



# Margaret Frances Shanks

February 12, 2021

Margaret Frances Shanks (Cook)

Marg the loving wife of John, dear mother of Phillip (Katya) and Michael (Kristie), loved grandmother of Elise, Addison and William passed away Friday February 12, 2021

Marg is lovingly remembered by her brothers and sisters:

Bruce (Barb deceased), Patricia Kaack (Jens) Calgary, John (Sue), Mary (Paul), Anne Marie Victoria BC

Marg is lovingly remembered by the Shanks family: Chris (Barry), Gary (Nancy), and Larry.

There are many memories of Aunt Marg with her many nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews here in Toronto, Calgary, Turner Valley, Victoria, Haida Gwaii, Pincher Creek, Denver, Connecticut

Marg passed peacefully at home, lovingly cared for by her 'boys' John, Phil and Michael. She has gone to be with Mom and Dad, Elizabeth and William Cook who will hold her tenderly in their arms.

Marg retired after close to 25 years as an Educational Assistant at Mary Ward Catholic High School. She cared deeply for the children entrusted to her care, was passionate about their education and strove to bring out the potential in each student. Marg always had the students' best interests at heart.

When Marg took an interest, she did so with a strong will to bring about change whether it be educational, Neighbors East, Save the Rouge and all that is environmental.

As a large extended family, we enjoyed many gatherings, barbeques in the backyard or at Christmas. John, Marg and the boys hosted Christmas dinner for up to twenty-five, for the past 28 years to the delight of all gathered.

Since 1987 Marg has gone west to Calgary many times to visit her families and to hike in the mountains with her sisters, the hiking group, a close-knit group of friends. Marg loved those times of friendship, laughter and the serenity of her surroundings where she could soak in the beauty of her surroundings and commune with nature.

Marg enjoyed movies, good laughs, gardening and the arts.

To all who know Marg, we know her as a thinker, probing, asking questions, seeking the ultimate answer to life. Everything in life presented as something requiring a solution.

We know her as a humble, kindred soul with the will to bring about change. May she find the ultimate answer as she rests in peace.

Donations may be made in Marg's memory to a Special Needs children's group of your choosing.

### She is Gone

written by David Harkins.

You can shed tears that she is gone

Or you can smile because she has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back

Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see her

Or you can be full of the love that you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday

Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember her and only that she is gone

Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back

Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes,  
love and go on.

# Comments

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“ I was so blessed to work with Marg as a teacher in Special Education at Mary Ward. She cared so much for the students and worked tirelessly to help them gain new skills and understanding. Marg loved to chat with her colleagues and was always asking me about my family and my children. Her spirit lives on in the many young people she taught. God Bless.  
-Anne Marie Davies

Anne Marie Davies - February 24 at 07:08 AM

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“ Marg's work and guidance with our Resource students in the Music Department at Mary Ward Catholic Secondary School was invaluable. Her enthusiasm, focus, patience, and observation skills were a gift and our students truly benefitted from her consistent assistance. Marg always volunteered to help us out backstage with EVERY music department concert. She always found a way to make sure she could watch her students' performances too, and was truly their No.1 fan.

Marg supported our students in their musical performances outside of Mary Ward as well. She would hear about a recital a student was giving, call me, and then make all arrangements for us to attend a Saturday afternoon performance. She was this committed to supporting our students and their families.

On a personal level, Marg was always someone I could lean on and talk to....she made a huge effort to welcome me to the Mary Ward community, she always checked in at lunch times, she would call and check-in during the summer break.....she truly cared and we had such wonderful chats, full of laughter and philosophical musings.

My sincerest condolences to Marg's family and close friends. May she Rest In Peace

Sheri Cormier - February 23 at 07:24 PM

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“ Dear John, Phil and Michael:

Words can't express how sad I am. Marg was the kindest and most non-judgmental person I have known. She was always there to help and was passionate in doing the best she could for her students.

The past few months have been very difficult for you and I hope that cherished memories give you comfort and peace. She will always be with us in spirit.

Sincere condolences,

Chris Duffield & family

**Chris Duffield** - February 22 at 12:02 AM

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“ Deepest condolences to John and the family on your loss.

Michael & Terri Thibault



**Michael Thibault** - February 21 at 11:20 AM

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“ Quentin and myself share our deepest condolences. Ms Shanks was a wonderful lady. Every concert she was there supporting her kids, making sure they were on time for their performances while talking to us parents and giving us updates on our kids. We are very saddened by this news, but we know she is in paradise now. Quentin will miss her. All of her students will miss her.

