



**EGAN, Valerie (nee Barnes)**  
**1949-2021**  
**Teacher and Administrator**

Valerie had the good fortune to grow up in a home on the beach. That home was on the site of Cadboro Bay (Gyro) Park. She and her brothers, Steve and David, thrived on the beach and in the water. And, according to her, they ate way too many fish caught by their father, George. Mom, Betty, kept a cheerful home for her herd of wildlings. Valerie retained a life-long love of seafood, beaches, and oceans. Although she traveled the world, Val always came home to Cadboro Bay.

She attended Frank Hobbs, Gordon Head Jr (renamed Mt Douglas High) and Oak Bay High schools. She graduated from the University of Victoria with a Bachelor of Education specializing in Physical Education and Business Education. She attained a Master's at the University of Oregon.

Val's teaching career spanned decades. She taught and served as Vice Principal at Vic High, Mt. Doug, Oak Bay, Reynolds, Cedar Hill, and Central Jr. She loved coaching girls' volleyball and instilling the importance of physical education. As an Administrator, she embraced athletic and other special events. She worked tirelessly for her students, providing special help with those in tough circumstances. Val had a heart as broad as her smile. After retirement, that smile became a fixture behind the counter at the Cadboro Bay Starbucks.

Val never lost her love of sport. She eagerly tried new things: skiing, sailing, swimming, running, badminton, windsurfing, body surfing, snorkeling, hot air ballooning, cycling, Nordic pole walking.

She traveled the world but most loved Mexico. For more than twenty years, she and Betty overwintered at La Penita. They explored and embraced the culture and made a whole new group of amigos. She volunteered at a friend's language school teaching English while being taught Spanish in return. The plight of homeless street dogs tugged at Val's heart. She rescued several, bringing them back to Victoria. Some ended up at Betty's home with Val nurturing them with long walks and much stick throwing at Cadboro Bay.

Fashion was a hobby for Val. She was adept with the sewing machine. Her creations ranged from toys and crafts (as gifts or for fairs) to intricate garments. One such project was to sew an anniversary garment for each of her beloved "Babes of 49" friends. She utilized her machines to the max. Her sewing led her, in mid-life, to a side career as a model. That was fun but had a serious downside: an enticement to add to huge collections of clothes and accessories! Then there was her drawing and painting. No end of talents.

Valerie made life-long friends. She was loyal and fun-loving. Her greatest devotion was to her Mom. She often described Betty as a "best friend". Prior to being struck by illness, Val was a dedicated caregiver to Betty and gardener extraordinaire at the Scolton Rd home.

A rare form of dementia rendered Val speechless. In cognitive decline, Val still found ways to help others more afflicted than herself—until she could no longer. Valerie is gone too soon but she had a full life packed into her good years. Remember her in the good days: examine a seashell, admire a flower, work up a healthy sweat, recycle a beach find, throw a stick for a dog, keep finding a reason to smile or learn. She did!

Left to miss her smiles are Betty (101 years!), Steve (Audrey), David (Kathrynn), nephew Carson (Stacie), niece Kelsey, cousins, the Babes, and many friends. Many thanks go out to her caregivers at both Amica Gorge and The Summit.

To honour Val, the family has created a bursary for students at Victoria High School. We humbly ask that you donate to this fund in lieu of flowers. Go to [www.sd61.bc.ca](http://www.sd61.bc.ca); Click on Make a Donation (top right); See Gift Info; Select Fund Destination; Select Valerie Egan (Barnes) Memorial Bursary

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