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Nursing Excellence recognized in Fund celebrating life of Irene McKennitt

In special tribute to Irene McKennitt's career in nursing and in dedication to the work, knowledge and compassion required by those who nurture others back to health, the McKennitt Family has established the Irene McKennitt Fund for Nursing Excellence.

Irene, born in Rosenfield, Manitoba, was a gifted and compassionate nurse. Upon graduation she nursed at the Morden General Hospital (Manitoba) and later as a public health nurse in the Morden and Winkler region. She nursed her husband Jack in the latter days of this life, before she retired to Salt Spring Island in 1994.

Irene is survived by her two children Loreena McKennitt of Stratford, Ontario and Warren McKennitt of Winnipeg, Manitoba and four grandchildren – a family she adored.

Irene had an incredible passion for life and a curiosity of people and places. She was a devoted and engaged member of the communities in which she lived and enjoyed being of assistance to others. All these qualities contributed to Irene's competencies and sensitivities in her chosen profession of nursing.

Modelling Irene's career, the Fund supports nurses who exemplify empathy, demonstrate overall excellence in the art of bedside nursing and where applicable, competency in transferring theory into practice. Specifically the Fund supports the education and training of nurses in Canada by offering scholarships, bursaries and research grants for individuals to train as a personal support worker, registered practical nurse or registered nurse or to enhance their nursing career with supplementary training.

The Irene McKennitt Fund for Nursing Excellence becomes part of the family of endowment funds held by the Stratford and Perth County Community Foundation. Created in 2004 through the vision of local business and political leaders, the Foundation has raised more than \$1 million in community assets and has granted in excess of \$140,000 to charities working in the arts, culture and heritage, children and youth, education, environment, health, sports and recreation, seniors, and social services. The Foundation works with donors wanting to create legacies to support causes important to them. Donations form community investments, a portion of the annual earnings given to charitable causes and projects. To find out ways of making a donation to this Fund, please visit our website www.spccf.ca.



Irene McKennitt, 1931-2011

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