



Dorothy Hope Kerr (nee Wigmore)

December 25, 2020

Dorothy Hope Kerr
(nee Wigmore)
February 12 1922
December 25 2020

After a long and happy life, Dorothy passed away at the age of 98 on Christmas Day- one of her favourite days of the year.

Dorothy was predeceased by her loving husband Charles Arthur (Art) and her seven siblings Versey (and Margaret) Wigmore, Doug (and Dorothy) Wigmore, Dick (and Betty) Wigmore, Ruth (and Elliot) Hudson, Shirley (and Gord) Halladay, Bill (and Shirley) Wigmore and Bob Wigmore. She is survived by her two children Ted (Janet Karry) Kerr and Janet (Randy Hall) Kerr-Hall, and her three grandchildren, Matthew (Brianna), Jonathan (Kiersten), and Megan (Michael) Hall, along with her sister-in-laws June Wigmore, Patsy, Dot, and Mabel Kerr and her many Wigmore and Kerr nieces and nephews.

Throughout her life, Dorothy was known by many names. She had the nickname of Rusty for her red hair as a child, Dorrie to the Wigmore clan, Art's Dot to the Kerr family, and of course Dorothy. Possibly her favourite names were sister, aunt, mom and grandma. She was a

devoted mother and grandmother, never hesitating to play “camping” in the basement or sliding down the hill in the backyard in a cardboard box during a snow day with the grandkids. An amazing woman, she had a real zest for life, playing tennis at her beloved Kew Gardens Tennis Club several times a week until she was 90, and bridge into her mid 90s.

She also spent many happy hours on the badminton court and camping throughout Canada well into her 80’s. She used to downhill ski and was an early adopter of x-country skiing when it first became popular in Canada. Many pleasurable hours were spent in her garden on Kenilworth Ave. where she spent over 60 happy years.

Dorothy grew up on Leslie Street in Toronto. Despite being brought up in poverty during the Depression, her family was loving and resilient. The Wigmore clan had a large garden and raised chickens to help feed their many mouths. They helped supplement their income by having paper routes throughout East Toronto. St. Clements Anglican Church was the touchstone for their religious and social life. When recently asked her secret for a long, healthy and happy life when getting tested for Covid-19 (fortunately negative), she said, “You should be content with what you have.”

After suffering a stroke at 90, she moved back to Leslie St. at Avondale Retirement home where she spent the last 8 years. Although it was difficult for her to give up her home, she was always pragmatic, saying that there were many people who were worse off than she was. Many thanks to the staff at Avondale Retirement Residence who provided a bright, friendly and supportive home, to the staff at Michael Garron Hospital for their excellent medical care and special thanks to the Michael Garron “Zoom” team that allowed the family daily virtual visits with Dorothy when in-person visits were not allowed.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a celebration of life will not be held at this time. Tributes to Dorothy may be posted online at www.aftercare.org. In lieu of flowers and donations, please take the time to connect with a senior in your life. It can be lonely growing old at the best of times. This is especially true during this pandemic.

It is a Wigmore family tradition to play Mrs. Cecil Frances Alexander's 1848 Anglican hymn "All Things Bright and Beautiful" at the end of all funerals and celebrations of life. Dorothy's beautiful smile and generous spirit will not be forgotten.

"All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
'The Lord God made them all."

Tribute Wall

HG

“ Dorothy and my mother Bobby (d. 2017) were good friends and table mates at Avondale for many years. I was saddened to see Dorothy's smiling face on the obit page. She certainly enriched Mum's life and provided lots of down to earth advice, and I will always appreciate their friendship. I also remember Dorothy from Kew Gardens Tennis Club--what an inspiration!

I offer my condolences to her family--she will certainly be missed.

I have added a photo of Dorothy and Mum at one of Avondale's Christmas parties.



Holly Gnaedinger - January 03, 2021 at 05:23 PM

JA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Janet - January 03, 2021 at 12:52 PM

JA

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Janet - January 03, 2021 at 12:37 PM

JA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Janet - January 03, 2021 at 12:27 PM

JH

“ *I met Dorothy working at Canada Life in 1942. We had remained friends ever since. Dorothy's upbeat attitude and her ability to always see the bright side of life was something I admired about Dorothy. Lots of fond memories of things like catering her wedding with Dorothy Shields and the many get togethers with girls (Marion, Alice and myself). I will miss our phone conversations that we had regularly while she was living at the Avondale Residence. My condolences to Janet , Ted and their families.*

Jean Hill - January 03, 2021 at 10:50 AM

JH

“ I met Dorothy at the Canada Life in 1942. We worked together there for a few years and remained friends ever since. Dorothy's upbeat nature and her ability to always look on the bright side of life was always something I enjoyed about her. Lots of fond memories of things like catering her wedding with Dorothy Dunkley, and many get togethers with the girls (Marion, Alice, and myself) over the decades. I will miss our telephone conversations very much that we had while she living at the Avondale Residence. My condolences to Janet and Ted and families. Jean Hill

