



Mrs. Tonia Nadine Deschenes (nee Steele)

August 9, 2015

Died August 9, 2015 in her sleep at age 89 in Toronto, Ontario.

Born January 8, 1926 in Caerleon, Wales, Tonia was the youngest daughter of six children (June Patricia, Yvonne Margaret Doreen, Pamela Dolores, Tonia Nadine, John Philip Torrington, and Michael George Torrington). On April 25, 1930, at the age of four, Tonia departed Southhampton with her sister June (boarding at Cardiff, Wales) and arrived at the Port of Montreal aboard the Cunard Steamship Liner, R.M.S. Alaunia (2) (article appeared in The Montreal Star on May 5, 1930). In September 1943, at the age of 17 1/2, she joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps (C.W.A.C.) reaching the rank of Sergeant and proudly serving under Colonel Joan Kennedy in Ottawa until the summer of 1945.

In the fall of 1945, just before the end of the war she joined Alcan Aluminium where she worked on The Compass, their company periodical. In September 1949, she left Alcan to move to Goose Bay, Labrador to work for the American Air Force. On June 4, 1952, she left Goose Bay to go traveling on her own throughout Europe for four months returning home with only \$1 in her pocket. She moved to Alberta in 1954 and worked for Chateau Lake Louise where she had a beautiful view of the lake from her office.

She also worked as a fashion coordinator for a photo studio, Rapid Grip and

Batten, where she met her future husband Fernand George Joseph Deschenes. She later returned to Alcan to work for Aluminium Secretariat leaving a few months later after marrying on June 4, 1960. After raising two daughters she returned to work as Secretary Treasurer for The Canadian Heritage of Quebec until her retirement.

She was extremely creative and artistic (enjoying painting, ceramics, sculpture, stain glass, sewing, knitting, photography, interior design, crafts, etc.), she loved to travel, history, crossword puzzles, music and chocolate in all of its forms. She was an incredible mother, homemaker and cook dedicated to her family and friends.

She would love to be remembered for her dry wit, her love of the English language and of the arts (namely opera and poetry). She will be greatly missed by everyone who got to know her. Rest in peace Mum.

Tribute Wall



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