



Mrs. Catherine "Kay" Bell

February 1, 2018

Catherine "Kay" Bell (nee Hall)

Born September 27, 1932, she left this world as she lived her life – full of conviction, dignity and strength – following a sudden and brief battle with cancer, surrounded by the love of her family, on February 1, 2018. She has gone to be reunited with the love of her life and husband of 55 years, Clifford Bell, who predeceased her in 2009, but whose spirit she lovingly kept by her side. Left behind to treasure a wealth of memories are daughters Karen (Gary) and Vikki (Doug), grandchildren Lyndsay (Sandro), Ryan (Tamara), Katee, Cole and Maggie, and great-grandchildren Justina, Carter and Finnian. Central to Kay's life were her dear parents, Gerald and Alexanderina (both predeceased), and her beloved siblings, Geraldine (Stuart) (both predeceased), Olga (Ken) (both predeceased), Gerald (Margaret), Daisy, Doreen (Jack) (both predeceased), and Paddy (predeceased) (Ray); Kay devoted special care to Daisy and Gerald until the end. She is lovingly remembered by sister-in-law Ellen, cousin Charlene (Rod), lifelong friends Sue (John, predeceased, and family) and Tina (Sal, and family), and many, many dear nieces, nephews and their families, whom she cherished beyond measure.

Kay always took such pride in maintaining a truly impeccable home, filled with warmth, beauty and a carefully arranged assortment of treasures that she

collected over a lifetime. She adored putting things on display, and would tut disapprovingly if you failed to take notice of her latest addition or update.

She was a stunning and stylish woman with boundless energy, fierce independence and a sense of play. Her unique eyes were an ever-changing seascape of blue green, full of fire and often mischief, as she loved to shock and provoke others with unexpected comments, followed by a laugh and the twinkle that she also reserved for spats with Cliff.

Whether tending her garden, lending her wisdom and support, or taking up a cause, Kay gave all of herself to everything that she did; she was – and will always remain – a deeply loved and admired spirit, a force all her own.

She loved her country home in Bethany and the sugar maple on its front lawn that she would tap to make the tiniest bit of syrup. She loved garage sale-ing in the summertime, adventuring about with family by her side, hunting for bargains and treasures galore. She loved the annual Easter Egg Roll, a hilarious family tradition that never failed to bring out her competitive streak. She loved playing Cabbie and sharing stories with her grandchildren. She loved lavishing food on others, and her food was a true gift from the heart: from tomato “sameeches”, deviled eggs and potato salad, to Scottish shortbread at Christmas time, to the most amazing cabbage rolls that she would spend hours assembling just so ... Kay's delicious cooking left her family and friends with no doubt as to how deeply they were loved.

Feisty to the end, we will miss her pointed sighs and astounding fortitude. The sound of her genuine laughter will echo in our hearts forever, along with the countless other memories of Kay that we hold so dear. Cherished daughter, wife, Mom, Gram, Nannie, Auntie, sister, cousin and friend, she has brought light to the lives of so many.

A heartfelt thank you to all who showed care and support during this difficult time.

As per Mom's wishes, there will be no funeral service; a private family gathering will be held to celebrate her life in warmer, brighter weather. In lieu of flowers, please share your fondest memories in the online guestbook, or donations to your favourite charity in Mom's name.

~ Thank you for everything, Kay – we love you higher than high, wider than wide, and deeper than the deepest sea. ~

Tribute Wall

RY

“ Over four years have fallen off the calendar since you moved on to your next life Gram, and there still isn't a day that goes by where a memory of you doesn't enter my mind - and when it does, a smile always grows across my face.

It would be an impossible endeavour to try and put into words the impact and lasting affects you have on me. You always showed me love and support, and you never failed to voice your opinion when you thought that I had made a poor choice - which was equally helpful to the words of encouragement you would give me as well. Both of our respective strong personalities would clash from time to time, but always with a mutual respect, and we would ultimately agree to disagree, and our love for each other would prevail.

So many of my childhood memories include you Gram, and I'm always content when I think of all the fun times we shared over the course of our lives together. Among many other things, you helped instil in me strength - the strength to persevere through hard times, and to never let life get the better of you. I still (quite vividly) hear your laugh when I reminisce about so many fun times we all shared as a family. And I miss you at every special occasion, remembering what an irreplaceable addition you always were.

I stop and "visit" you and Pa at your beautiful monument in Scarborough from time to time, and I find myself talking to you both, wishing desperately that you could both still answer me.

