



Doreen Hiron

On February 15, Doreen Hiron went into the light after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. She was bathed in sunshine and soft music and surrounded by her loved ones.

Her greatest achievement was being a loving wife and mother, devoting her life to her family while still giving time, energy and love to touch, mentor and profoundly change the lives of so many others. A life skills coach for several years in Edmonton and many First Nations communities throughout her native Alberta where her kindness and guidance helped many to heal and find the path to a better life. Her friends and family will remember her insatiable appetite for expanding her knowledge, particularly of British history. She constantly improved her extensive vocabulary by having two or more books on the go, completing the daily crossword puzzles in record time and always having the correct answers for Jeopardy before anyone else. In her retirement, she was the librarian for the Edmonton Schoolboys' Alumni Band. Her green thumb made so much beauty grow around her and her nimble fingers were always busy on a new cross-stitch project.

Doreen was diagnosed in early September 2010 when she was taken to hospital because she had trouble breathing. She was very brave in the face of such adversity as she has been throughout her life. She had always adopted a healthy lifestyle of swimming, walking and exercising, and planned to have a many more years of travels and active gardening, after having had reconstructive knee surgery earlier that year.

After the initial shock, she spent a few weeks taking in the impact of her diagnosis and waiting for the next steps of radiation and chemotherapy to fight the disease as best she could. Meanwhile, her youngest son Jonathan extensively researched alternative options to help alleviate her symptoms and hopefully extend her life in comfort. She valiantly agreed to try all the new changes in her diet and routine and followed instructions without ever complaining. Her devoted husband of 55 years, Don, was tireless in his support and care giving throughout the last months of her life.

She wanted to remain home to the end and we were fortunate to provide a peaceful goodbye for her, thanks to the compassionate care of many professionals. Her body may be gone, but her spirit lives on. To honour her memory, her family is determined to improve the early detection and treatment of pancreatic cancer and ultimately save lives. Please give generously in her memory to the National Pancreatic Cancer Canada Foundation - [www.pancreaticcancercanada.ca](http://www.pancreaticcancercanada.ca)