

ABERCROMBIE, Jill (nee Upward) 1937 - 2006

Obituary



ABERCROMBIE, Gillian Elizabeth (Jill) Born in Mitchum, Surrey, England, on August 16, 1937 Jill was surrounded by her loving family when she passed away peacefully at home in Duncan, B.C. on May 6, 2006. After a long battle with cancer, Jill leaves her husband Jack of 47 years, sons Stephen (Darla), David (Julie), daughter Elizabeth (John), together with her beloved grandchildren Braelynn, Claire, Thomas and Sarah and her dear mother Phyllis Upward of Victoria, B.C. She is also survived by her brothers John, Christopher (Beryl), and brother in law Danny Abercrombie (Nicci) and their families. Jill was predeceased by her father Ronald Upward in 2001.

Among her many charitable works Jill was a tireless volunteer at the Cowichan District Hospital and a very effective fund raiser for the Canadian Cancer Society, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and the Vancouver Island Lodge. She was also a director of both the Probus Club of Cowichan Valley and the Rotary Club of Duncan.

She began her career as an elementary school teacher in 100 Mile House and subsequently taught in Sooke, Happy Valley, Vancouver, and after taking time out to raise her family, in Duncan where she retired from Bench Elementary in 1998. She was a very caring person who instilled a sense of self worth in her students, many of whom later sought her out to say thank you. Jill loved to travel and lived life to the fullest. She was an accomplished painter in oils and acrylics and was an avid gardener.

She loved outdoor adventures, including camping and placer gold panning throughout B.C. Jill had a vivacious personality and she enjoyed the company of her many friends. She was a very loving wife, mother, grand nana and a caring friend. Jill had great empathy. She will be truly missed by all those whose lives she touched.

Those wishing to commemorate her life may wish to donate to the Cowichan District Hospital Foundation, the BC Cancer Agency or the charity of their choice. An occasion to celebrate her life will be announced at a later date. The family extends their heartfelt thanks to the many health care professionals who helped Jill at the BC Cancer Agency in Victoria, the Cowichan District Hospital in Duncan and at our home, with so much selflessness and skill.

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