



Jean Idella Bickford (previously Bastien, nee Walford)

August 7, 2024

Jean Idella Bickford (previously Bastien, née Walford) of Etobicoke, Ontario, passed away peacefully in Toronto, Ontario, on August 7, 2024, at the age of 92.

Jean was born on June 12, 1932 to Annie (née Hartwick) and George Walford in Walford Station, a small village southwest of Sudbury, Ontario named after her grandfather.

Jean always had stories of her childhood growing up with her 11 brothers and sisters (Albert, Lillian, Rita, Elva, Laura, Ferne, Jessie, Clinton, Maurice, Murray, Shirley) (all predeceased), first on the family farm in Walford Station and later in Sudbury.

Jean went to school in Sudbury after the farm was sold. She finished high school there and then went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in languages at the University of Toronto in 1953.

While at the University of Toronto, Jean met her first husband, Archibald Bastien (predeceased). They went on to have six children, Dorothy (John), Ruth (Sid), Evelyn (Neil), Ken, Alan, and Cathi (Wayne).

Jean was a wonderful and supportive mother. She shared her love of reading,

language, education and music with her children. She was very generous with her time, always volunteering for community organizations, especially those where her children were involved. Jean brought her family together by hosting family dinners with games of Scrabble or Cribbage and her famous pineapple dessert.

Jean worked as a bookkeeper for many years with a brief interlude teaching Italian at a Toronto high school. She loved accounting so much that she upgraded her education and achieved her CGA/CPA designation in 1981, then kept on working until she finally retired at the age of 75.

Jean's second marriage was to Wesley Bickford (predeceased) in 1989, which added three stepdaughters to her family, Debbie (Mike), Diane (Dave) and Donna (Dan). This started a new adventure with Wes, following the CFL and becoming a Toronto Argonauts fan. Jean and Wes loved travelling. They honeymooned in Singapore and Thailand, fell in love with Hawaii, and took many other trips with family and friends.

Jean is survived by all of her children (named above); grandchildren, Hilary (Adam), Stephen (Nicole), Kai, Dylan (Alex), Rachel (Phillip), Lila and Liam; cousin, Margaret (Austin); many Bickford/Bastien/Walford great grandchildren, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews; and many amazing friends.

Jean considered her long time best friend, Gwen Giraudy (predeceased), as part of her family too and is survived by Gwen's daughter, Cheryl (Ken), and Gwen's granddaughter, Amelia Rose.

The family would like to thank the wonderful staff at True Davidson Acres Long-Term Care Home, who have cared for Jean for the past two years.

Please remember Jean and celebrate her life in your own way, as there will be no funeral service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Alzheimer Society of Ontario (<https://alzheimer.ca/on/en>).

Tribute Wall

R(

“ *Ruth (daughter), Valentine's 2024*



Ruth (daughter) - February 21 at 07:41 PM

JH

“ *Ive just come upon this. I think of Jean often, and remember her fondly as a genuine person, showing interest in whatever it was you had to share. My condolences to the family.*

Jennifer Hope - June 30, 2025 at 03:45 PM

R2

“ *Mom, your spirit is always with me.
You are forever alive in my heart.
Missing you,
Ruth June 12, 2025*

Ruth (daughter) June 12, 2025 - June 12, 2025 at 07:26 AM



“ Jean was a special lady in my mother's and my life. I'm forever grateful that my mom had good people in her life and that those people didn't forget her. I'm grateful to have those people out there and be reminded of that. I hope Jean is smiling in heaven with Wes and Nancy. Thank you forever in my thoughts and prayers

Alana (photo from August 2012 at my 18th birthday



Alana Marie - September 30, 2024 at 09:19 PM

R2

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ruth (daughter), Valentine's 2024 - August 21, 2024 at 09:06 PM

KS

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Ken Bastien (Jean oldest son.) - August 21, 2024 at 12:18 PM



“ Jean was my mentor for many years but over time, she became my confidant, one of my best friends and my adopted mother. I grew up with a very aggressive, abusive mother but Jean took me under her wing and gently taught me how to live my life with confidence and gratitude. Opposed to the mannerisms of my mother, Jean gently guided me and never made me feel judged or criticised. She always had a quiet confidence about her; she never needed to be stern or scolding when she was nudging me in the right direction.

I remember one day when we were sitting in a coffee shop where I was telling her about my childhood, all the things my mother did and how difficult and scary it was to live with her. Jean listened for a long time, took a sip of her tea, leaned forward in her chair and said, " I know you think you are a shitty daughter, but from where I stand, your mother tried to make you into the daughter she wanted. A mother's responsibility is to figure out the strenghts her children have and push them in that direction. As far as I'm concerned, you were not a bad daughter, you had a bad mother." Having coffee with Jean that day changed my life. A huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders; I no longer felt responsible for my mother's happiness with me. I have done a lot of therapy work, but nothing had the same impact as this moment I shared with Jean.

I have missed her for all the years she has not been well. I miss her sense of humour, the laughter we shared, her gentle influence, her stories, the intimate details we shared about our lives. Jean is one of a kind.

Having had Jean as part of my life, changed the trajectory of my life. I think about her often and cherish the wisdom she imparted and the influence she had on how I behave in my family today. I was so blessed to have the time she spent with me.

Jean's spirit left before her body....she has been free for many years. I'm glad she is now completely free.

I don't think I ever told Jean how much I appreciate and love her. I hope she knows.

We always ended our conversations with Jean saying "Bye for now"....Bye for now my friend!

Judith Wong



JudithWong WilliamLee - August 20, 2024 at 04:55 PM

JR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Jean in Sep 2023, from daughter Ruth - August 15, 2024 at 06:26 PM

PD

“ *I met Jean about 10 years ago. I loved her stories of her time on the farm with her siblings as well as her time with her children. She always had great advise and examples. I have missed her and will miss her even more now.*

Patty D - August 15, 2024 at 12:54 PM