Noreen Schmitt

JUNE 2, 2013

We wish to announce that our dearest Noreen has taken the next step on her journey, sadly leaving a multitude of loved ones behind. After a long (she was a fighter!) and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer, Noreen said her goodbyes and left peacefully on June 2nd.

Noreen has been a resident of White Rock since 1965, where she enjoyed her seaside life to the fullest. The majority of her career (30 years) was spent at Air Canada, where she rose from becoming the first female spray painter of planes to the head of the maintenance shop. She cared greatly for her fellow workers and hence became shop steward for her union where she continued to occupy various positions with the union for many years. Noreen also became very involved with the NDP party as she was drawn to their advocacy of human rights and freedoms, positions against inequality for women, and their stand for environmental protection. She cared for and nurtured all things that came her way, from flowers to birds to animals to people.

You could always find a throng of needy creatures around her, as her compassionate and giving spirit drew them. Noreen's strong love of family also led her to become our large clan's genealogy expert, with many exciting historical facts uncovered.

Noreen also loved the outdoors, enjoying hiking, swimming in the ocean and spending time at her wilderness cabin. Her real passion was gardening, which she pursued after retirement by graduating from Horticulture from Kwantlen

University with honours, which was no surprise. Her garden rivalled Butchart's with exuberant local plants and exotics that no-one else has grown in the area. She also had an adventuresome spirit, which led to worldwide travels throughout many faraway lands. Noreen did not shrink from anything, be it travel in areas past many people's comfort zones, to helping someone truly down on their luck.

Noreen leaves loving memories to be cherished by many including her husband Jim Ziegler; children Danny, Faye, Patty, Mike and Laura; four brothers, four sisters and eight grandchildren. It was hard for us to let her go, but we believe her unique spirit was needed elsewhere. When enjoying a flower she wanted us to think of her, as they brought such joy to her life. We are sure her mother Winnifred was waiting with open arms for her "flowersy girl".

In memory of Noreen, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society for pancreatic cancer would be greatly appreciated.

You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence for the family.

A celebration of Noreen's life will be held on Saturday June 15th from noon to three at the Pacific Inn, 1160 King George Blvd., White Rock.

Messages of Condolence

Please accept my deepest sympathies for the loss of a wonderful person to many people, Olive Noreen Schmitt.
May she rest in peace. She impacted the lives of many people in her lifetime. Her enthusiasm and love for life was great. Noreen you will never be forgotten.

With much love, thank you for everything.

Penelope Hatsispiru

— Penelope Hatsispiru

Mom you are the most beautiful soul I have ever known and I strive to walk in your footsteps. I know you are here with me now and I will continue to pass on your values, compassion and strength to my daughter Siobhan.

Although my heart is broken, I know you are without pain now and in the loving arms of your mother! I Love you and miss you so much xox

— Faye Schmitt

LADY NOREEN SCHMITT
I remember you as a very happy Co- Worker at CP Air
You where the Person, if anyone had a problem at Work or Home
You always took your time and listening, and gave helpful advice,
Where you can get help.
We are sorry you left us so early.
My “Deepest Sympathy in Your Time of Sorrow".
Samuel Maerki
New Westminster, BC, Canada June 12th 2013

— SAMUEL PETER MAERKI

I was one of the people Noreen helped as a shop steward in Vancouver. I thank her for her caring and dedication.
I offer my sympathy to all the loved ones she leaves behind. I am sure her spirit is always close and she will be remembered by all she has touched.
Jim Aisaican-Chase Winnipeg,MB,Canada.

— Jim Aisaican-Chase(JIm Chase)

I miss you so much my darling sister. You were the most caring, compassionate person I ever met. I feel so blessed to have had you as my sister, wished you could have stayed longer but I know it was your time. Till we meet again, love always.

— Joan Westfall

Doubtless I speak for all your neighbours, Noreen: We have enjoyed your heartfully tended garden not only as we scamper through the walkway and catch a beautiful floral scent, but also from our windows as the seasons pass and blooms come and go. You, and your garden brought life to the whole neighbourhood. Thank you for being exactly who you are.

On a personal note, never have I been gifted with such an immense and fragrant branch of rosemary as I received from you in your garden during a spur of the moment conversation... what a lovely show of your nurturing spirit!

Fondly.....

— Hollie Whitehead

I was so sorry to hear of Noreen's passing. I worked with her at Canadian. She was a tireless warrior for the union and all peoples rights. I was out of town for the celebration but I'm sure it was worthy of her life. So sad, lost my wife 8 years ago to cancer and time really does help.

— Keith sutton

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https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/schmitt-noreen

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