

## Vivienne Bennie

Vivienne, or Butchie, as she was affectionately known to close friends and family, was born on May 30, 1931 in New Westminster, B.C. In 1953 she married Douglas Bennie. The following year their son David was born. It was around this time that Vivienne became one of the founding members of the Coquitlam District Music Festival. Vivienne had found her niche! In the following years she would become a member of both the provincial and national festival boards. She received many accolades and awards for her efforts which were based on the premise that "the kids come first". In honour of her work with festivals, Vivienne was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by Performing Arts BC in 1998 for displaying outstanding abilities and dedication to the performing arts festival movement in British Columbia and was also made a Fellow of the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals. In recent years Vivienne's declining health prevented her from active participation in festival activities but even though she was not there in person she was still very much remembered. As one former fellow volunteer put it, "Everyone knew Vivienne". Vivienne passed away on December 29, 2023. She was predeceased by her husband Doug in 2003 and is survived by her loving and devoted son David, her sisters-in-law Jean Folkstead and Joan Osborne and their families and her close friends Romy and Tedha Babuin. At this time no formal service will be held. Those wishing to honor Vivienne's memory may do so by making a donation to the Coquitlam District Music Festival, PO Box 78064 Northside, Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 7H5.