I Love you more than ever, every day Gram... I hope there is a peaceful eternity for you with your many angels. Until we meet again Gram.

Lots of love, always.

Ry

Ryan - October 06, 2022 at 07:53 PM

VB

This is beautiful ❤️

Vikki Bell - February 07, 2023 at 07:29 PM

VI

“ *Another year gone by... where does the time go? I still reach for the phone to talk to you. I miss your stories, the family updates. I simply want to hear your laugh, I want your advice.*

Mom, I miss you. Forever in my thoughts.... ❤️

Vikki - February 01, 2020 at 03:16 PM



“ *Posted with love on behalf of Vikki Bell:*

We as people use dates as symbolic reference. Someone decided long ago that 365 days should pass in order to celebrate, mourn or make mention... The last 365 days have proven difficult without you, Mom. So many things have happened, i continue to reach for the phone in anticipation to tell you all about them. The good, the bad, the wonderful and the ugly.

The "kids" (18, 20 and 22 - still kids forever) have accomplished so much. New jobs, apartments and college applications. Huge triumphs and defeats. World news and silly little happenings only you would appreciate. I hate that you aren't here to laugh with, shed some tears, I even miss our disagreements. We've also had a few other loved ones join you... I hope it's beyond wonderful where you are.

This 365 day marker is not a celebration, it's a reminder... never take for granted a single day. Life is busy, don't ever let it get too busy for our loved ones. 365 days, the speed to which they pass... make sure you let everyone know just how much you love them today... and tomorrow... and the day after that... ❤️



Lyndsay Stephenson - February 05, 2019 at 07:23 PM



“ This is one of my favourite family photos: my Gram (in red) and three of her sisters, back in the day... I keep this in the corner of my mirror so that I see it every morning when I get ready for the day, to remind me of the warmth, strength, vivacity and love that these beautiful women brought to their lives and to those around them.

One year ago, my Gram left us, with the dignity and conviction that she personified. So many emotions, memories, lessons are left behind in her wake - a rich web of legacy and love that bonds us all, to her, to each other, still.

I still ask you questions, Gram, and I can still hear your voice answer. Love you so.



Lyndsay Stephenson - February 05, 2019 at 07:18 PM

VB



Vikki Bell - February 06, 2019 at 08:55 PM

LL

“ Sorry to hear about your mother, she was a special to our family a lovely, funny person. We want to send our thoughts and prayers to Kay family.

Ross and Linda Lawrence, her neighbor in Oshawa.

linda lawrence - December 28, 2018 at 06:07 PM

JB

“ My deepest condolences to my dear cousins Karen and Vikki and their wonderful families. I am holding each one of you in my heart as you move through this terribly difficult time.

My Auntie Kay was easily one of the most encouraging, supportive, wise, loving people in my life. There were barriers to our getting together in person on and off over the years, mostly due to my health issues and the miles physically separating us, but these obstacles in no way hindered our connection.

I realized this past week that in the last 15 or so years, our relationship gradually changed. We had always had the bond of family, but this grew to one of friendship, although I continued to call her 'auntie'. She never ever called me anything other than Jayne (pronounced jay-nee), and to this day I prefer this to Jayne (rhymes with lane).

The two of us could talk about absolutely anything and did; our calls were regularly close to two hours in length, in fact she would chide me for calling when I had only a brief time (say, half an hour) to chat. We did not agree on every subject (polar opposites in politics), but that didn't stop us from discussing everything under the sun. To me, this spoke of our mutual love and respect; I cherished that.

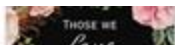
The thing I loved most to share with my Auntie Kay was laughter. Oh, how we laughed together, about memories from long ago, and silly little things from our day-to-day lives. My favourite story was of a fight she and Uncle Cliff had had quite early on in their marriage. Well, Uncle Cliff did something to provoke her ire (although I can't remember what it was!), so she proceeded to throw all his clothes down the stairwell of their apartment. Who should subsequently drop by, and have to dodge clothing littering the stairs? None other than Uncle Ron and Aunt Ellen! The fact that she could laugh heartily about her own escapades spoke volumes for her strength of character.

She and I shared a love of cooking, occasionally swapping recipes. I will never forget our discussion of vegan food, how she was going to try something from my repertoire (my close friend is vegan) but told me she'd only admit to preparing it herself if it turned out that her friend liked it; a classic example of her competitive spirit shining through! My all-time favourite dish was her delicious baked beans (the secret to which being the beans had to be soaked overnight, twice)!

