

Dorothy Blandford

JUNE 28, 2026

Dorothy Blandford

February 5, 1939 - June 28, 2026

Beautiful Dorothy lived with gratitude, optimism, and a remarkable ability to find joy in every day. She appreciated every moment and every person she met, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, compassion, and inspiration.



Dorothy's love of cooking began at just eight years old, and by ten she was working part-time in a relative's grocery store. At fourteen she was caught playing hooky. When her father asked what she planned to do with her life, she answered without hesitation: "*Learn typing, shorthand, and get a job.*" True to her word, she attended business college and, at just sixteen, began her secretarial career at Belfast Technical College. Never one to stop learning, she spent her evenings studying cooking and business before setting off for Canada in 1960 with two suitcases, \$40, and enough determination to fill a cargo ship. Her sister Barb happily followed the next year.

Dorothy married John Blandford in 1962, and they settled in Kitchener, Ontario. Although their marriage later ended, they remained lifelong friends until John's passing in 2018. She later found lasting love with Peter Marchant. Together for 35 years and married for 15, they shared a deep partnership until Peter's passing in 2003.

Her Canadian career began with Bechtel Engineering before she built a successful freelance career in legal transcript reporting. But Dorothy believed life always had

another chapter. After years of metaphysical study, she entered the ministry program and, on her 67th birthday, was installed as Staff Minister of Compassionate Care at the White Rock Centre for Spiritual Living. She also founded Innisfree Spirit Ministry. Dedicated to serving others, she expanded her work through hospice volunteering, grief counselling, and continued her studies, earning a PhD at the age of 70 - proof that she had absolutely no intention of slowing down.

Dorothy authored several books, including a practical guide to achieving personal goals, a book on grief inspired by Peter's passing, and *By the Fireside - Into the Mystic*, a collection of whimsical Celtic-inspired stories, later released as an audiobook.

She loved music throughout her life - from the Top 20 hits on Radio Luxembourg and Strauss waltzes to gospel hymns and classical music. She also adored animals, sharing her home over the years with many beloved companions, including an English Bulldog with the wonderfully grand title Lady Patricia Blandford I, and her cherished rescue cat, Cadi, whose Gaelic name means "simple happiness."

Family was at the heart of Dorothy's life. She shared a lifelong friendship with her beloved sister Barb, whose love, laughter, and unwavering support were among her greatest blessings. Barb's sudden passing in 2019 left a space that could never be filled, but Dorothy remained deeply grateful for her nephews, James and Roy, who lovingly "kept tabs on her" and continued the close family connection she treasured so much.

Dorothy never accepted the idea of retirement. Instead, she lived by the words: "*You are never too old to dream a new dream or set a new goal; laugh every day, and always be kind.*" She did exactly that - and encouraged everyone fortunate enough to know her to do the same.

For those who wish please consider a donation to one of the following charities:
The Peace Arch Hospice Society, Peace Arch Hospital Foundation, BC-SPCA.



<https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/dorothy-blandford>

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