

McGibney, Carol



Carol McGibney grew up in Ireland and sang for years from a very early age with the Ulster Girl's Choir. Fred came on the scene, they courted and became a pretty serious couple. He won her heart and proposed marriage. He then left for Canada and she followed later. Carol flew to Toronto with the Ulster Girl's Choir and after performing there she flew west to Penticton to see if this guy called Fred was still the guy she wanted to marry. This was a fairly big step for a young, shy Irish lass..but the right one because 40 odd years have passed and they are still happily married. They have four kids, Brian, John, Patrick and Fiona and 8 grandchildren. Carol and Fred moved to Naramata soon after Brian was born and it was here they met up with Don Salting. After hearing Carol sing, he talked her into trying to start a choir. She posted a sign on the tree outside of the store asking interested parties to meet at her house. A dozen or so people came. Few could read music and I'm sure she wondered what she was getting herself into. One whole year she worked on a song called OH NO JOHN and after 40 years her choir still hasn't learned it! However, Carol had the patience of Job and she just wouldn't give up. Forty years have passed - many singers have come and gone but the majority are still with her - almost fifty in all. Six of the originals remain dedicated. She has led the choir through 4 recordings some made in Vancouver, the rest in Penticton. She has taken the choir to sing for the Queen in Vancouver, to perform at Expo86, at Disneyland, to yearly International concerts and at one time she talked about a trip to Poland but that went by the by. Carol's role as director of the choir is only one of her talents. She has soloed with the Okanagan Symphony and has acted in many stage performances over the years. Carol is a recently retired librarian from our own Naramata branch. She had a special feeling for all her readers. Many times she chose books for shut-ins and often delivered them herself. Carol couldn't have accomplished all these things by herself. Fred has been her strongest supporter and so have her kids. Our hats go out to you both and we thank you for your dedication to this community. May your songs live on! Naramata became a better place when you chose to come here !!!!!. Time marches on and in the year 2010, Carol gave up her baton to a new director, Justin Glibbery, but she retains her seat in the soprano section and is taking a much needed rest.



