

LITA JOE

September 1949 – September 2020



Sadly, the family of Lita Joe have to announce that she passed away on September 17, 2020. She was a member of Abreast In A Boat since 1998. Lita began her paddling at Barnet Marine Park (Rocky Point) and after a number of years of paddling decided to be a coach with the organization in 2004. She started her coaching at False Creek and with Juanita Peglar, formed and started the Fortitude team at Fort Langley. While coaching that team they co coached, with Dr. Don McKenzie, a most successful all novice AIAB crew. She coached for many years at Fort Langley but decided to take time away from coaching. Lita missed it so much she decided to return to coaching one year later and joined with Lynn Sparling to co-coach the Deas Divas in Ladner.

As a paddler, Lita travelled to international venues to Singapore and Australia as well as many local venues. As a coach, Lita took teams to Kelowna, Penticton, Edmonton, Las Vegas, Houston, Texas, and Nanaimo (her favorite).

Lita loved paddling, especially coaching. She really enjoyed coaching composite crews where she was able to get to know and meet new people. She was well respected by all her crews and all of the Abreast In A Boat community. She made many friends through this organization.

When she officially retired from coaching two years ago, she joined the Hope boat as a paddler. She also started a "Boat to Somewhere" for novice paddlers and anyone interested in casual and fun dragon boat paddling, learning to paddle in a non threatening way.

Lita loved dragon boating and the camaraderie of the Abreast In A Boat organization. She was a strong and determined woman who will truly be missed.

- Errol Joe and Family