

Muriel McKeown

Muriel McKeown died January 3, 2009 in Glengarry Hospital, Victoria, BC.

Muriel was born on May 12, 1915 in Michel, BC, the first child of William and Gertrude McKeown. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother William (Bill) and her sister Inez Todosychuk Cummings. Muriel will be fondly remembered by brother Roger of Trail, BC, sister Shirley McAdam of Toronto, and sister in law, Gertie (Mrs W. McKeown) of Clearwater, BC in addition to nieces and nephews and many faithful friends.

Some may remember Muriel's mother who sang with the Victoria Choral Society for many years. Muriel's earliest memories were of the northern Okanagan although her school years were spent in Chilco, BC. As a young woman she returned to the Okanagan, working at the department store in Salmon Arm. The experience gained here led to another move, to a position in Yellowknife with the Hudson Bay Fur Trading Company. To qualify for her new post, Muriel was initiated as a Hudson Bay Fur Trading Gentleman, a rare honour for a woman. In 1952, Muriel moved to Victoria, BC, to begin a new career with the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) at the Veteran's Hospital. In the same year, she joined the Outdoor Club of Victoria and enjoyed numerous excursions including climbing and camping in the Rockies. More recently, Muriel became an enthusiastic participant in the local Charles Dickens Reading Club. She also spent 14 years as a member of the University of Victoria advisory committee for day and off-campus programs for seniors. Muriel had a life long interest in learning and she taught by example. After twenty six fulfilling years with the DVA, Muriel enjoyed a long and happy retirement in Victoria and was known as a keen gardener – often with one of her cats as an assistant.

Muriel had a particular talent in making and fostering

friendships. Her life in later years was much enriched by the company of friends, and the devotion of very dear long time companions. Muriel's family and friends are most appreciative and thankful to her compassionate caregivers and the staff at Glengarry Hospital.

Muriel's funeral service will be held on Friday, January 9th at 11 AM at McCall Brothers Funeral Directors; 1400 Vancouver St., Victoria, BC, Ph. (250) 385-4465. A small reception will follow.