



Cathy Pickett

February 12, 2023

CATHY PICKETT 1940-2023

Mary Catharine Pickett, deeply loved sister, aunt, and friend, died peacefully at Bridgepoint Hospital on February 12, 2023. Born on September 10, 1940, she was the much anticipated first child of Mina and Emerson Pickett. Her parents bought a house in Leaside when that was the far distant suburbs of Toronto. She attended Rolph Road School, Leaside High School and the University of Toronto, where she studied science - a rare choice for a girl in the early 1960s. She received her Bachelor of Science and Master's in Biology, as well as a number of medals and awards. She was especially interested in the study of human biology and medical research. Her first job was with Atomic Energy Canada, but she quickly returned to Toronto. She taught Biology for 40 years at the University of Toronto's Scarborough College, where she made life-long friends

She loved to travel - China, Japan, Africa, Greece, Morocco, the Queen Charlotte Islands, the USSR, Germany, France, the Galapagos Islands, Iceland and Norway were among her favourite destinations. London, with its theatres and museums, drew her back to the UK year after year. At home in Toronto, she was a volunteer at the AGO, a passionate supporter of the Blue Jays, an eager film fan at TIFF, a vegetable gardener, a cross country skier, a member of several craft guilds, a swimmer, and a member of the Orchid

Society. She loved her various cats and her colourful apartment with its plant-filled terrace. She lived her life to the full for 80 years, and was only stopped by ovarian cancer. Her large circle of friends and her family - Elizabeth and William Severin, Douglas and Ellen Pickett, Jessica Severin, Matthew Severin and Danielle Engels - will miss her enormously.

With many thanks to the kind and dedicated staff at Princess Margaret Hospital, Bridgepoint Hospital and Bridgepoint Family Health team. Respecting Cath's wishes, there will not be a funeral service or visitation, and details will follow of a farewell party. In lieu of flowers, we encourage you to honour her generosity and deep compassion by making a donation to the Canadian Red Cross, the Toronto Humane Society, or Pathways to Education.

Tribute Wall

AP

“ *This was such sad news. Cathy was the heart and soul of the Faculty Lounge community. Whether organizing magazine subscriptions or ensuring coffee supplies or setting up the Friday Afternoon social gatherings in front of the Faculty Lounge Fireplace, Cathy was always a generous, good-humoured, and warmly caring presence who enriched the lives of all who knew her.*

Andrew Patenall

Andrew Patenall - March 16, 2023 at 09:21 AM

KH

“ *4 files added to the tribute wall*



Karen Henderson - March 10, 2023 at 10:16 AM

“Cathy and I met when she joined the faculty at Scarborough College as a Biology Instructor in 1969 and I was a Chemistry Instructor there. We were very close friends for almost 54 years, sharing our common passions. To be honest, when I first started to write about my memories, there were no words without tears. Then the flood of words that came was far too large to be contained here. It came tumbling - much like how we were together, often finishing each other's sentences and talking over each other.

So I will share a small piece of my many memories.

I can't think of Cath, without thinking Christmas- her favourite time of the year. We went to as many Carol Sings as we could together, never missing the ones at the downtown Eaton's stores! We exchanged presents that were purchased with love all year - always a collection of small gifts that had caught our eye - often while travelling - as being a perfect match and many of which I still have and use. Every year we crafted tree ornaments - Cathy's were much more creative and more beautifully sewn - and they fill my tree to this day.

We had many theatre and ballet subscriptions together and Cathy introduced me to her favourites of London's theatres and museums on three very special trips we took together.

We drove every year to visit our friend Anna in her many homes - Champaign, Chicago and Frederick. These trips were always filled with museum visits - especially the Art Institute in Chicago with Cathy's favourite Impressionist paintings - and even once to the Smithsonian.

We weren't great athletes, but we played pick-up softball at the college, Christmas volleyball games, cross country skiing (Cathy was much better!), weekly squash games for many years and our first love, swimming, whenever and wherever we could! Once we even joined a Master's Swimming competitive class for a year! And until recently, attended weekly aquafit classes with another group of friends.

