

McDowell, Thelma Eileen

July 13, 2023



THELMA EILEEN MCDOWELL (née: Thornley)

December 25th, 1925 – July 9th, 2023

After 97 years of life as an independent, strong-willed, and feisty woman, Thelma Eileen McDowell succumbed to a brief respiratory illness on Sunday, July 9th, 2023. Eileen was born in Nuthall, Nottinghamshire, England but moved to London as a young woman to serve in WWII. During the war, she met her future husband, William (Bill) McDowell and they were married on September 30th, 1944. Subsequently, Eileen immigrated to Canada as a war bride, arriving in January 1945 at Pier 21 in Halifax, NS and then headed westward to Saskatchewan. Later in her life she revisited Pier 21 and was pleased to see a plaque commemorating her arrival. Eileen was predeceased by her husband, Bill; and two of her children, Michael (Mike) McDowell and Carol Humphreys (née: McDowell). She was also predeceased

by her two brothers in England, Cyril, and Ken; their respective partners, Mae and Anne; and niece, Elizabeth.

In her younger years, Eileen enjoyed ballet and tap dancing. While raising a family she somehow managed to find time to be a devoted gardener on their beloved farmstead, as well as biking along the country roads and being an avid walker, an activity she continued with just days before her death. England always felt like home to Eileen, but she loved her summer vacations at Katepwa Lake Beach, a place she liked to revisit in her later years, as well as Buffalo Pound Lake. Eileen always liked to look her best and always had a strong sense of fashion, including having perfectly groomed hair and the brightest pink fingernails that any of us had ever seen just days before she became ill. In her later years, Eileen loved spending the winter in Vancouver, BC walking along English Bay, and of course shopping for new clothes. Eileen's most significant hobby however was being involved with the Canadian Figure Skating Association. She was an active volunteer on numerous committees and was a figure skating judge for many years. She was particularly honored when she was invited to Toronto to receive the Canadian Volunteer of the Year Award for her involvement in the sport she loved so much.

Eileen is survived by a large immediate family including her 4 children: Pat Supynuk (Jim), Bryan McDowell (Patricia), Kel McDowell (Robert), and Terri McDowell; and husband of Carol (deceased), son-in-law Warren Humphreys. She has 7 grandchildren: Kerri, Michael (Sharon), Lianne (Darrell), Cheryl (AJ), Ken (Morgan), Chad (Sarah), and Stacey; and 8 great-grandchildren: McKenzie, Emilie, Ashton, Brooklyn, Alivia, Cayden, Mason, and Huxton. She is also survived by her niece, Susan Clark and family in England; and 2 sisters-in-law, Rita and Elda in Canada. She will be missed by her many surviving friends, including her best friend, Pat Jatis in Calgary, AB, and the many who have gone before her.

The family would like to thank the staff at Providence Place in Moose Jaw, SK for the loving care they provided for Eileen during her 11 months of residence there. In true Eileen fashion, she requested there be no Funeral Service or any fuss about her upon her passing. There will be a celebration of her life announced later, where friends and family will be able to

congregate and discuss the life of this remarkable woman. In lieu of flowers, donations in Eileen's name may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan, 100-119 14 Street NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1Z6 or a charity of one's choice.

Arrangements are entrusted to Moose Jaw Funeral Home, 268

Mulberry Lane. Gary McDowell, Funeral Director 306-693-4550

1.



Maureen and Wes Hutchinson on July 14, 2023 at 6:53 am

Remembering your Mum well as friend and neighbor, always involved and living life fully, we extend our condolences . May all the good memories bring you comfort.

Maureen (Gibson) and Wes Hutchinson

[Reply](#)



Joanne Sourwine on July 14, 2023 at 9:11 am

I'm so sorry to hear this she was a wonderful lady I always enjoyed our visits at smithy's in the mall. I met Eileen through figure skating and we always had great conversations about it. She will truly be missed by so many my deepest sympathies to all her family

[Reply](#)



Ron and Elaine Yaganiski on July 15, 2023 at 10:12 am

Our deep sympathy to the McDowell family in your

loss. Eileen was a wonderful lady who always paused to chat and ask about the family. Ron often speaks of the times he helped out at the farm.

[Reply](#)

2.



Elwood & Vernon Lynds on July 14, 2023 at 10:21 am

Most sincere condolences to all Eileen's family. What a special lady. Rest in peace

[Reply](#)

3.



Patricia Stellek Pratt on July 14, 2023 at 3:23 pm

How do I start. I knew Eileen and Bill and some of the family from my years in Figure skating. There was never a more consummate volunteer with a continuous smile. I am sad that I lost contact these past few years. She had a wonderful way of making you feel like not a day and gone by since we had seen each other. We have loss a dear friend. My condolences to all the family. Gone but never forgotten. Goodbye Friend. Pat Stellek Pratt

[Reply](#)

4.



Brian& AnneBowes on July 18, 2023 at 11:41 pm

Condolences to the family...

[Reply](#)

5.



Binner Family on July 24, 2023 at 12:35 pm

Our deepest sympathies to McDowell family.

[Reply](#)