

HAZEL JOYCE FOREMAN

Hazel Joyce Foreman (nee Ruddy) passed away peacefully in her sleep on August 19, 2020 at the age of 94. Hazel was the eldest of six children, born and raised in a pioneering farming family near Crossfield Alberta, 50 km. north of Calgary. Her parents, Frank and Caroline Ruddy raised their lively family to be community spirited and were at the heart of Crossfield activities and events. In 1940 Hazel left the farm at 14 to live with her grandmother Mary Ruddy in Calgary and attend Central High School where she attained excellent grades and lifelong friends. Having always wanted to be a teacher, she enrolled in Calgary's first War Emergency Teacher's Course and with only three months training at the age of 18 she began her teaching career. Hazel cut her teaching teeth in a one room multi-grade rural school in the Raven district west of Red Deer, moving on to teach in Markerville, Carstairs and Red Deer.

In 1950 she took a break from teaching and worked in Osborne's book store in Calgary where she met the love of her life, a tall, drawling Texan geologist who needed a book on geology and a date for lunch. Hazel married David Foreman in 1951 and they gypsied around the oil patch the first five years of their marriage from the Alaska Highway to the Alamo. They stopped long enough in Regina to have their eldest daughter Carol in 1952. In 1957 they established themselves in Calgary with Dave employed as a geologist for Texaco, and in 1958 welcomed the birth of their second daughter Kathleen. Moving to the neighbourhood of Charleswood Hazel returned to teaching as a substitute teacher for the Calgary School board for the next 22 years, retiring after a rewarding and satisfying career.

Sadly Hazel was widowed in 1982, but with the love and support of her family, she re-built her life and drawing on her 'family' of friends Hazel travelled; regularly attended Theatre Calgary and Alberta Theatre Projects; all productions at the University of Calgary produced or directed by Kathleen; took up Country Dancing, and kept active walking Confederation Park with her neighbours. A loving Nana to Carol and Christopher's two boys, Colin and Graham Dawson, she travelled regularly to see them in England and Indonesia, often accompanied by Kathleen who loved an adventure and theatre trips to London and Stratford. Hazel proudly attended the University Graduations of both her grandson's, and happily cuddled her two great grandsons, Miles and Theo Dawson on the occasion of her 90th birthday party in Calgary.

Hazel was truly a people person, her talent in life was making and keeping friends, she was an excellent listener and a born story teller, she loved the cut and thrust of family teasing and was famous for her quick witted retorts. Her family was always the beating heart of her life: she was a loyal friend to each of her siblings and their spouses; she took a keen interest in all of her nieces and nephews. Hazel always had time for a cup of tea, a cookie, a chat and a good laugh.

Hazel is survived by her daughter Carol Foreman and son-in-law Chris Dawson; her grandson Colin Dawson, his wife Rachel, and great grandsons Miles and Theo; her Grandson Graham Dawson and his wife Holly; Kathleen's partner Geoffrey Gerwing; Hazel's sister Anne Lozinski and her husband Michael; her brother Neil Ruddy and his wife Pat; her sister-in-law, Louise Ruddy; fifteen nephews and nieces and their children. Hazel was pre-deceased by her husband David Foreman in 1982; her daughter Kathleen Foreman in 2013; her brothers Jim Ruddy and Hillyerd Ruddy; her sister Gladys Huddle and brother-in-law Howard Huddle; and sisters-in-law Heather Ruddy and Anne Louise Ruddy.

The family would extend a special thank you for the loving, dedicated care and companionship given to Hazel by her sister, Anne. And, for their kindness and compassion, our gratitude to the team at Brentwood Care Centre.

Hazel and Dave were founding members of the St. David's United Church in northwest Calgary and ongoing support from the lifelong friends of this community has been wonderful for Hazel these past years. Thank you.

A Memorial Service will be held at a later date when we can all gather to celebrate Hazel's life by sharing hugs, stories and remembrances.

In lieu of flowers, Hazel would be pleased to know people had made donations to support Theatre Calgary (theatrecalgary.com), Alberta Theatre Projects (albertatheatreprojects.com) or ovarian cancer research (ovariancanada.org)