



Sheila Barber

April 27, 2021

March 7, 1929 – April 27, 2021

Barber, Sheila (nee McIntosh). It is with a very heavy heart but in celebration of a life well lived, that we say goodbye to Sheila, who passed away, at the age of 92 on April 27, 2021.

Sheila loved life, having the most positive, happy, loving and energetic personality. She grew up on a dairy farm in Scotland as the third youngest of 14 children. At the age of 23, Sheila arrived in London, Ontario, not knowing a soul in Canada. After working for several years as a nanny, she moved to Toronto and worked as a TTC guide providing directions and selling tickets to the passengers. She met her late husband, Douglas at TTC. They were married for over 40 years and had two children, Hazel (Brent) and Brian (Debbie). They were actively involved in the lives of their children. Their house was a second home to many friends and extended family, and they hosted countless parties throughout the years, both planned and spontaneous.

The highlight of Sheila's working life was being the school nurse, at Crescent School, for 19 years. She loved the students, the staff, and being the school mom to everyone there. Upon retirement, the Sheila Barber Citizenship award was created in her honor. Each year, it is awarded to one student in each class who exhibits empathy, support, compassion and understanding.

During her retirement years, Sheila kept herself very busy walking everywhere, bowling, swimming, and gardening. Spending time with her 4 grandchildren, Taylor (David), Parker, Arielle and Emmah (Will) was the highlight of her life. She was actively involved in all of their lives and took great pleasure in helping to raise them, watching their concerts and sports, and being part of their graduations.

When visiting Sheila, you would notice that the grass was always freshly cut, the driveway was recently painted, and the smell of fresh baked shortbread was in air! In the later years

of Sheila's retirement, she took great pride in her very active lifestyle and her willingness to participate in anything and everything.

Sheila was immensely proud of her family and she leaves behind nothing but beautiful memories. A celebration of Sheila's life will be held via Zoom on Saturday, May 1 at 10:30 a.m. If you would like to be sent the zoom link, please complete the following form: <https://forms.gle/FrmwoHHAPV17sKhE9> If you have memories or photos to share, we would love your contribution on the "Share a Memory" or the "Photos and Videos" section of this web page.

In memoriam donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Alzheimer Society of Canada would be appreciated by the family.

Comments



“ Dear family,
I am so sad to hear of Sheila's passing. The email did not reach me until today for some reason. She was a grand lady and we always had our lovely yearly visit on Prize Day at Crescent. Everyone loved Sheila and I can understand Sheila's love of working at Crescent as the nurse. I recently retired after 22 years and have moved closer to family in Kingston.
Sincerely,
Penny Parker

Penny Parker - May 04 at 05:32 PM



“ My Mum & Dad were life-long friends of Shelia from the days they all grew up in Carnoustie; they went to school together. As I recall, Shelia delivered milk from their Dairy Farm; just outside Carnoustie, in Barry. They reconnected when they moved to Toronto. Shelia worked for the TTC and I can still recall her wine / purple coloured uniform; completed with matching cap no-less I distinctly remember Shelia and Doug's Wedding. Duggie was frae Aberdeen (up the East Coast of Scotland)...They were always at my Mum & Dad's infamous parties at 158 Neville Park, and Balsam Avenue before that. Shelia was an absolutely lovely woman (inside & out), with a unique / hearty laugh, a thoughtful heart, enormously kind & giving, a good story, and a life-long pal to my Mum & Dad; from when they were Bairns frae Carnoustie. My Mum & Dad and Shelia & Doug weathered all challenges life can throw us through the years; with the infamous 'Scottish Resolve', 'Just got on with it', determination, and a positive attitude; no matter how difficult, always time for a laugh. Shelia & Doug raised two lovely children, both accomplished, and hard-working like their Mum & Dad, both established admirable careers, and with their assorted Grandchildren were a source of immeasurable pride to their Gran. Such is the legacy this very incredible, rare, and cherished Lady leaves all of us who had the gift of knowing her, and a set of values (sadly all) too rare these days.

