

# Joyce Helen Fraser

Oct 9, 2019 / [OBITUARIES](#)



**April 17, 1929 –  
October 9, 2019**

It is with  
overwhelming  
sadness that the  
family of Joyce  
Fraser, share the  
news of her  
passing, on  
October 9, 2019, in  
her 91st year, at  
the Princeton  
General Hospital,  
surrounded by her  
loving family.

Joyce Helen

Corbin was born

on April 17, 1929 in Weyburn, Saskatchewan and remained there until her late teens. Joyce spent much of her early years in the company of her grandparents Nicolas and Michalina Halarwich. Her grandmother, a devout Catholic, impressed upon her granddaughter the teachings of the bible and instilled in her a reverence for her church and religion. Joyce worked in Weyburn at a hospital for the Mentally Ill before moving and working in Winnipeg, Manitoba and Calgary, Alberta.

In 1950, Joyce made plans for a two-week vacation to Princeton, BC, to visit her Mother and step father, Helena and John Slager. Joyce's plans changed when she got a job in Princeton and met Austin Fraser, a handsome man she had seen at church. Austin and Joyce were engaged 9 days

after they first met and married three months later. A year later daughter Lynne arrived, followed by Kim, Cynthia, Gail, and Shannon. Sandi Uhrich came to stay a weekend in 1971 and moved in for two years, becoming daughter number six. Joyce and Austin worked hard while raising their family and thrived in their small beloved town of Princeton and found joy in every new addition of Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. Tragedy struck the family when Shannon passed away at the age of 25.

Joyce was on vacation with Austin in his home Province of Nova Scotia one summer and while sitting in front of the Atlantic Ocean and thinking about her purpose in life, she made the decision to work to help others in need. With a personal loan co-signed by Austin, Princeton and District Community Services Society was formed and grew with the help of many dedicated like minded people, her “Dream Team”, and a committed board, into a service that provided transportation to doctor’s appointments in Princeton and Penticton, meals on wheels, homemaking service, bed subsidy (shelter for runaway and apprehended children through the Ministry of Social Services contract), programs for adults with cognitive disabilities including housing and a day program that evolved into the Mini Chef Restaurant whereby the clients worked and learned to waitress and do other tasks associated with the restaurant business. New Beginnings, was created when the clients were aging which provided a day program for them.

Joyce spent many years creating and fine tuning a plan for a sheltered housing complex for seniors who needed a place to live between home and extended care. This outstanding addition to Princeton, a first and now modelled by the province, Vermillion Court, is always filled to capacity providing seniors with a private apartment and two meals a day in the common dining room. Joyce worked for Princeton

and District Community Services Society until she was 73. When it looked as though Interior Health would close the Princeton General Hospital many years ago, Joyce organized a hearse and drove along with other locals to Interior Health's Administration office in Kelowna with signs and a presentation of how people in Princeton and area would die if the hospital was to close. The Princeton General Hospital is still open.

Along with husband Austin, she was a devoted member of St. Peter's Parish in Princeton and the go-to person the family called on for prayers for family and friends. Joyce and Austin funded many young men in South America to become Catholic Priests.

Joyce and Austin Fraser were named Princeton Citizens of the Year in the 1990's due to contributions they both made to the Community. Joyce's many other achievements include:

- Acknowledgement by the Town of Princeton for "Outstanding Community Work."

- Joyce was flown to Victoria by the Lieutenant Governor in 2012 and honoured with a "BC Community Achievement Award" at Government House in the BC Capital.

- A "Diamond Jubilee" Medal from Queen Elizabeth in 2013

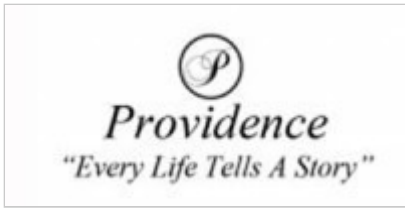
- She received a "Medal of Good Citizenship" in June 2019, from the Province for her years of dedicated service to the Community of Princeton and surrounding area. The presenter stated at that ceremony that "no other small town in BC has the services for its citizens that this area has, all because of Joyce Fraser." Only 57 people throughout the province have been awarded this medal.

Joyce was predeceased by her loving parents Helena and John Slager, beloved husband John Austin and daughter Shannon Isabelle, stepsiblings Delila and Dorothy. She is survived by daughters: Lynne (Terry), Kim (Doug), Cindy

(Albie), Gail, Sandi (Earl), Grandchildren: Chelsea (Earl), Carmen (Ryan), Candice (Ryan), Jeffrey (Christine), Christopher, Travis (Bianca), Brett, Nicole (Brandon), Scott (Catrina). Great Grandchildren: Austin, Mason, Ryder, Sawyer, Mercedes, Thales, Cash, Johnathan, Betty, Jaxon, Peyton, Zoey, Nixon, and newly arrived Rosie Lynne. Brother Donald (Maryanne), sister-in-law Kaye, numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews. Joyce will be missed immensely by her family and a multitude of friends and colleague's.

"Mom leaves behind a Legacy of Love, Kindness, and Service to the people of Princeton and area. She was an Amazing Woman, Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Friend. A Warrior who surprised her family every day with her capacity to care about others, her vision of a better future for the challenged, disenfranchised, ailing, elderly, people with diverse disabilities, and the forgotten. Her life's mission was to be of Service, to Pray to her Father in Heaven for others, and to Fiercely Love her Husband, Family, and Friends. A bright light in our lives has left us. RIP Momma Joyce."

A Funeral Mass will be held for Joyce at St. Peter's Parish, 43 Billiter Ave., Princeton, BC., on Saturday October 26th @ 11:00 am. Burial at the Princeton Cemetery. Followed by Refreshments and Celebration of a Life Well Lived at 1:15 pm at the Seniors Center, 162 Angela Ave., Princeton, BC. In lieu of flowers the family would appreciate donations being made to the BC Cancer Foundation to support Leukemia Research. You can make your donation online @ [bccancerfoundation.com/ways-donate/gift-memory](http://bccancerfoundation.com/ways-donate/gift-memory) or by mail to BC Cancer Foundation, #150-686 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC., V5Z 1G1 or call 1-888-906-2873  
Condolences and tributes may be directed to the family by visiting [www.providencefuneralhomes.com](http://www.providencefuneralhomes.com)



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