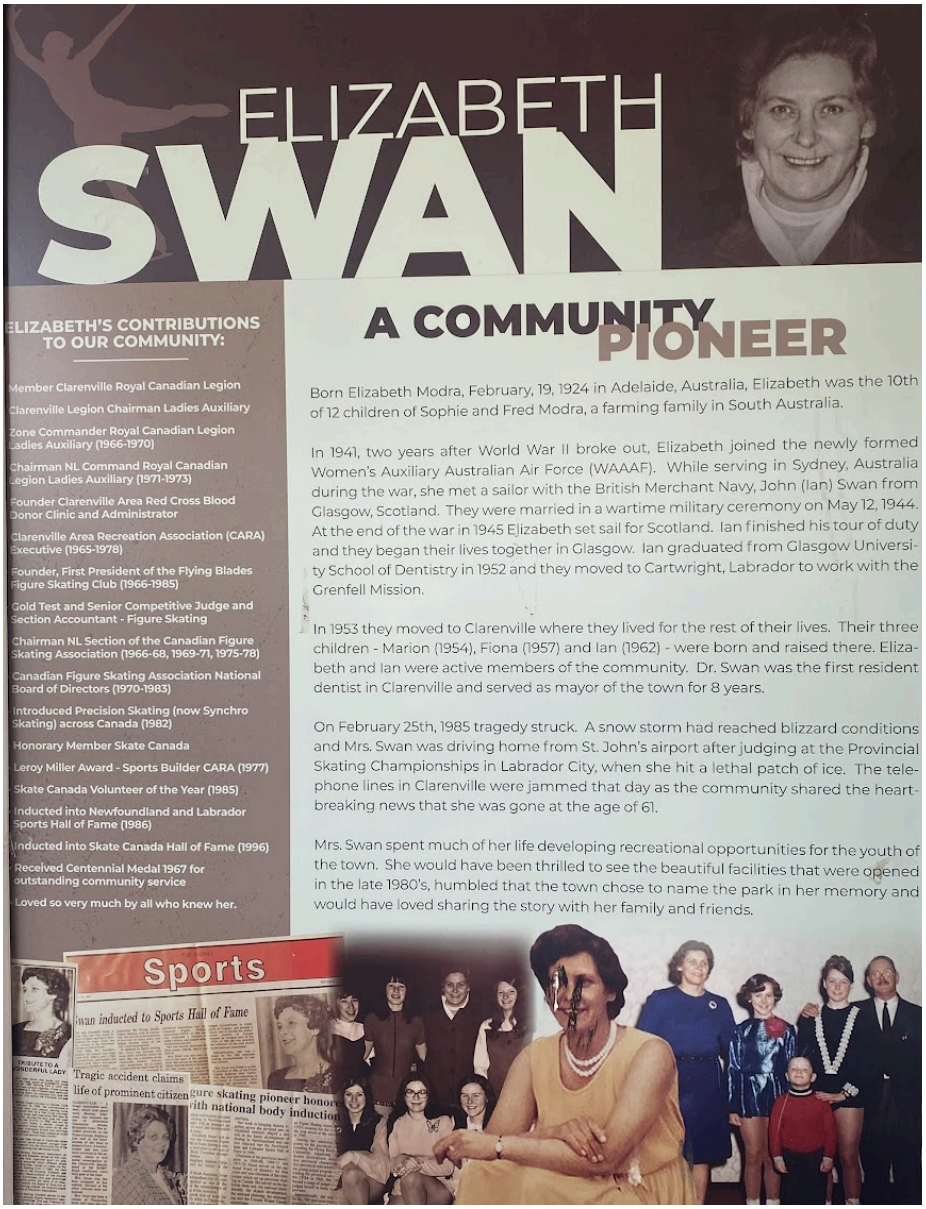
**PAUL TILLEY'S CLARENVILLE'S HISTORY SHORTS**
**paultilley.ca**

# Elizabeth Swan - Community Builder




Elizabeth Modra was born on **February 19, 1924, in Adelaide, Australia**. She was the tenth of twelve children to Sophie and Fred Modra, who were part of a farming family in South Australia.

