



Elisabeth Thomi and her dog “Buddy”  
in a picture taken July, 2001.  
Photo courtesy: Dorothy Hannebauer.

## Elisabeth Thomi

Elisabeth Thomi was born in Bern, Switzerland, on April 3, 1922 and died in Salmon Arm May 29, 2007, at age 85.

She came to Canada in 1955 and worked for John Federer, an orchardist, who lived on North Broadview. Federer, who was also a Swiss, bequeathed the land to Elisabeth upon his death and she continued to operate the almost 35 acres for fruit, hay and honey production.

Salmon Arm resident Dorothy Hannebauer went to work for Elisabeth in 1974 thinning and picking apples and cherries. Over the years the two women became friends and Dorothy continued to work with Elisabeth every summer for the next 17 years.

She was a great animal lover, recalls Dorothy, who counted 13 cats and four dogs when she first came to the orchard. In her later years, Elisabeth gave regularly to the local SPCA and, upon her death, the SPCA took the last three cats and a special dog named Buddy. Buddy had survived a nasty encounter with a coyote and Dorothy says she was pleased when a retired couple adopted the animal. Elisabeth’s house dog, Missy, died a few days after her owner and Dorothy believes the animal “died of a broken heart.”

Shuswap Community Foundation received a substantial bequest of 2/3rds of the residue of Elisabeth Thomi’s estate. The money has established the Elisabeth Thomi Endowment Fund with the annual income to be paid to the Shuswap Branch of the SPCA. Thanks to the generosity of Elisabeth Thomi, the Foundation’s capital fund now exceeds \$3 million.

Please read the full story in our Memory Book:  
[www.shuswapfoundation.ca](http://www.shuswapfoundation.ca)