She was deeply understanding, empathetic, and thoughtful. Recently when I told her of my daughter dealing with some anxiety around keeping germs at bay with a newborn at home by dissuading most folks from visiting, she told me for the first time the telling story of my parents stopping in to meet Vikki soon after she had been born. Apparently Mom and Dad had arrived unannounced, and Auntie Kay would not allow them to hold her baby girl; she said to them, there she is, you can see her but don't touch her! Hearing that validated the support I felt for my Lindsay's thinking. Auntie Kay was fabulously strong-willed and unmovable in some ways, and I loved the mama-bear aspect to her nature. She adored her children, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We held the same belief in our beloved dead remaining close to us after death. No one else in my life understood the depth of my grief in losing my brother Randy like my Auntie Kay. On a lighter note, I had to laugh when she described her strong dislike for one of the television shows Uncle Cliff loved which she continued to turn on despite the fact that he had been gone eight years. I suggested maybe turning the volume down a wee bit; she thought that was a great idea, and did! I loved how she effortlessly kept his spirit part of her everyday life. Now she and her beloved Cliff have been reunited.

Auntie Kay, you loved unconditionally, fiercely and generously. I cherish your memory, will never forget you, nor ever stop loving you. May you rest in peace, dear aunt.





Jayne Bell - February 14, 2018 at 07:45 PM



Oh Jayne, what a beautiful tribute - thank you for sharing some of your stories and really warming our hearts. XO

Lyndsay Stephenson - February 15, 2018 at 10:40 PM

RL

“ *Being in Auntie Kay’s presence was a joy, accompanied by numerous bouts of laughter, good-natured ribbing, and many walks down memory lane.*

We had an especially wonderful dinner at Auntie Kay’s, with our adored cousin, Karen. We saw all the little treasures and plentiful pictures and felt the pure love, pride, and devotion she maintained for all her family. At a beautifully set table, we were treated to her famous cabbage rolls!

We imagine how happy Auntie Kay and Uncle Cliff are to be reunited.

We thank you for the beautifully worded and elegantly colourful tribute to Auntie Kay. And, for the amazing photos.

We send our heartfelt sympathy and all our love to her wonderful family and friends.

Roslynn (Rosie) and Jo-Ann

Rosie Levine - February 11, 2018 at 05:09 PM



“ Gram was always my dear friend, an ever-present source of warmth, support and encouragement in my life. She was the coolest grandma that I could imagine, with style, strength, spirit and grace. I was always so proud of her - and always will be. As the matriarch of our family, she has been an influential role model at the core of who I have become - a gift that I will always carry in my heart. As I think of all the many, many memories shared with Gram, here are a few that bring me a smile in remembering now:

I remember our trip to "Qweebec", the adventures we had, enjoying each other's company on the train, throughout the city, in our lovely boutique hotel. Gram's energy outlasted mine – always outlasted any of us!

I remember her taking me shopping in the 80s around the time that Cabbage Patch kids were such a craze ... and we picked out a Transformer instead. Gram was always just so cool.

I think of her favourite home in Bethany – the fireflies late at night across the road from her front porch, our walks through the quiet parks and fields, swimming lessons in the summertime, Saturday morning cartoons, and the general store where Ryan and I would spend the pennies Gram gave us on a treasure trove of gummy bears and candy... Spending time at Pa's and Gram's was something that I truly cherished - I was always so excited to see my Gram!

I think of the times that Gram did my hair up so beautifully for special occasions ... and that one time (thank goodness only once!) where she permed my short hair, and I wound up as a kid with an afro...

I think of how she liked to shock people by dropping a swear word every now and then, or proposing something out of left field and maybe slightly off beat, just to get a rise out of you so that she could chuckle at the look on your face...

I remember Gram's delicious food, and how special she always made me feel in serving up her love on a plate.

I think of the countless conversations and phone calls and visits over the years where Gram and I shared our thoughts, our problems, our happiness and our tears, enjoying the laughter, trust and love that come with the special closeness that we always shared.

And I remember one phone call in particular, just this past year, as I prepared to walk down the aisle to marry Sandro in Cuba... She was home in Toronto, following along with my planned agenda for the day, and the first thing she said to me with her typical spunk was "you're late!".

How precious a gift it was to have her and her love always with me - near or far.

Gram, your spirit will always be near. I love you so. Thank you for everything.

Lyndsay Stephenson - February 11, 2018 at 04:16 PM

JB

Lovely memories, beautiful tribute, Lyndsay. ❤️📧!

