

## In Memoriam - Mrs. Kathleen Stewart

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### IN MEMORIAM

#### **STEWART, Kathleen**

Died quickly in her home Tuesday, October 21, 2008. Kathleen Sybil Agnes Stewart, daughter of William Hugh French and Eva Kathleen (Martin) French of Regina, Sask., was born July 12, 1915. Her parents came from Northern Ireland in 1912 following her mother's two brothers, Hugh and Jack Martin who spoke of the great opportunities in the west. Her extraordinarily long, productive and interesting life encompassed three inherited qualities: her love of nature, love of music and creativity or design. Educated in Regina schools and Regina College, she was fortunate to obtain a good position with the Toronto General Trust Corporation where she became assistant accountant during the years of drought and grasshoppers on the prairies. She was inspired to design some of her own clothes and continued to do so for the rest of her life. She played a lot of tennis entering the South Saskatchewan tournaments on her holidays. She was active in church life, sang in three choirs and was made honorary member of the Womens' Missionary Society. When war was declared in 1939, her beloved Regina College was taken over by the RCAF as a training school for air crews from the Commonwealth. Here she met her husband, Dr. Chester Bryant Stewart who was in charge of the Clinical Investigation Unit. He was a Dalhousie graduate in Medicine, and native of Norboro, P.E.I. When the Unit was dissolved in Regina in 1942, they moved to Halifax as husband and wife. Following the war, her husband accepted a position at Dalhousie Medical School after attaining a Doctorate in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, and became Dean in 1954, a position he held until 1971. These were busy years. There were two loving daughters, Joan and Moira born in 1943 and 1946, and many new friends, students, faculty and visitors from near and far; Kathleen took them in her stride and was always a willing and gracious hostess. She joined the Dalhousie-Kings Reading Club, celebrated at their 50th and 60th anniversary meetings and was honoured at the 75th anniversary as the most frequent hostess. She received a 50th year recognition from the IWK Auxiliary and a certificate of recognition from the Canadian Bible Society. She served as: Presbyterian representative on the Interchurch Council of Canada, Halifax Branch and President for three years, presiding at the 100th anniversary of the World Day of Prayer in 1987 held at St. Mary's Basilica and until her death she was archivist of this ecumenical association; and President of the Ladies Guild of the Presbyterian Church of St. David 1974-76, 1985-86 and 1993-94. Kathleen and her husband, joined by their growing family, spent long holidays at their home in Stanley Bridge, P.E.I., with its tennis court and large garden of flowers, vegetables and herbs. A Yellow Transparent apple tree shed hundreds of apples in late August. In 1999, her husband of 58 years died; however she kept up the garden and wrote a book entitled Kitchen Gardens of Prince Edward Island. She traveled and interviewed at Inns, restaurants and market gardens, illustrating the book with her own photography of their gardens; this book is still selling. She played her piano daily until her death.

Kathleen is survived by daughter, Joan and her husband D. Lionel Teed of Fredericton and their

children, Jennifer (Teed) and Chris Atkinson of Fredericton; Zoe and Ben, Sarah (Teed) and Burns Kimball of Saint John, Jeremy and Nathan; Gerald Teed and Eva Walker of Fredericton; Moira (Teed) and Cameron Ketchum of Ottawa; by daughter, Moira and her husband Thomas R. Freeman of London, Ont. and their children: Kate a Social Worker in Boston and Amy a nurse in Sydney Australia. Her sister, Aroon Dixon Nordheimer died November 21, 2003. There are two nieces Jane Pedersen of Calgary and Jill Whitmore of Regina and a nephew Dr. Charles Dixon of Calgary.

The funeral will be held at the Presbyterian Church of St. David, Brunswick St., Halifax, at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 1, a reception to follow in the church hall.

The family wishes to thank the doctors whose care has been exemplary, Dr. Donna Curry and recently Dr. Margaret Leighton; and the two wonderful caregivers in her home, Leona Kendall and Susan Osmond. Donations may be made to the Kathleen Stewart student bursary in the Department of Music, C/O External Relations, Dalhousie, Halifax, NS B3H 3J5 Arrangements are under the care of J.A. Snow Funeral Home, 2666 Windsor St., Halifax. On-line condolences: [condolences.snow@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:condolences.snow@ns.aliantzinc.ca)