

# Florence Margrethe (Flo) Thomson



THOMSON, Florence Margrethe (Flo) Passed peacefully into the presence of the Lord in her 96th year, April 4, 2018, in Victoria, BC. Flo was born in Gull Lake, SK to Harold and Julie (Nielsen) Wilson and grew up on her parents' Spring Free Ranch near Shaunavon, SK. In 1937, the family moved to a farm near Armstrong BC, where she spent her teen years. When the family moved to a farm in what is now the Victoria suburb of Gordon Head, she attended the Provincial Normal School, graduating in 1944. A primary grades teacher and kindergarten specialist, Flo began her teaching career with a wartime stint in the mill town of Youbou, Vancouver Island. Across the next three decades, with a break for child-rearing, Flo would touch the lives of hundreds of Victoria children, many of whose fond memories of her kept them in touch for decades. She met Vic, her husband-to-be, then a high school teacher (and also a distinguished naval officer during and after the Second World War), when both were at UBC summer session in 1946. They were married on December 28, 1948 and very happily spent the next 37 years together in Victoria, raising two children, while Vic became principal of Victoria High School and then Assistant Superintendent of the school district. Many memorable family vacations were spent at Qualicum Beach and in later years she, Vic and many guests spent happy times together at their seaside retreat in East Sooke. After Vic's untimely passing in 1985, Flo regrouped and re-launched her life in new and unexpected ways, selling a line of healthy living products and starting her own business to successfully publish and distribute a copyrighted knitting pattern of her own design. Always a loving and devoted parent and aunt, Flo embraced grand-parenting when the

opportunity arrived just seven months after Vic's death, showering the growing number of grandchildren near and far with love and attention, finding great joy in connecting with them in many ways over the years. Flo devoted much of her life to trying to brighten the lives of others. She entertained regularly until her last months and her gifts of baking and preserves were legendary. Raised in the United Church and an active member of Oaklands Chapel for 70 years, Flo's Christian faith was always at the centre of her life and carried her through many challenges with hope and assurance. We are all grateful for her countless prayers. Flo's passing was preceded by that of her parents, her beloved husband, G.A. Victor Thomson, CD, nephew Garth Wilson (Sandy Lynch) and sister Irene Belcher (Tom). She is survived by her brother George Wilson (Rita), daughter Julie Archdekin (Graham), son John (Jennette Toews), grandchildren Lindsay Hatherly (Mark), Jillian, Brian and Sean Archdekin, Verity and Elizabeth Thomson and 10 nieces and nephews and their families. She will be greatly missed by her many friends of all ages and especially by Betty Berger (Peters, Anderson) her best friend for 77 years.