



BOOTH, Valerie Mary (nee Hall) (1950)

1942-2012

Valerie Mary Booth, age 69 of Victoria, BC passed away on Monday, January 16, 2012. Valerie had Parkinson's disease with dementia which ultimately ended her life, far too early.

Valerie was born in Bray, County Wicklow, Ireland on May 3, 1942 to Eileen and Ambrose Hall. She had two older brothers, Bud and Brian. She spent her childhood in Ireland and followed her brothers to Canada with her Mom when she was 16. Her father had moved to England for work. She settled into what would be her life-long community in Fairfield, attended Victoria High School and then went on to get her teaching degree at UVic, with her majors in English and Latin. It was during university that she met her forever favourite man" and love, John.

Valerie and John got married in 1967 and bought their first and only residence a few houses away from her beloved waterfront. Valerie taught at SJ Willis and John worked as a pattern-maker. They spent all of their time together boating, making boats, biking, beachcombing, laughing and spending time with their many friends.

In 1971, they brought home their first daughter, Alison and in 1974, their second, Jacqueline. Valerie always marveled at how her two beautiful girl names, so quickly became Al" and Jac". Valerie stayed home with the kids (and their dog Towsie) for many years. She was a confident and wonderful Mom she would do solo road trips to visit her brother Brian at forestry camp, take the kids sailing or camping for weeks and was endlessly outdoors with them. Once the kids were both in school, Valerie returned to education as an assistant. She spent the majority of her years working with special needs children at Hillcrest Elementary, until she retired 5 years ago. Valerie's (or Mrs. B's) gentle and grounded approach to working with children was always appreciated in the classroom. Aside from working, Valerie managed the house, the kids, the books for the business and anything else there was to be a part of. She was an

automotive repair helper, a tool fetcher or holder, a driver for school trips, a loyal fan at her kids' sports games, and the baker at the house that always had homemade cookies. Valerie was also a dear friend to so many her peers, as well as her children's friends that adored her as that cool Mom".

She was filled with life. She appreciated the little things: the scenery, a hot coffee, a vanilla slice, a cold beer, a good wind, a new place to explore, a crossword or a moment of peace in her sunroom. She loved books and language; to laugh and when others laughed with her; a morning walk; swimming; weekends at Ladysmith; spontaneity; children; animals and life itself. Valerie sparkled.

The family would like to thank the many people that enriched Valerie's life and those that helped take care of her when she needed it the most. Valerie is survived by her husband John; daughters, Alison (Kerry) and Jacqueline (Trevor); her five grandchildren Shayna, Ashlyn, Maguire, Kale and Saul; her brother Brian; sister-inlaw Heidi and nephews Alan, Stuart and Jeff. She is predeceased by her eldest brother Bud.

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