

Joan (nee Nickerson) (Mabel) FORSTROM

Obituary



FORSTROM, Joan (Mabel) (nee Nickerson) March 4, 1925 - February 2, 2018 The Forstrom family are sad to announce the end of an era with the death of our mother, who passed away peacefully at North Vancouver last Friday. Although christened Mabel, Mom was never happy with that name, nor inclined to accept those things in life that did not please her, and so she was known to one and all as Joan. Joan was born in Kenora, Ontario, the daughter of George and Mabel (Mary) Nickerson. The youngest of six children, Joan grew up in the chaotic company of siblings; Hazel, Hugh, George, Mary and John in a big house on 2nd Street, under the family motto "Happy are we at home". Joan was a pretty, clever child. Her eldest sister Hazel's memoir of the family's depression-era finances includes an ambivalent aside: "Our baby sister Joan was always able to get a penny from her loving father for a candy." But Joan was also diligent and ambitious. Starting from part time work at the local drug store, she eventually graduated with a degree in Pharmacy from University of Toronto. However, Joan's fledgling career as a pharmacist was cut short in November, 1948 when she married her childhood sweetheart, Sidney Forstrom. When her doubtful father asked, "but what can he do?" Joan replied, without hesitation and with absolute conviction: "My Sidney can do anything!" In truth, Joan & Sid were so deeply and sympathetically attuned that it seemed together they could do anything. They lived a nomadic life in the 50's and 60's up and down the West Coast, moving 18 times in their first 20 years of marriage, forming deep, enduring friendships wherever they went. They raised six children of their own, and together pursued a long and successful career in the pulp & paper industry. While they didn't exactly conquer the world, Joan and Sidney formed a bond of mutual respect and devotion that was rare and precious, and abides in all of us who knew and loved them. Joan is pre-deceased by her life-long love, partner and soul mate Sidney, and their beloved daughter Lisa, and survived by children; Susan (Rich), Bill (Tana), Nancy (Ian), Margo (Earl), son-in-law; Rob and John (Sally), as well as 18

grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren, cousins by the dozens and nieces, nephews, friends and colleagues too many to count. A memorial service and celebration of Joan's life will be arranged at a future date, to be determined. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the Ride to Conquer Cancer (Team Courage for Lisa) or a charity of your choice would be appreciated.

Published in The North Shore News from Feb. 9 to Feb. 10, 2018