

## OBITUARY FOR LINDA YALE

Yale, Linda Florence Hastings (nee Smith) December 28, 1912 – March 11, 2024 Linda passed away on March 11th and is greatly missed by her daughter Linda-Mae (Gordon) and son Wesley (Elaine); grandchildren Kent (Gina), Tonya (Ren), Alison (Derek), and Michelle (Shane); great-grandchildren Reid, Brennan and Emilia; and great-great granddaughter Willow. Her husband of 56 years, Harry Edward William Yale predeceased her in 1999. Linda was born in Montreal, but lived many places as her father Sidney was an electrical engineer for Montreal Light, Heat and Power (now Quebec Hydro), which meant moving to wherever power stations needed to be erected. Education was often in one-room schoolrooms in places such as Temiskaming or the shores of Hudson Bay. Boarding in Montreal for high school meant that she could be on field hockey teams, earn pocket money by embroidering tablecloths for the Irish linen store, do pastel portraits, and meet her future husband. Together Harry and Linda skied Mont-Tremblant. This was before there were ski tows so it meant climbing the mountain each run. They fenced (foil for Linda, foil and epee for Harry); Linda becoming the Quebec women's champion. However she was not permitted to compete in the Olympics so gave demonstration matches to raise money so that the men's team could go. She was always volunteering her time for worthy causes, including having All Saints Church built in Crawford Park (Verdun, Quebec) where the family settled after the war. She always managed to put her bookkeeping skills (not having been permitted to become a chartered accountant because of her gender) to work as secretary/treasurer of the local Brownie and Guide pack, for the Tiny Tim Christmas Fund at the Montreal Children's Hospital, alongside a paying job for the Atlantic Salmon Association. Moving to Richmond, BC in 1969 found her working for Sinclair Motors as well as joining the Eastern Star where she quickly became a fundamental part of the cancer dressing unit, both in preparing the dressings and fund-raising. She was doing fund-raising work for them right until the end. What we will never forget was how she kept on going in spite of a skiing accident at the age of 51 which meant she was in constant pain due to two crushed vertebrae. She ignored the doctors who told her that she would be in a wheelchair for the rest of her life. Not only did she walk but bowled again in the league for which she was the statistician. She loved to travel, going often to England to spend time with her older sister. At age 91, she travelled to Calgary for a family wedding and wowed everyone for her enthusiasm for dancing. She had a 95th birthday celebration in Venice and a 100th one in Vienna. At 101 she entered Gilmore Gardens retirement home, still taking the stairs until a broken hip curbed her exercises. She was a familiar face at Minoru Seniors Centre (thanks to Dave Arnold and others when she stopped driving at 98) where she went to play cribbage. Linda made the papers when she scored a perfect hand just before her 106th birthday. It was in January of this year that she went there for the last time. Another of her favourite activities was quilting. She had sewn for most of her life, but when she no longer needed to dress her family, she started doing things for fun. However, it wasn't long before she turned this new skill into helping others by making quilts for charity - some were simply donated, others used for raffles to raise money for a worthy cause. It was her determination to not give in that kept her going for over 111 years and we are thankful that she was with us so long. We are also thankful for the care and friendship she received from staff and other residents of Gilmore Gardens, plus the tremendous care from the caregivers of Coastal Health. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to one of her favorite charities: Multiple Sclerosis or Canadian Cancer Research, or to a charity of your choice in her name.

A memorial service will be held for Linda on March 22nd at 1300 at Richmond Funeral Home, 8420 Cambie Road with a reception to follow.

Her daughter Linda would like to know how many members might attend. They have to order the food on Monday. I would ask that those who want to come to please let me know. Pat

I will also be speaking on behalf of the members. Thanks