Robin Whyte

Robin Whyte - May 04 at 12:00 PM



“ A beautiful person, Mom to legions of lads.

Hugh McKechnie - May 02 at 10:38 AM



“

Dear Hazel, Brent, Taylor and Parker:

We are so sorry to hear of your great loss. Our heartfelt condolences go out to you all. Many years ago we became fast friends with Shelia as she took her grandchildren to the same school as our son attended. Shelia was a beacon of joy with her big smile. She was so easy to chat with and we enjoyed every one. We were thrilled to see her on TV recently, a clip which they re-played many times. We are grateful that our paths crossed with Shelia's. Our hope is that all the memories help family and friends through these difficult times.

Sincerely, Lesley, Frank and Adam Urban.

Frank - May 02 at 09:35 AM



“

Sheila and family...that was a lovely tribute today. Dan and I feel so lucky to have known your parents through our 'adopted' family...Margie and Bobby. As we watched the tributes today we reminisced about the parties at Neville Park and the laughing that ensued when all those Scots got together...and yes an interpreter would have been helpful. Your dad and Bobby trying to tell a joke as they laughed hysterically made worse...or better with a little 'dram' of Scotch are moments we will never forget. Your Mom and Margie all the while listening like they had never heard that one before. Your Mom was amazing and I think that your family and especially the grandchildren learned from the best role model. Lots of love and take care of each other!!

Jane McCabe - May 01 at 04:40 PM



“

Sheila was very much part of my life on the sports field and an integral member of the Crescent School family over the years.

Loved by all because of her caring attitude and that ever-present smile, both of which healed many injuries whether they be staff or students.

It was always great to see her again on prize day.

Sheila, was a special lady in a life well lived.

My condolences to all the family.

Dick Howard

Dick Howard - May 01 at 12:23 PM



“ Sharing photos from 1993 when myself and Allister Gordon visited Canada and stayed with my Mum’s Super Auntie Sheila. Much love and gratitude for those brilliant times and everlasting memories.



Judith Taylor - May 01 at 09:54 AM



“ Sheila was a very kind & thoughtful person. We'll always remember her generosity especially when she & Hazel hosted a baby shower for our first born child Adam. Our deepest condolences, we will miss her.
XOXO Pans & John

Pansy Henderson - April 30 at 11:43 PM



“ I worked with Sheila, at Crescent School, from 1986. She was always so kind, warm and caring. Sheila greeted you with a smile and always wanted to know how you were doing - this really helped as a young, new teacher to the school. She looked after everyone at the school and was loved by all. A highlight of Prize Day's in recent years was seeing Sheila - a more genuine person it would be hard to imagine. My thoughts are with Sheila's family.
Stuart

Stuart Cumner - April 30 at 10:19 PM



“ I became neighbors of Doug and Sheila 46 years ago and have many great memories of kindness, laughs and stories, some I can share and some I can't....Sheila and I became partners in crime after the passing of our spouses. We got into good trouble together and shared a love of movies and wine. We went to the movies every week for a long period of time and on one occasion we were looking so forward to seeing a movie with Julia Roberts, Natalie Portman and Jude Law. "The Closer" about 15 minutes into the movie I was so embarrassed with the content subject matter and was squirming in my seat and thought I should suggest we leave and Sheila realized how uncomfortable I was and put her hand on my hand and said not to worry I have heard worse.....She was an extraordinary women and friend to me and as she aged she was like a flower that continued to bloom and grow. I am grateful to have had her in my life for as long as I did.



John Keable - April 30 at 07:37 PM



“ Sheila was an integral part of my life as a Lower School teacher at Crescent. She was always there with a kind word, bandaid or a needle and thread for torn trousers!

Sheila embodied the character emphasis of Crescent School and was instrumental in helping develop so many young men of character.

I have many fond memories of Sheila that will sustain my remembrances of her!

