



Karen Lynne Henderson

February 9, 2025

With broken hearts and profound sadness, we share the passing of Karen Lynne Henderson on February 9th, 2025. She passed away peacefully in her sleep at Michael Garron Hospital.

Karen will be greatly missed by her wife Beverley McAlpine, her siblings Sandra Jean and Hal Tilley, and Paul and Heather Henderson. She will also be greatly missed by all her nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews including Paul Cross and wife Lisa-May Taylor, Brenda Parker, David Cross and Stacey, and Janis Dunning and Tom, and Beth Ann, Amy, Shaughnessy, Brittany and Keeford. She is also missed by several great-great nieces and nephews.

Karen was born on February 7th, 1948 in Galt, Ontario to the late Allan George Henderson and Jean Montgomery Flockhart.

Karen was a teacher at the YWCA for many years and made remarkable contributions in equality for women and gay rights. She studied at Victoria College at the University of Toronto and fondly recalled her connections there in later years.

In her last years she enjoyed snuggling with her cat Kara Boo who deeply misses her, getting lost in books and her gardens in the backyard.

Karen is gone but her memory will live on in our hearts, she will be deeply missed but we take comfort in knowing she is reunited with her beloved parents.

Rest in Peace Karen. Your love and legacy will never be forgotten.

In Lieu of flowers, donations can be made to
Toronto Symphony Orchestra or Charity of your choice.
A celebration of life will be held later this year.

Tribute Wall

BB

“ *Karen, you are gone too soon.*

May her memory be a blessing .

Barb Berger

Barbara Berger - June 12, 2025 at 03:20 PM

CO

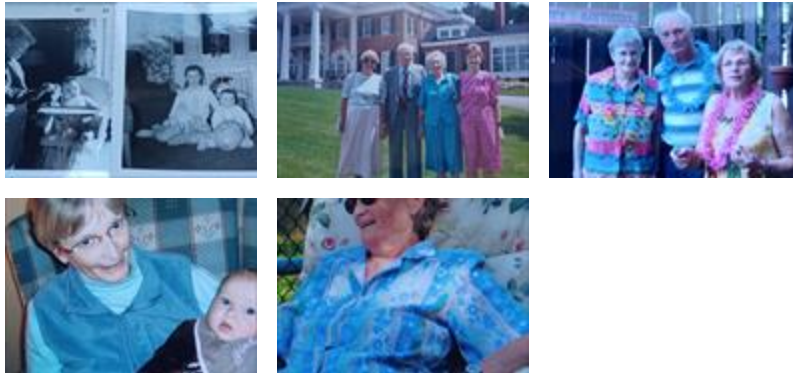
“ *Pleae join us to celebrate Karen. May 31st at the Metropolitan Community Church at 1pm. 115 Simpson Ave Toronto, ON*



Codi - April 22, 2025 at 09:02 PM

ST

“ I remember, so clearly, the day Karen-Lynne was born. It was a Saturday, about dinner time, that dad phoned from the hospital to say I had a baby sister, and my dreams had come true! Karen-Lynne became an auntie at the young age of 9 when my first son, Paul was born. She was very helpful to me when he was young, therefore, it was so fitting and a proud time for me, that he was such a presence, help and comfort to her in her final weeks of her life... Karen-Lynne was a great "babysitter" for Paul, Brenda, David, and Janis. She was always interested in what my kids, grandchildren and great grandchildren were doing, especially academically, and sports was a good second. These photos show our loving parents and siblings living the "high life" at Langdon Hall. In this picture, she was holding 1 of her great, great nieces, Blake-lynn. I love the one of her relaxing with a smug look, after delivering a wonderful "Toast and Roast" to me at my 80th. Rest easy Karen-Lynne. Love, Sandra Jean. The memories will remain❤️



Sandy Tilley - March 12, 2025 at 03:55 PM

AL

“ I have many fond memories of my aunt Karen-Lynne. All though she lived out of town I remember her at holidays and special gatherings family events things like that.