Jean Hill - January 03, 2021 at 10:31 AM

JW

“ I was very saddened to hear of the recent passing of Dorrie. She was a lifelong friend to my mother, Adrienne Walker (nee Sandell) who passed away last year. They met in high school. Soon after they became part of a bridge club that would meet twice a month, carrying this tradition on into their late seventies when their numbers began to dwindle. It was always a joy growing up when the bridge club came to visit and Dorrie stood out as great fun with her laughter and enthusiastic conversation. My mother kept up her connection with Dorrie through phone calls when she moved to Ottawa to live with my sister. I often facilitated those calls when my mother's vision and hearing became too hard for her to do it alone. I admired their long shared history and the joy they took in recounting stories. Dorrie was a lovely woman and she will be remembered fondly by myself. My condolences go out to her family and loved ones.

Janice Walker

Janice Walker - January 03, 2021 at 10:30 AM

MP

“ Auntie Dot had such a beautiful smile and was always quick to laugh. I enjoyed her bright and inquisitive nature. As such, she always showed a genuine interest in those around her. My deepest condolences to her family. I’m so sorry for your loss.

Melinda Pitney - January 03, 2021 at 10:04 AM

CH

“ Dorothy was definately a bright light in my stay at Avondale. For weeks we had lunches and dinners together, with lots of laughs and memories. She was a “nurturing soul” and took me under her wing....taught me how to use a walker(after my knee surgery) and showed me the ropes at Avondale. Dorothy spoke often of her children and grandchildren. She also loved having dinners with my daughters, Meghan and Nathalie. We had a few parking lot visits during Covid but many phone calls over the past months. I will miss her terribly but i know her spirit remains in her wonderful family. I will never forget the tour of her photos in her room and the many cottage stories. It was obvious she had a wonderful life full of love and family.

Catherine Hull - January 02, 2021 at 07:19 PM

MK

“ So very sad that Dot has finally left us. I have such fond memories of my aunts and uncles in Canada and she and Uncle Art were always so welcoming and fun to be with. My thoughts are with Janet and Ted and their families. The Kerr clan is the poorer for Dot's loss.

Mary Kerr - January 02, 2021 at 03:33 PM

CM

“ To Dorothy's family, my heartfelt condolences to you all. Dorothy and my mother Marion were housemates at the Avondale for several years and I recall them getting on greatly. Mother really liked Dorothy and considered her a very special soul.
Cheryl Mahyr

Cheryl Mahyr - January 02, 2021 at 07:32 AM

CW

*Dear Janet and Ted and families.
What a beautiful tribute to the life of your mother.
You were lucky to have here for such a long time.
She left an indelible mark on my sister and I, as we spent every Christmas Eve of our childhood with your family.
Your mother was so kind and gracious to both of us
I am so grateful for your parents long and true friendship with my parents .
Her life is truly inspiring, and I will miss her .
I know she will Rest In Peace, and she has definitely left this world a much better place for her being in it.*

candace woolley - January 02, 2021 at 08:29 PM

JA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Janet - December 30, 2020 at 09:51 PM

JA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Janet - December 30, 2020 at 09:49 PM

JA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Janet - December 30, 2020 at 09:42 PM

JA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Janet - December 30, 2020 at 09:41 PM

MK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marian Kitchen - December 29, 2020 at 08:08 PM

MK

Aunt Dot Kerr, May 10, 2019, 97 years old

Marian Kitchen - December 31, 2020 at 11:00 AM

NH

Auntie Dot and Uncle Art showed how to live a full, balanced and loving life but when I retired, Auntie Dot was a wonderful example of how to age beautifully. She will be missed. My condolences to Ted, Janet and their families.

Nancy Hudon

Nancy Hudon - January 04, 2021 at 11:32 AM

JC

Dear Janet

I am not sure if you will read this being a month since this has been posted. I am sorry to hear about the passing of your Mom. I often thought about our times on Kenilworth. I remember your Dad coming home with his suit on. It looked as sharp as the time he put it on at the beginning of his day. Your Mom always greeted me at the door with her infamous smile. Many hours were spent in your basement playing house or school. How many crab apples we ate while sitting up in your tree. The best time, was the hike we did when your Mom and Dad asked if I could go with you. It was sunny, beautiful, crisp and the air was filled with all the scents nature provided. I am so glad you had a long life with your Mom. Many memories that will help you fill her void. You have her smile. From your neighborhood friend.
Judy Kay(Cunningham)

Judy Cunningham - February 02, 2021 at 11:39 AM