Jean Helen Chance
CHANCE, Jean Helen

It is with such profound sadness that the family of Jean Helen Chance announces her passing on May 21, 2017, at the age of 86 years. She is survived by her three daughters, Brenda, Judith, and Karen (Bill), and her son, Robert; and her treasured grandchildren: Joseph, Matthew, Hailey, William (Christine), Kristjana, Erika, Emily and Robert. She is also survived by her sister Bev Adams (Mel). She was predeceased by her husband James (Jim) Victor Chance - who was the love of her life - in 2010. She was also predeceased by her very special daughter-in-law, Junko, in 2004.

We have always loved the story that Dad first met Mom when she was 12 and he was 19 and he waited until she turned 20 before he asked for her hand in marriage. She was obviously worth the wait and they were happily married in October of 1953. in 1956, Jean and Jim moved to Sept-Iles, Quebec where they raised their children and had careers with the Iron Ore Company of Canada, and made many lifelong friends. Returning to their West Coast roots, they moved their family back to British Columbia in 1973 where Mom eventually retired from Simon Fraser University as Office Manager of Health Services.

Jean was proud, funny and feisty. Her children and grandchildren reveled in her bright mind, her wise counsel and her sense of occasion. Many a celebration was held on the 'porch', and we have wonderful memories of birthdays, Christmas, Easter and even St. Patrick's Day, complete with green soda bread! She raised strong, intelligent children who, in turn, raised strong, intelligent children, and this will always be her legacy. She was also a woman of faith and friendship and was guided by these two forces in her life. She will be missed on oh-so-many levels.

Jean was always touched by the words of a 1922 children's book, The Velveteen Rabbit. They truly capture the essence of who she was:

"When you are real you don't mind being hurt. It doesn't happen all at once. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen to people who break easily, or who have sharp corners. Generally, by the time you are real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out, and you get loose and very shabby. But these don't matter at all, because once you are Real, you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand. Once you are Real, you can't become unreal again. It lasts forever" (Margery Williams, The Velveteen Rabbit).

In memory of our mother, Jean, who was Real and who will last forever in our hearts.

The family wishes to thank the staff who have taken care of Mom over the years for their kindness and compassion. Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 2:00 pm at Olivet Baptist Church, 613 Queens Avenue, New Westminster, BC.

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