

## Myrna Karen (Maki) LEISHMAN (August 3, 1938 – July 11, 2018 - ) Obituary



Myrna was born in Sudbury, Ontario, to Rauha and Aimo Maki (Finland) and passed away in Powell River, BC, very peacefully, just as she had methodically planned on the morning of July 11, 2018, after a long struggle with kidney disease.

Myrna decided to go off dialysis once the fight was becoming too much and she felt confident she could exit gracefully, and everyone left behind would be okay. She refused to become a burden to anyone, maintaining her independence until the end. She also left miles of lists of things to do and organized everything into file folders and binders. Typical.

Myrna was predeceased by Tom, her husband of 55 years, in 2013, and by her one-year old son Clark in 1961, both whom she never stopped missing. She leaves behind her daughter CaroleAnn, her son Tye and grandson James, all of Powell River, who have each agreed to carry out all her instructions. (She was always very bossy, being a Leo.) She also leaves behind her sister Brenda Bourdeau (Len) of Ottawa, Ontario, and several nieces and nephews. Her brother-in-law Chuck Leishman of Elko, BC, beat her through the gates by five days, so she'll never hear the end of that.

Myrna and Tom moved out to the BC coast from Ontario in the 1960s and settled in Powell River in 1968. Myrna became the administrative assistant to the general manager of MacMillan Bloedel, then later Pacifica Papers and Catalyst Paper Corporation, for 30 years. She served a total of 12 years on

Powell River City Council and has been involved in so many different organizations it's hard to list them all (usually as president), but most notably Powell River Sunset Homes Society (seniors affordable housing), the Seniors Association, Far Off Broadway Theatre Company, Powell River Council for Arts and Culture, Powell River Film Festival, Powell River (Willingdon) Figure Skating Club and Powell River Minor Hockey Association.

Myrna worked tirelessly for her community and never felt the need to take credit. Strangely enough, even with being "Queen Bossy-Pants," she hated public speaking, although she would not hesitate to speak her mind whenever she needed to make her voice heard.

Myrna always put the needs of her family first and then the community next, putting her own needs at the bottom of the priority list. Her presence will be sorely missed by her good friends and of course her family (once they get through dealing with all the lists of her instructions.)

Special thanks to Dr. Rossouw, who gratefully was there at the end, Dr. Van Zyl, Dr. Uhlmann, Dr. Prakal, the fantastic dialysis nurses who she became very fond of and the great nurses on the fourth floor who attended to her in the Joseph Agius Hospice Suite. We are so grateful she was able to spend her last days in a comfortable room with friends and family at her side.

A celebration of life will be held at 4 pm (doors open at 3 pm) at Dwight Hall on Friday, August 3, which would have been Myrna's 80th birthday. In lieu of flowers, donations are gratefully accepted in her name to Powell River Sunset Homes Society, charitable #107854853RR0001.

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