Jayne Bell - February 14, 2018 at 11:07 PM

VB

❤️❤️💋

Vikki Bell - February 15, 2018 at 10:03 AM

RW

“ *The world has lost a great lady. There are so many memories, I don't think I could pick just one. Auntie Kay was the one who gave me my nick name of Robbie and she was the only one who could call me by that name. She wouldn't ask us if we had to go to the washroom before we left, on whe asked us if we had to go tinkles!! Not embarrassing at all! My favorite place they lived had to be in Westhill, as then we got to see them more often, as Cardiff and Bethany were too far away. Christmas time was probably the best. Vikki and I were little devils and our Mothers soon figured us out. Aunt Kay had a love for so much and instilled this love in all of us. My thoughts and prayers are with you Karen and Vikki. Aunt Kay you are with your beloved Cliff now. Enjoy your eternity together!*

Robin Wray - February 08, 2018 at 07:06 PM

VB

This is beautiful, thanks so much!!!

Vikki Bell - February 09, 2018 at 10:38 PM

KS

“ *The family would like to extend our warmest thanks to each of you who have posted your thoughts and memories. We would like each one of you to know how much we appreciate all the wonderful stories, memories and your kindness in sharing them.*

I am certain that they mean the world to Kay, as they do for the rest of her family.

Please do not hesitate to share more of your stories and special memories.

We will be adding more photos and videos every day.

*With our love, warmest gratitude and thoughts,
The family of Kay Bell*

Karen Stephenson - February 08, 2018 at 02:52 PM

DT

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Douglas Thomson - February 08, 2018 at 11:23 AM



What a special day...

Lyndsay Stephenson - February 12, 2018 at 12:24 AM

DT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Douglas Thomson - February 07, 2018 at 08:42 PM

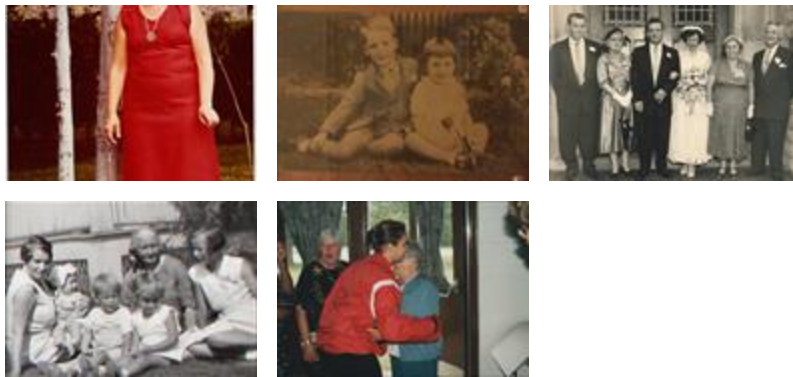
KS

What a fantastic, memorable day this was. Thank you, Doug!

Karen Stephenson - February 08, 2018 at 11:08 AM

KS

“ 54 files added to the album Mom's Photos



Karen Stephenson - February 07, 2018 at 01:49 PM

SP

Hi this shorline Kay is a great friend of all shepherd village workers she is a great friend loving women we all miss her god bless her surely miss my heart goes to the families may god bless u all love shorline

Shorline philip - February 07, 2018 at 05:13 PM

KS

“ 1 file added to the album Mom's Photos



Karen Stephenson - February 06, 2018 at 09:18 PM

DT

“ There are no words to describe the tremendous pain of losing such an amazing, incredible, funny, caring, warm and beautiful woman. I am lucky to have many memories to cherish.

That warm summer day driving in the 1978 Cadillac, stopping at many garage sales and flea markets. Watching her eyes light up when she would receive that perfect gift...Mom wanted a Mr Christmas musical carousel just like Karen's. Vikki and I were on a mission. After weeks of searching everywhere to no avail I finally found one. How her eyes lit up when we brought it to her. She went on for days about that gift. I loved doting on her at the family gatherings and our talks on the drive home afterwards. These are memories I will cherish forever. Mom was always so happy and filled with joy just to see you or hear your voice.

