



REMEMBERING Ruth Carter

May 22, 1933 - October 27, 2019



Ruth Carter, a long-time Nelson resident, passed away peacefully on Oct. 27, 2019, surrounded by loving family. She was 86 years old.

Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba on May 22, 1933, Ruth was the seventh and youngest child of Joseph & Hannah Walker, who had immigrated from England after WWI to start a new life and family in Canada. Growing up in Depression-era Winnipeg, Ruth's abundant imagination and sense of adventure made up for the scarcity of the times. Her closest life-long friend and childhood compatriot recalled that Ruth was the leader of their little gang, always thinking up games and activities to entertain them. With the encouragement of her sister Doris, Ruth, along with many of her brothers, became an accomplished figure skater at a young age, and went on to be an award-winning competitor. As a young woman she skated with the Ice Cycles, a division of the Ice Capades, touring small-town Canada.

In 1952 she married Richard Garth Carter and moved to Vancouver, BC. Over the next decade they built a home and had five children: Peggy (Megan), Debbie, Robert (Bob), Geoffrey, and Joanne (Anna).

Ruth took great joy in sharing her love of figure skating with others, particularly kids. She taught skating for many years at the Killarney community rink in South East Vancouver. Under her guidance, all five of her children learned to skate at a young age. She enjoyed ballroom dancing, and also taught ice dancing to her students.

In the 1970's Ruth and her children moved to Vernon, BC, where she became a successful Realtor and her children completed their high school education. In the late 1970's she discovered and fell in love with the Kootenays. Her children were soon to follow, making homes of their own here too.

Ruth acquired the Ainsworth Motel around 1978 and ran it for a number of years, with the dream of establishing a healing retreat there. She also owned property and a home at 49 Creek in Blewett, and it was here that she was bit by the "mining" bug and became a prospector. Ruth was well-known for traipsing the forested mountain sides of the area, where she staked and maintained mineral claims for many years.

In her later years Ruth retired to Nelson, near to her growing clan of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Her greatest joy was her family, and she lit up in their presence. While Ruth's family was the enduring central focus of her life, she openly loved meeting and spending time with new people. Ruth was a long-time student of life, wellness, and spirituality, open to possibility and promise and eager to impart the best of what she'd learned in aid of another. She was physically active throughout her life and walked extensively every day, right up until her passing. For those lucky enough to have shared any part of her journey she always had a warm smile, hug, and message of hope and encouragement.

Ruth is survived by her brother Albert Walker, her children Debbie Carter, Bob Carter, Geoffrey Carter and Anna Lee, grandchildren Steven Wilson, Adam O'Grady, Erin Elliott, Chelsea Carter Mortimer, Kyle Carter, Hannah Lee Heacock, Rebecca Lee Bartlett, and Kamilah Carter, and great-grandchildren Rosie, Mary, Bodin, Kaija, and Mila. She is predeceased by her eldest daughter Megan Elliott.

Ruth's remains were cremated on October 31, 2019. A private memorial for her was held on November 8 at Mountain Lake Seniors Community, where she was a resident during her final year.

Deeply missed, her spirit and memory live on with her family and friends. We are grateful for Ruth's life, and to all who supported and cared for her.

