

Durelle Sanderson

Sans Souci Island

1939 - 2011



Sans Souci has lost one of its most passionate and devoted summer residents. On May 13, 2011, Durelle Sanderson of Sans Souci Island died in Kitchener, Ontario, of complications following heart surgery. She was 71.

Durelle's love affair with Sans Souci spanned 33 years. In 1978, she and her mother were invited by John Sanderson, who would later become Durelle's husband, to his cottage on the eastern shore of Sans Souci Island. John's family has been a part of Sans Souci history since his great-grandfather, John Pearce, first camped in the area in 1880. Pearce built the Sans Souci Hotel in 1894, and he was the first to build a cottage in the area in 1896. John's father, Hector Sanderson, was a dock boy at the first Sans Souci and Copperhead Association meetings and later served as a director and officer on the Board, as did John for many years. Durelle didn't know it, but John's invitation to Sans Souci was a test. Her reaction to the rugged, remote islands could have a significant impact on the future of their relationship.

John needn't have worried. From the first day she set eyes on the beauty of its rocky, pine-crested islands and clear blue waters, Durelle was in love with Sans Souci.

One of Durelle's most significant contributions to our community was her involvement in the research and production of *Island Odyssey: A History of the Sans Souci Area of Georgian Bay*, published in 1990. As a member of the small group that spent 7 years interviewing summer and permanent residents for their recollections and scouring archives and private collections for information and photographs, her contribution was invaluable. Durelle was a winner of the Stephen Leacock Award in her youth, and her impeccably-crafted research notes and stories were particularly helpful.

Despite the fact that she never learned to swim, Durelle loved the waters of Sans Souci. She was never happier than when cruising amongst the island on a breezy, warm summer day with John, and often talked about "the spiritual, emotional and physical healing presence that Sans Souci offers to anyone who is open to it".

The Sans Souci and Copperhead Association wishes to express its deepest condolences to John Sanderson and the couple's family and friends.