

DOROTHY (DOT) SIRKKA ASUMA

October 26, 1930 - October 2, 2021



Dot passed away peacefully at Christenson Village, Gibsons, BC.

Dot was born and raised in Vancouver and started working at the age of 18 with Henry Bel-Irving & Co., fish importers in Vancouver and volunteering at Percy Norman Community pool. Little did she know, she would spend the remainder of her working career with the Vancouver Parks and Recreation system. With her basketball coaching and exceptional organizational skills, she was offered a job at Marpole Recreational Centre, later becoming one of the first directors of the Vancouver Parks Board. She became Kerrisdale Centre Director in 1968 and Acting Area Recreation Manager in 1974, and Area Manager of the West Side of Vancouver in 1976.

On her retirement from Kerrisdale, Dot was presented with a wristwatch and given an Honorary Life Membership "in appreciation of her years of service and for her years working on our behalf".

Dot lived a marvellous full life. To save money, Dot shared a home with two friends, Barbara, and May. They became known as "The Ladies", living together in Richmond, Tsawwassen, back to Richmond and finally Gibsons. They hosted annual Christmas parties, complete with a Christmas Village and trains running around the Christmas tree. They shared stories, jokes, and food and drink. They loved giving and attending parties.

In 1979 Dot was very instrumental in bringing the International World Women's Field Hockey Tournament (IFWFHA) to Canada, which was held at UBC. At the 40th reunion of the 1979 team, with the "79ers", a group of supporters and Dot's volunteer committee, it was announced that Dot would be inducted into the Canadian Field Hockey Hall of Fame in the Builder Category. She received a standing ovation from her friends and peers.

Due to the Covid pandemic, the live ceremony was postponed until August 2020 when the ceremony was held virtually. Dot's golf and book club friends shared the afternoon with her at a garden party in her honour.

Although her legacy will always be the Head of the 1979 event, she will be remembered for her wonderful smile, her love of golf, (including many golf trips), her love of cats and books.

Last October, Dot celebrated her 90th (Covid distanced) birthday at the home of Dave and Linda Code with many of her Gibsons golf friends.

Dot was predeceased by her sister, Ruth, who spent many happy years working with the seniors at Marpole and Kerrisdale Centres, (brother-in-law Hugh Caley) and nephew, Michael.

Dot will be greatly missed by Jenny, her friend for the past 50 years; Robert (Penny) her nephew in Kelowna; Michael's family in Kelowna as well as her many field hockey, golf, and book club friends.

The family would like to thank Dr. Andrea Stinson, Christenson Village and especially Linda Code, her own wonderful 'carer' friend for looking after Dot in her final years.

**There will be a celebration of
Dot's wonderful life in the Spring of 2022.**