



Mrs. Lorraine Margaret Harden

February 9, 2014

"What the caterpillar perceives as the end, to the butterfly is just the beginning."

We celebrate the life of Lorraine Margaret Harden, who died peacefully at home in Toronto on February 9, 2014 at 83 years of age. Her memory will be cherished by beloved husband Raymond, daughter Lesley (fondly known by Lorraine as "Rosebud" - husband Rob), sons Barry and Craig (wife Bonni), sisters Joan and Carolyn (husband Bruce, deceased), and brother Cecil (wife Helga). She is predeceased by brother Ken (wife Jessie, deceased).

Born on April 10, 1930, Lorraine will be remembered for her generous and loving nature, her positive spirit, and as a friend to all who crossed her path. Her radiant smile and kind words for everyone made her a joy to be around. She was filled with love and enthusiasm and always interested in the well-being of others, serving for many decades as a volunteer with the United Church Women at Jubilee United Church in Don Mills. Lorraine had a deep faith that sustained her throughout her life, and will carry her spirit forward in joy and light. She was married to her soul-mate Ray for 63 years, and was an avid gardener, renowned cook and a nature-lover who cherished many a summer with Ray and family at their cottage in Parry Sound. She also enjoyed vacationing with her sisters in Florida.

Lorraine's heart was filled with love and gratitude to God, family and friends, and these were her last words to loved ones over a meal moments before she was taken suddenly by a heart attack in the family home. She would want us to thank the paramedics and firefighters who worked so valiantly to try to bring her back, as they had successfully done in the past with the help of doctors and staff at Sunnybrook Hospital, and her dedicated family doctor, Dr. Lauren Gewurz. And though this time the heart attack proved to be fatal, we take comfort in the fact that her life actually symbolizes the victory of a loving heart. Lorraine was an angel who was always ready with a helping hand and a cheerful word, and was - and will continue to be - a beacon of light for her family and all those who her knew her.

A memorial service for Lorraine Margaret Harden will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday February 17, 2014 at Jubilee United Church, 40 Underhill Drive, Toronto (416) 447-6846 www.jubileeunited.ca Click on "Contact Info" on the left of the page for a link to "maps and directions". Light refreshments will be served following the service at the church. Free parking is available in the church parking lot.

In lieu of flowers, donations will be gratefully received in Lorraine's memory by the Jubilee United Church.

Following are quotations that comfort the family and that you might also enjoy:

What the caterpillar perceives as the end,
to the butterfly is just the beginning.

Buddhist Saying

We make a living by what we get;
we make a life by what we give

Winston Churchill

Send your thoughts of love and goodwill to your loved ones as often as you feel inclined to do so, but at least once a year — perhaps on some special anniversary. Mentally tell them, “We will meet again sometime and continue to develop our divine love and friendship with one another.” If you send them your loving thoughts continuously now, someday you will surely meet them again. You will know that this life is not the end, but merely one link in the eternal chain of your relationship with your loved ones.

Paramahansa Yogananda

Say not in grief that she is no more
but say in thankfulness that she was
A death is not the extinguishing of a light,
but the putting out of the lamp
because the dawn has come.

Rabindranath Tagore

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Jubilee United Church
40 Underhill Drive
Toronto, ON (CA)

Tribute Wall

LR

“ *A source of love, support and humour has left us all with wonderful memories. A gift, in memory of Lorraine was sent.*
Yours sincerely,
Elsie and Ron

LRHarden - February 25, 2014 at 04:32 PM

JO

“ *Joan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Lorraine Margaret Harden*



Joan - February 17, 2014 at 05:55 PM

JO

“ *Joan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lorraine Margaret Harden*



Joan - February 17, 2014 at 05:42 PM

JO

“ Dear Lorraine,

You will be in my heart forever. I know you have found "your field of flowers". Pick some for me.

