



Rita Smuin
d. February 1, 2001

Rita and Frank Smuin moved to Salmon Arm in 1954, Frank to be station agent for the CPR, and Rita as a telephone operator. Frank ended his career in Salmon Arm as service supervisor for the area, and Rita enriched her life as a tireless volunteer for the Red Cross.

During her last illness, Rita was impressed with and grateful for the care and attention that she received. "Nurses," she told Frank, "are very special people." This remark caused Frank to wonder what he could do to say thanks, and to recognize the dedication displayed by the nurses who cared so thoughtfully for Rita. It was actually a Nurse at the Shuswap Lake General Hospital who pointed Frank in the direction of the Shuswap Community Foundation.

Frank set up the Rita Smuin Memorial Bursary Fund which makes an annual grant to a student in a nursing program. Of course, the fund will grow and will pay out forever. Says Frank: "It is wonderful to think that our grandchildren and our great-great grandchildren will have this reminder of Rita."

Notes: Frank Smuin as told to Gordon Priestman