildren, Adrian, Emily-Ann, Aidan, Rowan, Eamonn, Chloe and Ryan, and by everyone who knew this remarkable woman.

A private Celebration of Life will be held for Margaret in the Spring of 2017.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to The Heights at Mt. View Baptist Housing Benevolent Fund – contact: [saara@baptisthousing.org](mailto:saara@baptisthousing.org)

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens

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