

HEATHER (CHURCH) FLINT



How to put 50 years onto one page is a challenge!

After graduation I finished nurses training and began work in a job I loved for 45 years. I worked in many areas but finished with 23 years in trauma and ER, retiring in 2011.

My husband and I had three lovely girls, lost one to heart disease in her first year and adopted a son and daughter. Denny taught high school band until he turned 40 when he decided to acquire a red coat rather than a red sports car and went into the RCMP. Shortly after that, our youngest daughter Katie, got leukemia and for nearly twelve years our lives were filled with trips to hospital. Grateful for modern medicine, Katie is now cancer free. Along the way, we moved from an idyllic five years in Nelson to a less happy posting in Surrey. After two years of lower mainland madness, I moved to Courtenay and waited for the force to allow Denny to follow which they did four years later.

We had hoped for a retirement full of travel and had bought a fifth wheel for the purpose. Unfortunately one month after retirement Denny developed right sided heart failure and although he was on the list for a heart transplant, he did not live to receive it. He died two years ago and the adjustment for me has been very difficult. We had a very happy 44 years together but with a good marriage, it is never enough time.

Our eldest girl Jenna, works for the SPCA as a Cruelty Investigation Officer. Our second daughter, Julia, is a Doula with her own business. Our son Nathan is a Master Corporal in the army and our daughter Katie is a blessing with the innocence of the

developmentally delayed. I am blessed with eight grandchildren though and one great grandchild due in February. I have a number of good friends and have begun to do some travelling on my own, venturing to Cambodia and Laos in February of this year for a fair trade silk manufacture tour and heading to South Africa in October for a wine and gardens tour. I sold the fifth wheel and bought a motorhome which I enjoy and can manage, taking my two weeks in early September every year to relax at Saratoga beach, read and drink excellent gin and tonic.

I have taught Scottish Country Dancing for over 20 years and have enjoyed dancing in Scottish castles and on Hawaiian beaches. I read extensively, love to knit, I have a small lot with a large flower garden featuring far too many roses, I just can't resist them. I nanny for two small boys that make me feel loved and play French horn in the community band. I volunteer with Therapeutic Riding and at a local gift shop which supports a park. I enjoy photography but have little real talent for it. Life may not be what I had hoped but it is good and I feel very fortunate to be healthy.

High School was not the highlight of my life but I look forward to seeing people I knew from so long ago. We are all much more alike than different.

