



Ben Nicholas

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Ben Nicholas at the age of 94 in St. Joseph's Hospital June 11th. Interestingly, this was one of his only times in a hospital bed. While he didn't like the thought of being there, he loved the professional attention given to him by the wonderful staff.

Born in Cumberland in 1915, Ben has spent all of his life in two places, Texada Island and the Comox Valley. He often declared that "home is where the heart is" and certainly that was the Valley. Ben received his certificate of Diesel Electric from University school in Los Angeles. These certificates provided him with a solid foundation that enabled him to have successful businesses in industrial electrical contracting, water taxis and an oil company. He was also a proud long time member of the Elks, Shriners and the Masons. Having a steel-trap memory, he could recite extensive poetry selections, was a valuable source of information on precise events, names and relevant date of the early days in the Valley, and loved to share it with others. Ben was passionate about issues and actively pursued the resolution of incorrect information, especially those concerning Pidgeon Lake and the Valley's water supply. He loved debates and was an accomplished public speaker.

Ben lost his first wife of 57 years, Jessie (Nee Robertson from Cumberland) after an extended illness. Shortly after, Ben remarried a long time friend, Mabel from Royston. In so many ways, this was a reawakening of his senses of love, companionship, shared memories and new experiences. The concept of having "a skip in your step" was an apt descriptor. He and Mabel had 14 3/4 wonderful years together.

Ben died the way he had lived his life.... on his own terms, with a keen sense of humour, dignity, thankful for anything he received and humbled by the vast number of friends, family and extended family who he cherished greatly.

By Ben's request there will be no service. A celebration of Ben's life will be held at a later date. For those wishing to make a donation in Ben's name he supported Y.A.N.A.

A Celebration of Life for Ben Nicholas will be held Saturday July 24th 1:00pm to 4:00 pm at 3899 Livingston Road, Royston