Ross MacDonald - April 30 at 07:29 PM



“ Sheila was the embodiment of every Crescent School value. Hers was a huge heart, hers was a calm and compassionate spirit. I remember very fondly her wonderful smile and her warmth: she not only took care of a lot of Crescent lads, but, as a teacher, I always knew I she would open her office to those of us who sometimes needed cheering up, a tissue for our own tears, and a good laugh to send us off feeling much, much better. Prize Days were all the better for her presence. Last time I saw her was with Hazel at Winners! Her sparkling eyes and smile were as beautiful as ever. Condolences to the family.

Aldonna Stremecki - April 30 at 07:00 PM



“ I became Sheila's neighbour on August 7th, 1998 and a friendship grew from that day on. Some of my wonderful memories with Sheila include our walks through Taylor Creek Park, having Saturday morning coffee at Tim Horton's and helping each other out when needed. My children and I were the happy recipients of Sheila's famous shortbread. The smell of shortbread baking will always remind me of Sheila. She will be in my heart forever!

Dawn Comba - April 30 at 05:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Sheila Barber Celebration of Life



HAZEL BARBER - April 30 at 11:03 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Sheila Barber Celebration of Life



HAZEL BARBER - April 30 at 11:01 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Sheila Barber Celebration of Life



HAZEL BARBER - April 30 at 11:00 AM



“ Sheila was loved by everyone at Crescent School. Her warm smile and happy personality helped to make the Crescent Family real.

We all knew how much she loved her family and she shared that love with all of us. We were so fortunate to have her.

Steve Davies - May 01 at 08:19 AM



“ 6 files added to the album Sheila Barber Celebration of Life



HAZEL BARBER - April 30 at 10:58 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Sheila Barber Celebration of Life



HAZEL BARBER - April 30 at 10:55 AM



“ We are saddened by the loss of Mrs. Barber and our deepest sympathies, prayers and condolences go out to all of the Barber/Sawadsky family. Mrs. Barber's infectious laughter and smile, welcoming personality, lovely personaly and of course, her accent made everyone happier to just be around her. The world is a little less bright today.

Miriam - April 29 at 08:05 PM



“ Am so grateful that I became acquainted with Sheila through our family gatherings. She surely added sparkle and warmth as we were with her. Love to all, Hedy



Hedy Sawadsky - April 29 at 07:30 PM



“ Love having my first a boiler maker with Doug and Sheila.
Just a wonderful lady, will be truly missed.

Rick Gubb - April 29 at 05:48 PM



“ My Mum & Dad were life-long friends of Shelia from the days they all grew up in Carnoustie; they went to school together. As I recall, Shelia delivered milk from their Dairy Farm; just outside Carnoustie, in Barry. They reconnected when they moved to Toronto. Shelia worked for the TTC and I can still recall her wine / purple coloured uniform; completed with matching cap no-less. I distinctly remember Shelia and Doug's Wedding. Dougie was frae Aberdeen (up the West Coast of Scotland)...They were always at the infamous parties at 158 Neville Park, and Balsam Avenue before that. Shelia was an absolutely lovely woman (both inside and out), with a unique / hearty laugh, a thoughtful heart, enormously kind & giving, a good story, and a life-long pal to my Mum & Dad; from when they were Bairns frae Carnoustie. My Mum & Dad and Shelia & Doug weathered all the challenges life can throw us through the years; with the infamous 'Scottish Resolve', 'Just got on with it', with determination, a positive attitude, and, no matter how difficult, always time for a laugh. Shelia & Doug raised two lovely children, both accomplished, and hard-working like their Mum & Dad, established admirable careers, and with assorted Grandchildren were a source of immeasurable pride to their Gran. Such is the legacy this very incredible, rare, and cherished Lady leaves all of us who had the gift of knowing her, and a set of values (sadly all) too rare these days.

Robin Whyte

Robin Whyte - May 03 at 10:05 AM



“ Sheila was a wonderful aunt to all of us. She and Doug hosted our wedding reception in 1965, I will always have memories of that special day. Sadly George isn't with us to celebrate Sheila's life. We will never forget all the wonderful parties at your house.

Carole Barber

Carole Barber - May 04 at 11:44 AM