When my mom passed away she wrote me a letter of condolences but it wasn't just any letter she described how kind and accepting my mom was. In my moment of despair this is exactly what I needed. My aunt Karen-Lynne in her kind heart and infinite wisdom knew that. I'm forever grateful to her and cherish the words in that letter.

Rest in peace 🕯 Aunt Karen-Lynne



Amy Lauzon - February 24, 2025 at 12:30 PM

JE

“ Bev , on behalf of Joan Elise and myself , I'd like to offer you our heartfelt condolences . We were so sorry to hear of Karen's passing . She will certainly be missed by all who knew her at Woodgreen Senior Centre .She was the first person that I met at the writing club , and she welcomed me in from day one. As the years went on , and pride projects became more popular and accepted Karen was the sort of person that we could count on to work on so many LGBT projects ,with us at the aforementioned centre . She was a lovely person and very brave . Her determination for pushing forward , despite all of her health issues , was legendary. She certainly will be missed . Josie and Joan Elise .

Josie and Joan Elise - February 22, 2025 at 10:31 PM

JP

“ Karen was always a smiling face and friendly, gracious presence to all of us on Rhodes - she was a bright light, and will be much missed. May her name be as a blessing to all who knew and loved her.

Jeff Plotnikoff - February 20, 2025 at 10:45 AM

PH

“ Although my sister Karen was 7 years younger than I, it was clear from early on that she had a very sharp mind. I'll elaborate on Karen's years at U of T by saying she received an Honours B.A. in English Language and Literature which further confirmed her fascination with books. She combined this love of books with her love of cats when she named her first cat Christie after the great mystery writer Agatha Christie. When circumstances dictated that Karen had to return to live at home for a period, she brought Christie to a house that had never seen a pet in its life. Our mother tolerated Christie and even got to like her. RIP Karen with all the "Christies" you had in your life.

Paul



Paul Henderson - February 20, 2025 at 10:17 AM

PA

“ *Karens warmth and spirit will be deeply missed by all those who love her. May her memory bring warmth and comfort to all those she leaves behind.*
Love Patricia & family

Patricia - February 19, 2025 at 03:22 PM

BM

“ *The first time I met Karen I knew she was special. I loved and cherished her for so many years.*

We had so much in common and enjoyed going to the Symphony, Art Gallery, ROM. and Movies. We also enjoyed reading our mystery books together, She would never spoil the ending for me.

I will miss her greatly but I know she will always be with me and a part of me.

From your loving spouse, Bev McAlpine

Bev McAlpine - February 19, 2025 at 01:37 PM

CF

“ *This is a vast loss. I absolutely loved having Karen in my writing groups at Firefly over the years. She was creative, soulful, funny and generous in how she showed up for others, and her writing was always beautiful.*

This is a huge loss for so many people.

Lots of love and care to everyone who loved Karen, especially you Bev! Getting to see your bond over all these years (20 of them!) has inspired me greatly.

Chris Fraser - February 19, 2025 at 12:19 PM

BM

“ It is with a heavy heart that Rachelle and I are sending our sincere condolences to Bev and Karen’s family. I first met Karen when we were in the same writing club. I was immediately impressed by her creativity and skill. She wrote movingly and obviously the act of writing was so important to her. When it came time to push for a Rainbow Club to celebrate the LGBTQIA community with friends and allies at WoodGreen Community Services, she and Bev were founding members of the group and stood up for LGBTQIA rights. We also bonded over our love of cats and our friendship grew. Karen was such a wonderful woman and she will be so missed. Sending hugs – Barb McCutcheon and Rachelle Desrosiers.



Barb McCutcheon - February 19, 2025 at 10:51 AM

CD

“ Karen you are greatly missed. I enjoyed the last 5 years we spent together & learned so much from you. I will hold you in my heart always. Love Codi

Codi Davidson - February 18, 2025 at 12:25 PM