

## Ruth Jessica (McArthur, Tait) Bowiec



Ruth Bowiec was born Ruth Jessica McArthur on April 23 1934 in Winnipeg to James McArthur and Alma Kinch. At the tender age of one and her mother pregnant with her second child Ruth and her mother left Winnipeg for Kenora. Her mother subsequently married Robert C Tait from Keewatin. Ruth was adopted at the age of eight by her step father.

She attended Central School and then Lakewood High School and then attended two years at the Kenora Business College located on the second floor of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

She married John Bowiec June 1st 1957 and they had three daughters,

Barbara Joanne (Bowiec) Morgan

Beverley Louise (Bowiec) Ellis

Bonnie Heather (Bowiec) Fisher

In October 1968 she approached Stuart King, then owner of the Kenora and Miner and News with the suggestion that she be hired to be the papers first Social Columnist. She was hired the next day on a 6 month trial basis at the sum of \$33.00. Her salary was doubled to \$66.00 by the end of the month. Since then she has

interviewed Governor Generals, Prime Ministers, Premiers, ambassadors as well as many local Kenora residents. She has attended Services Clubs, curling and golfing events, Legion Special meetings and various diverse meetings and publicity events. Her columns are often the first item read by her adoring fans in the Tri-municipal area.

She has received several awards for her column and news coverage which often was the first item read by her fans.

In May 1985 she received the Edward Dunlop Award of Excellence for a six part series on Immigrants to the Kenora area during or prior to the Depression years.

On March 26 1992 the Kenora Miner and Newspaper presented Ruth with their "We're proud of You" Award for outstanding coverage of every aspect of social, sports, organizational, and group events during course of her career at a grand gala at the Lake of the Woods Museum.

The Ontario Provincial Police honoured her with an Award of Merit certificate for her coverage of provincial police work in the Kenora area. She was also recognized by Crime Stoppers, Kenora Toastmasters, Business & Professional Women, Kenora Legion Auxiliary Branch 12, Kenora Lions and Knights of Columbus and Beta Sigma Phi Sorority for her work as a reporter.

Kenora Rotary Club presented her with a Honourary Paul Harris Fellowship

She retired in 2004 after 35 years of service.

She was a member of New Horizons, Ontario Senior Coalition and served on the Ontario Seniors Board of Directors representing Kenora Seniors. She served on the Kenora Accessibility Committee and Pinecrest Family Council.

She served as a volunteer for The Kenora Alzheimer Society, the Lake of the Woods Museum, Kenora Crime Stoppers, and the Kenora Retired Railroaders.

She was a member of the Kenora's Accessibility Advisory Committee. She was a member and received an Honourary Life Award from the Hospital Auxiliary and active in her Church and Catholic Women's League who also recognized her with an Honourary Life Award.

Her "Tea with Ruth Bowiec" auction items were a perennial favorite at Annual Rotary Actions assisting to raise money for various Rotary projects in the Kenora area.

Sources, "35 Years as a Social Columnist in Common Ground: Stories of Lake of the Woods" Common Ground Committee Lake of the Woods Museum