

# Audrey Zena (Pipes) Paterson – Class of '46

PATERSON, Audrey Zena November 21, 1928 April 20, 2010



With much sadness we say goodbye to our mother and role model. Audrey was born November 21, 1928 in Calgary, Alberta as the second child of what was to become the big and boisterous Pipes family. The family moved around western Canada from Manitoba to British Columbia in the early years, finally settling in Victoria, BC during the late 1930's. Mom was predeceased by her parents Vera and Richard Pipes, her brother Bill and previous husbands Richard Paterson and Bill Hambly. Mom married Richard and went on to have a big and boisterous family of her own of 5 sons and one daughter; Shaun (Rita), Drew (Robin), Bob (Cathy), Paul (Kimberley), Donna and Cameron (Darci). She is survived by her husband Ron Castner, all of her sons and daughter as well as 14 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Mom was a driven woman and wanted to make a difference, so in addition to running the business of a busy family she took on many volunteer and business challenges. She was an active member of the Junior League in her younger days. She became interested in journalism and public relations after a stint as a reporter for the Delta Optimist which later led to a short but award winning job as Women's Editor for the then daily, Columbian newspaper. She took on many entrepreneurial challenges including various public relations operations in Alberta and British Columbia before settling back in Vancouver. She then started the only technical book store (at the time) west of Toronto Vancouver Tech Books. Mom was a practical feminist, recognizing the real needs of women to move forward in this world in business and politics. During her business career in Vancouver she saw a need for women to develop problem solving networks and advocacy, so she took action founding the Western Business Women's Association. Later she founded the Canadian Women's Voters Congress and the Women's Campaign School, which operates out of Simon Fraser University to help women learn to run for office. We are extremely proud of her many accomplishments in business while raising a big family, especially given that she only had a high school education. Mom was an inspiration to many young women in our family. Her diminutive size masked a driven and powerful woman. We will miss her greatly.

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