I love you and will miss you every day Mom

Doug

Douglas Thomson - February 06, 2018 at 05:21 PM

VB



Vikki Bell - February 09, 2018 at 10:39 PM

JM

“ My name is Joanne Monteiro. I had the honor of being Daisy's private nurse for over 20 years. Through that experience, I was honor again to meet Kay and then having one of the most wonderful friends I could have ever known. Kay treated me and loved me like I was one of her own. No matter what I was going through good or bad, she would listen with a heart of a mother. And then give me her advice, or her strong words of wisdom of how I should handle the problem. She knew me I think better then anyone I know, and loved me enough to always have the answers I needed. I cannot tell of how many times over all these years I sought her loving heart for me. No one could make me feel as loved, as worthy, as precious as Kay Bell did. No matter how down I was, or how low I felt, she always spoke words of life, love, hope to my heart. I always called her my best supporter. I will miss you Kay Bell with all my heart. Thank you for your unending love for me. Thank you for all you gave my life. My life was better for having you in it. Your love for me and your strong words of encouragement I will miss always..Thinking of you and Cliff being reunited makes my heart fill with joy!... RIP my precious friend!!!



Joanne Monteiro - February 06, 2018 at 03:48 PM

KS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karen Stephenson - February 06, 2018 at 12:40 PM

VI

Just BEAUTIFUL!!! ❤️❤️❤️

Vikki - February 06, 2018 at 05:27 PM

ML

Kay what a wonderful lady you was most of the personal support workers will miss you dearly. I miss seeing your smile and always saying how much you miss me on the floor your legacy of sharing your thoughts and the beautiful way you dress. I will remember the remarkable women you were, take your rest Kay and god rest your soul in peace

Monica L.

Monica Lowe - February 07, 2018 at 06:56 PM

JG

“ I have so many memories of Kay being the father of 3 of her grandchildren. There's so many where would I start?
The first Christmas I spent with the family and Kay gave me a mop. I've always thought she just ran to the closest and grabbed the first thing she saw.
I will say the next year she went to the other extreme and gave me a leather jacket I still wear today.

The wedding where she said so many nice things about us.
The first time we told her we were pregnant or the two times after that.
I do also recall being told I had to go see Dr no more kids.
One of my fondest memories of Kay was watching her eyes light up when she saw the wishing well I had built for her back yard.

Admittedly it was a challenge to build but I wouldn't stop till I had it perfect for her.

Complete with cedar shingles and wooden bucket.

Yes I took care in every detail. Well except how to get it out of the basement and out the door.

After taking it apart and reassembled in her yard her face said I got it perfect.

She went on and on about that wishing well for years.

I know Kay was devastated when she had to leave it when moving to the apartment.

What can I say Kay will remain an amazing woman.

I was privileged to have seen Kay near the end where she greeted me with a smile and a hug.

She will be remembered so fondly by myself and I'm proud to have been her son in-law and part of her life all these years.

I will always love you Kay.

Say hi to Cliff for me and enjoy your eternity together.

Jeff

Jeff Grant - February 06, 2018 at 10:58 AM

VB

Thank you!!

Vikki Bell - February 09, 2018 at 10:40 PM

KS

“ 20 files added to the album *Mom's Photos*



Karen Stephenson - February 06, 2018 at 09:03 AM

VI



Vikki - February 06, 2018 at 09:48 PM

VI

What incredible choices... I love all of these!!!!

Vikki - February 06, 2018 at 10:13 PM

KS

“ 1 file added to the album Mom's Photos



Karen Stephenson - February 06, 2018 at 08:53 AM

VI

I love this photo!!! So much fun!!!

Vikki - February 06, 2018 at 10:27 AM

KT

“ Words seem so feeble,
in moments like these.
Life is so precious
and death such a thief.
The depth of your pain
I cannot comprehend,
But I'll stand alongside you
in the darkest, my friend.
Love is a bond
that death cannot part.
Gone from your arms
but still held in your heart.
(Poem by John Mark Green)



*I did not have the pleasure of knowing Kay however I am close to her daughter Vikki.
My heartfelt sympathy goes out to every member of this family. I am so sorry for your loss.*

Kathy Thomson - February 05, 2018 at 11:13 PM

AN

“ *This wonderful obituary says it all. She was a very special person. She has been an integral part of my life since I was a young child and became important to Rob once he met her 30 years ago. We will miss her terribly but I will especially miss our regular "chats". She always had important words of wisdom to share. Ann and Rob Naylor*

Ann Naylor - February 05, 2018 at 08:49 PM



Florene
Nugent

“ *My Auntie Kay..my favorite Auntie. She was warm kind and the most loving person. Always had kind words for and you didnt have to be down in the dumps to receive those kinds words. She always made you feel extra special and important. She was my one and only auntie that always called me Florie. You will never be forgotten but you will always be missed. R.I.P Auntie*

Florene Nugent - February 05, 2018 at 08:11 PM