

Rudolph “Michael” Villiers

Worked For:

Orenda

JOHNSON, Franziska “Vally” Kimerling VILLIERS

26/08/1919–26/10/2007

B. in Vienna, Austria, to Antonia and Karl Kimerling; she was the oldest of two daughters.

She attended school until the age of sixteen, whereupon she left to work as a shoe salesperson in an upscale shoe store managed by her mother in Vienna. At the age of 19 (1938), she left Vienna to work in London, England, as a domestic. It was there, in High Park in the spring of 1939, that she met a flying officer with the British Royal Airforce, Rudolph Villiers. A few months later they were married.

After WWII, Franziska and her husband and two children immigrated to Canada. It was here they took more North American names, “Vally” and “Michael.” Shortly after coming to Canada another son was born; in 1953 their last son was born.

Vally was a stay-at-home mom as, in those days, almost every mother was. However, she did help out her husband, who was by now working for Orenda Engines, in Malton, by being an Avon saleswoman for about 20 years. She was, in fact, one of the top sales people in Canada. She never learned how to drive, so would have to carry a large sample bag throughout her territory, freshly developed Rexdale, where she also lived.

When the children were grown and off on their own, Vally married again, to Stanley Johnson. They moved to Mansfield, ON, and built a home in the country. For twenty years Vally and Stanley, who was very handy, bought and refurbished old homes and resold them. They worked together closely and were together 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Stanley passed away about ten years before Vally.

By now Vally’s family had grown from four children to four children and their partners plus five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, a set of fraternal twins born to her first grandson and his wife. So from a small family— Vally had only one sibling and her first (sic) husband had only one sibling—the family was indeed expanding.

All her life Vally had dogs. The last two were a bichon frise and a toy poodle. They were both white and looked very similar; their names were “boo boo” and “bam bam.” These dogs were Vally’s constant companions for about fifteen years or so.

Vally came to Grove Park in March of 2004, to Spruce. She had been living in a nursing home in Toronto, close to her youngest son, but he had relocated his family to Victoria, BC. It was then that Vally came to Grove Park, five minutes’ from daughter Carol’s home. Grove Park was a dream come true for Vally and her family. She loved it here.

I am the only daughter of Vally and Michael Villiers. She led a wonderful life. Yes, it had its ups and downs, as life does for everyone; however, she was not given to moods nor did I ever hear her say an unkind word about anyone. Vally was always well-dressed and well turned out even if only staying at home. Possessed with a large vitality for life, her birth in Vienna prompted the midwife to exclaim loudly, “Oh my, aren’t you a little miss bright eyes!”

—thanks to Carol, Vally’s daughter. GPH: 30/03/2004

https://www.grovesparkhome.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Connections_3_2003-2012.pdf

Researched by: Barry Copp (2023)