

Pauline Whelan (nee Beausoleil)

Died suddenly at her residence in Victoria, BC, on Thursday, January 21st, 2010. She was born in Lachine, Quebec, on April 30, 1921. Predeceased by her husband, William, in 2003; Pauline is survived by her sister Simone, her children, Diane (John) Ward, Billy (Linda), and Bobby (Danielle); her grandchildren, Billy, Jennifer, Catherine and Guillaume, her friend Ron and great-grandchildren. She will be missed by her many friends and staff at The Kensington who have shown such kindness to her through the years and by many other relatives and friends both here and out of province. Pauline and Bill fell in love and were married in the province of Québec. It was a union of Catholic and Protestant, French and English culture, a dynamic which played itself out throughout their marriage and was passed on to their children. The bilingualism made life very "interesting" at home. Pauline spoke both languages freely and her heavy french accent was just part of her charm. Pauline was a highly spirited woman, who shied not from showing her true emotions. She had many interests. A very organized, practical and disciplined housekeeper, she ran a clean shop. She also worked as a bookkeeper for many years with a construction company. Pauline played tennis and was dubbed "Jo bras d'fer" by her peers. For years she handcrafted and sold fine clay figurines. Later in life, her passion was painting but she had to stop with the onset of macular degeneration. Pauline's greatest pleasure was listening to music. When she loved a particular piece, she would listen to it, over and over, without ever tiring of it. Pauline adored Chopin and Celine Dion. Something she was most proud of was her ability to imitate the call of the Black Capped Chickadee and have one land on her shoulder. She really nailed it. Her spirit will continue to soar through the call of her little feathered friends.

A celebration of Pauline's life will be held later, in the Spring, when Mom will return to Mt. St. Hilaire, Quebec, to be reunited with her husband, where together, they will rest in peace.