



**BELL-IRVING (Frost) - Joan V.
March 21, 1923 - May 25, 2009**

It is with heartfelt sadness we announce our mother Joan's passing Monday evening at the age of 86 where she died peacefully in her home. She put up a valiant effort in her usual selfless way, right to the end and made sure all her family were with her to say their good-byes. Joan had suffered in recent years with a blood disease (Sideroblastic Anemia) which slowly caused her ultimate death.

Joan Frost was born in Vancouver in 1923, the youngest in a family of 4 boys. The old Prince of Wales School was the beginning of her schooling except for the kindergarten in the old Klu Klux Klan building now called Canuck Place. Thereafter was York House in 1937, where there were only 4 students in the class. She loved sports and graduated Sport Captain of Iroquois House. In Grade 9 her Mother (Lila Coburn) thought she was too popular with the boys so in 1939 she was sent to Strathcona Boarding School for Girls on Vancouver Island. She missed York House and was allowed to return and graduated from YHS in 1941. The following September was UBC, where she was with Kappa Kappa Gamma, but with the war on, all her brothers enlisted and so did she. Joan joined the Women's Canadian Navy in 1943 and for 2 years was a wireless operator stationed outside of Ottawa listening for German submarines. After the war in 1945 Joan attended the Vancouver School of Art for 2 years under the guidance of Charles Scott Bert Benning, Jack Shadbolt and Gordon Smith. In 1947 Joan married Ian Bell-Irving and the following years were busy with family and Junior League but her love of art always prevailed with her attending Art classes of some form. She spent time print making at Malaspina Print on Granville Island and photographic school. She spent many hours as a wedding photographer and also worked for the Kerrisdale Courier taking social photographs. Eventually she had her own studio with her own shows', a highlight being accepted in the 55th Annual Exhibition of Northwest Artists in the Seattle Art Museum in 1969. In 1972 she returned to Emily Carr graduating with honors in 1974. "Art will always be part of my life – whether it hangs on the wall, stays in the mind or hides in the garden" - www.bell-irving.com/joan

Until Joan's husband, Ian's passing in 1999 she participated in his social and business life. He was Colonel of the Seaforth Highlanders and President of the ABC Packing Company. He built a fishing lodge at River's Inlet and golfed at Marine Drive. Joan joined him in his many adventures.

Joan is survived by her two children, Richard & Lila with their spouses Danja and Kent; Richard's children Nathalie and Claire and with Claire's children Kyle, Carter and Kamryn.