It may be obvious to those of you who know us both that we shared a love of food! My thoughts are filled with memories of planning and shopping for - and eating at! - parties! We also found many reasons

*to celebrate in restaurants with our mutual friends - birthdays, promotions, retirements, or just because it was Tuesday!
We shared a love of baseball and a fierce attachment to the Blue Jays. We belonged to the fan club and attended many “players” lunches, where we got to eat alongside two of our heroes every month during the season. We attended more than twenty home games per season, always arriving in time to collect the toques and scarves, t-shirts, caps and home run hankies that were given out!
And, until about ten years ago, we never missed an opening day game together in Toronto - just the two of us. We shouted ourselves hoarse, just like we did at the World Series in 1993 in the back row of the fifth deck of Sky Dome!
I visited Cathy at Bridgepoint the day before she made her decision to slip away. I hugged her hard when I left, but I couldn't say goodbye. I said, as usual, “I'll call you tomorrow.”
But there were no tomorrows for us.
I miss you my friend.*

Karen Henderson - March 10, 2023 at 09:48 AM

KH

*Just learned the sad news. For very many years Cathy was the life and soul of Scarborough College...from a faculty perspective. She also ran (extremely well!) our Gardening Club which is about to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. Forever remembered.
Karen, please send me an email.*

Ken Howard - March 13, 2023 at 05:43 PM

KH

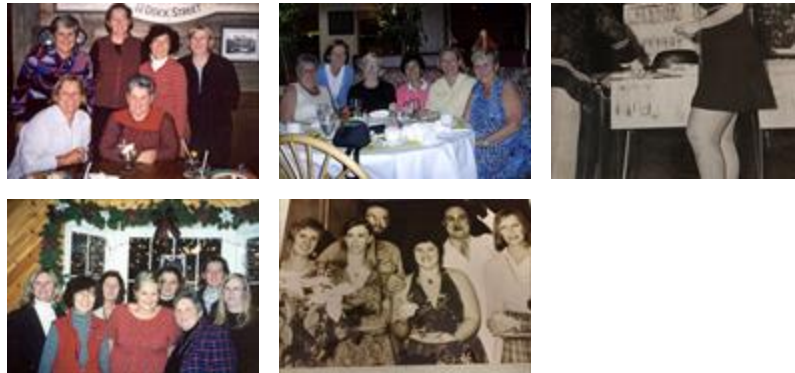
“ Around 1972, I met Cathy when the powers that be at Scarborough College decreed that I be a TA in Biology 101. I can understand Cathy's initial hesitation/horror - a thick, incomprehensible Scottish accent - not that that has changed much - unleashed on unsuspecting 18 year olds. We survived the shock and became friends. We hammered each other at squash, went to the theatre in both Toronto and Stratford and enjoyed those unintentionally hilarious answers to foetal pig questions.

After I retired we kept up our friendship with my visits to Toronto - freebie tickets to Soulpepper and restaurants in the Distillery district. The week before her death, we had a bedside session of 'remember when' and I will always remember that - Cathy enjoying a good laugh and living to the last. Go in peace, my friend.

Kate Hadden - March 06, 2023 at 02:25 PM

PW

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Pat Woodcock - March 06, 2023 at 01:32 PM

EA

“ A lovely memorial for Cath, reflecting her love of travel, her strengths and resolve, and a life so very well-lived. We have fond memories of apple cidering days with your family and friends and as always, solving the problems of the world over farmhouse lunches at Alf's. She will always be a part of reliving delightful times in our lives and friendships. With love Jim & Erika Alexander

Erika Alexander - March 05, 2023 at 02:00 PM

MD

“ Cathy and I worked together at Scarborough College, Cathy in biology and I in math and computer science. I always enjoyed going for coffee in the Faculty Lounge when Cathy was there. She had a wicked sense of humour and was always sharing ideas about what was going on in Toronto. In retirement we both attended the Toronto International Film Festival, often to the same movies, and it was great to share likes, loves, and hates. She will be missed. Mary Doucette

Mary Doucette - March 05, 2023 at 11:39 AM