In 1941, two years into World War II, Elizabeth joined the newly established **Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF)**. While serving in Sydney, she met **John (Ian) Swan**, a sailor with the British Merchant Navy from Glasgow, Scotland. They married in a wartime military ceremony on **May 12, 1944**. After the war ended in 1945, Elizabeth sailed to Scotland, and Ian completed his tour of duty. They began their married life in Glasgow.

Ian graduated from Glasgow University School of Dentistry in 1952. Soon after, they moved to **Cartwright, Labrador**, where they worked with the Grenfell Mission. In 1955, they

relocated to **Clarenville**, where they lived for the rest of their lives. Their three children, Marion, Fiona, and Ian, were born and raised there.

Elizabeth and Ian were very involved in the Clarenville community. Dr. Swan became the town's first resident dentist and was mayor for eight years.

Tragedy struck on **February 25, 1985**, during a severe snowstorm. Elizabeth was driving home from St. John's airport after judging the Provincial Skating Championships in Labrador City when she hit a patch of ice. The community of Clarenville was heartbroken by the news of her passing at the age of 61.

Elizabeth Swan dedicated much of her life to creating recreational opportunities for the town's youth. Shortly after her death, **Elizabeth Swan Park** was named in her honour. The park is a source of pride among Clarenville's many parks and green spaces. It serves as the primary venue for numerous community and regional events and is a main gateway to the town's extensive network of walking trails. The park is not only an attraction for visitors but also a vital community facility that supports an active lifestyle.

# Tragic accident claims life of prominent citizen

CLARENVILLE — A tragic automobile accident, which took place early Monday afternoon, has claimed the life of prominent Clarenville citizen, Elizabeth Swan. The accident occurred on the Trans-Canada Highway just east of the intersection of the road to Queen's Cove. A tractor-trailer and two cars were involved in the accident, which is still under investigation by the Clarenville detachment of the RCMP. Road conditions were very poor at the time.

Mrs. Swan was the lone occupant of her vehicle. Drivers of the other vehicles were not injured.

Mrs. Swan has been a citizen of Clarenville since 1953 when she and her husband, Dr. John Swan, moved here from Labrador. Dr. and Mrs. Swan had moved to Labrador from Scotland the previous year to work with the Grenfell Mission.



ELIZABETH SWAN

Mrs Swan was originally from Australia, and met Dr. Swan there when he was serving in the Merchant Marine Navy during the Second World War.

Mrs. Swan was very active from the time she came to Clarenville, and her involvement touched every aspect of the commmunity.

As a veteran of the armed forces in the Second World War, Mrs. Swan was active in the Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary. She served at the local level as president of the Ladies Auxiliary, and also served as Zone Commander and president of the Provincial Command.

In sports, she was responsible for bringing figure skating to Clarenville and her involvement in the sport as a

(continued on page 2)

XEROX
COMPUTERS
PAPER • RIBBON
DISKETTES
•
Computers &
Communications
Corner Brook Plaza
Toll Free
1-800-563-1122

# Tragic accident claims life

(continued from page 1)

judge continued until this past weekend. She was returning from judging an event in Labrador when the tragic accident occurred.

Mrs. Swan was also active in home and school associations and maintained her contact with the schools by giving talks to classes about her native land and conducting assemblies for the various causes with which she was involved.

In service to others, Mrs. Swan was in charge of blood procurement for the local branch of the Red Cross for 25 years. She was instrumental in the organization of the first blood clinic in Clarenville, which was also one of the first, if not the first, clinic to be held outside St. John's. She was honoured earlier this yaer with an award from the Red Cross for her outstanding service.

Mrs. Swan received, in 1967, a Centennial Medal in recognition of valuable service to her country.

When the Leroy Miller award was initiated in Clarenville in 1977, Mrs. Swan was the first recipient in recognition of her contribution as a sports builder in the town.

Mrs. Swan leaves to mourn her husband John; two daugthers: Marion (Mrs. George Dyke), Fiona (Mrs. John Abbott), and one son Ian; relatives in Australia, and a large circle of freinds in Clarenville and across the province.

Funeral services are expected to be held on Thursday or Friday from the Clarenville United Church.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the Swan family.

**Mobile**
**Income Tax Services**
wishes to advise that they are now located in the Crocker Building
Off Manitoba Drive, next to Random Square Mall
Phone 466-3027 F27-M8

Source: The Packet, Feb.27, 1985 p1..2