



*DE VRIES
GEORGINA
VIOLET*

"GEORGI"

Our beloved Georgi, wife and lover of Pieter for nearly 59 years, loving mother of Rachel and Peter and their spouses, Thomas and Kimberly, adoring Grandmama of Ainsleigh, left us all suddenly, but peacefully on Sunday morning, November 21, 2021. Georgi was predeceased by her father, Lorne MacNab, in the Battle for Hong Kong, by her mother, Mary MacNab, her brother, Timothy, as well as by her little Kirsten – she and Pieter's first daughter.

In addition to the immediate family, she will be dearly missed by her brother-in-law, Jan de Vries and his wife, Joan, niece Maggie de Vries (Roland), nephews Peter de Vries (Jennifer) and Mark de Vries, as well as by Patricia de Vries, all in British Columbia. Her extended family includes many dear and cherished cousins in Newfoundland and beyond.

Georgi was a true daughter of Newfoundland who, despite the early loss of her father and her daughter, as well as childhood health problems, lived her life fully and joyfully. She loved school and excelled in learning. At Memorial University of Newfoundland, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education. As a teacher in Edmonton, St. John's, Montserrat, and Montreal she was a naturally gifted and empathetic educator. She particularly enjoyed working with students who experienced learning difficulties. While in Edmonton, Charlottetown, and Montreal she enrolled in courses that ultimately led to a

Master's degree in Education from Concordia University with an emphasis on anthropology.

Georgi loved to travel and so she and Pieter did – be it with an old van, a car, by plane, train or boat. They explored the riches of nature and culture around the world and were enriched by them, in turn. She and Pieter found their way to Cape Breton Island to work together on research in small communities. This led to publications of their work and conference presentations, especially in the Atlantic provinces.

Georgi and Pieter originally came to Cape Breton for research, but the island quickly became home. They retired to East Lake Ainslie in 1995 and Georgi became the caregiver for her brother, Tim, until he passed away in 2002.

During this time, Georgi was involved in numerous community organizations. She was often sought out for her leadership at both work and in the community. She was vice-principal at her school in Montreal, president of the regional sociology and anthropology association, and board member of the Inverness County Council for the Arts, to name a few.

Music and painting with water colours became important aspects of her life here. Singing with the Inverness County Singers, especially, brought a joy she exuded when she sang – a joy magnified by the birth of her only grandchild and “Sweetest One”, Ainsleigh. Her palette was bright and reflected her empathy for others that shone a caring and loving light into their lives. With her radiant smile, she brightened the lives of those around her. Always giving and forgiving, but demanding little for herself, she made us all a bit happier.

By request, there will not be a visitation, but a Celebration of Georgi's Life will be held on Friday, December 3, 2021, 11:00am at Lake Ainslie Presbyterian Church, East Lake Ainslie.

Immediately following the service, friends and family are invited to gather at the Lake Ainslie Fire Hall in Scotsville for a chance to reminisce and recharge our emotional batteries. The family will join the gathering after a private interment of Georgie's remains at the East Lake Ainslie Cemetery.

Donations in her memory for Alexander Grant Memorial United Church, or a charity of your choice, will be gratefully accepted. Family flowers only.

Online condolences: www.sunsetfuneralco-op.com

Covid restrictions will be followed; proof of double vaccination will be requested at the door and masks must be worn during the funeral.