Lisa & Quentin Williams

**Lisa Williams** - February 21 at 10:11 AM

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“ Dear John and Family

There are no words to express how sincerely sorry I am for your loss. Everyone here at school is greatly saddened by Marg's passing. Marg was always so very dedicated to the well being and education of her Special Ed students and went above and beyond to assist them in anyway she could. Please accept my deepest and sincere condolences to you and your family.

Grant MacNeil

Grant MacNeil - February 20 at 04:26 PM

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“ I am so sorry for your loss. Marg was such a beautiful person. I worked with her at Mary Ward and she was always so friendly and kind. My thoughts are with you.  
Lynn Hayes

Lynn Hayes - February 20 at 01:34 PM

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“ Our condolences to John, Philip and Michael and the the Cook and Shanks family on their loss during these very difficult times of the Covid Virus. Margaret has been my friend since high school at Norte Dame.....I was older than her and her sister Patricia and I met in Grade 11. After Margaret and I had our children we became closer friends and she was there many times for our family in a kind and caring way. I was blessed to have a friend who was there for the special needs population and she was part of my support circle in the early years.Margaret and I enjoyed many good movies over the years we would go to the theatre or watch a movie at my house.....we had similar taste in movies. She took me to a wonderful play at the high school , where she worked. It was such a shock to hear of her illness as she never mentioned any of this and I am only sorry that I was not more support during her difficult times. Margaret was very strong and handled this time with a lot of discipline and courage

Theresa - February 19 at 03:23 PM

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“ Marg and I worked together for many years. We shared ideas on how to help our special needs students reach their potential. They were always her priority and she worked hard to help them. Marg was a beautiful person, inside and out, and hated gossip. She accepted everyone and one of my favourite memories is having dinner at her house with some coworkers. She made everyone feel welcome and I remember how we all ended up in her kitchen helping to make dinner and having a great time. She hated shopping and when she had to shop for a new dress for a wedding she asked me to go along. I love shopping so I went. She bought one dress, I bought two! I will miss you Marg! RIP  
Our deepest condolences to John, Mike, Phil and the whole family.  
Angelo and Lucia Bomba

Lucia Bomba - February 19 at 11:48 AM

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“ Marg was a light spirit with a whimsical heart, an endearing smile and a gentle soul. Sending Love to John, Phil, Mike and all those who loved and were touched by Marg. These are some special moments in time that will forever remain in my heart and, when looked upon make me smile. Love Aunt Nancy



Nancy - February 18 at 09:30 PM

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“ I am sorry for your loss. Marg was a genuinely caring individual. Although you miss her deeply, you can be sure that she is now enjoying her eternal reward. .... Michael Waud, retired teacher, Mary Ward

Michael Waud - February 18 at 05:05 PM

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“ John, Phil and Mike,  
Our sincere and deepest condolences on your loss. We are glad you were all able to be there together with Marg, and for each other, as she passed. Marg was a lovely and generous person and I don't think that we ever saw her without a smile on her face or a kind word to say. Be it kids with special needs, or the needs of nature, such as the Rouge River Valley, she was always a champion for a worthy cause and cared deeply and passionately about others. She thought differently, her perspective on the world was unique and kind and now more than ever the world needs more like her. We look forward to being able to join you at a later date to properly celebrate her life, but will meanwhile keep her in our hearts.  
Wishing you peace and comfort,  
Paul, Lucy, Lara, Indya, Molly and Harrison Hingorani



**Hingorani Paul** - February 18 at 12:33 PM

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“ Margaret always had a smile on her face.  
At family parties she would come and talk to everyone.  
She was a very sincere, kind, thoughtful, person. Always making you feel welcome.  
Too young to leave us.  
Love to all the family. My deepest condolences. Adele Reynolds

**Adele Reynolds** - February 17 at 09:22 PM

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“ Margie was one of the Cook kids, my family's beloved next door neighbours on St. Quentin Avenue in Scarborough in the 1950s and into the 60s. I was a bit older than Margie but remember her as a sweet little girl who always had a smile for everyone. She grew up in a family that exemplified what family should be. You will all miss her deeply and always. Fondly and with sympathy, (Lois) Anne Mundy-Markell

**Anne Mundy-Markell** - February 17 at 06:56 PM