

Ruth Elizabeth Annis

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our beloved Ruth after a short but brutal battle with cancer.

Ruth was born in Ottawa to Charles Arthur Annis and Margaret Elizabeth Annis (nee Fenton). Ruth enjoyed a privileged childhood in a loving and tolerant family that afforded her excellent travel and educational opportunities at institutions such as the International School in Geneva (where her father was posted for GATT negotiations). Back in Canada, Ruth started university studies at Queens and then transferred to UBC, a more exciting choice in an era of radical student activism. That led to a stint with CUSO teaching at the higher teachers' college at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria.

Ruth was a natural leader, a systemic thinker, an activist, change agent, and community builder by inclination. She never encountered an institution that she did not see as an object she should improve. Ruth was the founding Executive Director of Nisha, now Pacific Community Resources Society. She imbued this regional child and family services agency with a culture of excellence, client-centred practice, and support for worker professionalism and commitment. Ruth was a co-founder of First Call, the BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, and held many positions of leadership in the community services sector. Her work was recognized with a number of awards and distinctions.

After years of very demanding work, Ruth enjoyed a physically active and fun-filled retirement, including travel focused on her love of art, architecture and good food. And she turned her hand to informal community building in the ARIA condominium and the Humboldt Valley neighbourhood.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Andy Wachtel, her daughter

Twila Annis-Bowe and son-in-law Marlon Bowe, her brother Robert and sister-in-law Mary Annis, and her sister Mary and brother-in-law Doug McPhee, and by nieces, nephews and great-nephews. Ruth was predeceased by her parents, her sister Nancy, and her son Robin Annis.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens

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