Thank you for our seventy-seven years together. From my beginning, you were always a guiding light, holding my hand and leading me forward. Always beside me and in spirit. We have shared so many adventures together. You always said, "we boarded the same bus!" for the trip through life. Thank you for your company along the way as a big sister, a friend, and a stand in for Mother.

Lorraine, we never formally said I Love You, but you put Love in practice each day by your actions...a phone call to start the morning, an unexpected card to cheer, celebration of birthdays, etc., etc., etc. You covered all bases! I miss you and love you and I know you will save me a seat with outstretched arms in heaven.

Love, Joan

Joan - February 17, 2014 at 05:41 PM

HF

Thank you Aunt Joan xo

Harden family - February 21, 2014 at 07:12 PM

“Lorraine...where do I begin to express the feelings of loss of my Beloved Sister. Ken the oldest was my peace in time of trouble, Cecil my voice when I found it hard to express my self, Joan my rock, always there to support. Lorraine my second Mother always my soft pillow to land on.

So many memories come flooding back in our time of grief and sorrow, but I will keep all the fun times we had. Especially here in Florida. Lorraine frolicking in the ocean on here noodle, thrift shop visits (she loved coming across a perfect find) Lorraine had a perfect eye for hidden treasures. We always laughed that the suit cases would be overloaded with goodies to take back. Lorraine made the cottage visits for my daughters some of the best times of their childhood. Fishing, hiking, trips to town and of course those wonderful meals and great pies Lorraine loved to bake. Oh and the ghost stories. Lorraine was quite a story teller...

Lorraine was the glue that held us together. Always there to lend a helping hand in good times and bad times. Her messages and cards were always an inspiration. Even near the end was always she thinking of others. Lesley brought gifts for friends she had made so many miles away here in Florida. Lorraine's healing hands and messages reached far and wide.

My earliest thought of Lorraine was at my Uncle Cecil's cottage. They had just put up the diving tower in the lake and Lorraine and Joan took me swimming. Well, little did I know it was to be my first time to jump off that tower. I can still remember Lorraine telling me to get up there and jump off. I think it took me 3 or 4 tries. Up the tower ...no I can't do it...down..the tower. I'd swim around a little thinking they would let me off the hook..lol...no way! They would make me try again. The last time I tried I can still feel my heart pounding ...I jumped off! Holy cow I finally made it! I could hear Lorraine and Joan laughing and cheering me on. After that we all jumped together. I can still hear Lorraine saying "I knew you could do it"!

*That will be the fondest memory I will hold dear of Lorraine.
Lorraine's words of encouragement. "Come on now, I know you can
do it"...*

*Fly High my Angel Lorraine Love You Your Baby Sister Carolyn. I
know you can do it...*

Carolyn - February 17, 2014 at 08:24 AM

HF

Thanks Aunt Carolyn xo

Harden family - February 21, 2014 at 07:12 PM

LM

“ *Only met you once, but you left a lasting impression!. You will be
dearly missed by family & friends!*”

Laurie Martin - February 17, 2014 at 07:45 AM

HF

Very much appreciated Laurie and Gerry xo Merci

Harden family - February 21, 2014 at 07:13 PM

LM

“ *Laurie & Gerry Martin lit a candle in memory
of Mrs. Lorraine Margaret Harden*”



Laurie & Gerry Martin - February 17, 2014 at 07:38 AM

TP

“ I am so sad to hear of Lorraine's passing! What a wonderful woman, so kind and caring. I have many fond memories of being at her house. May your wonderful memories of Lorraine keep you strong at this time.

Tammy Pellegrino

Tammy Pellegrino - February 16, 2014 at 02:43 PM

TP

“ Tammy Pellegrino lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lorraine Margaret Harden



Tammy Pellegrino - February 16, 2014 at 02:41 PM

RP

“ Ross P. purchased the Cup of Roses Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Lorraine Margaret Harden.



Ross P. - February 16, 2014 at 02:32 PM



“ Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lorraine Margaret Harden.



February 16, 2014 at 09:20 AM

CR

“ Hi everyone, thanks again for sharing these beautiful memories and sentiments. You can see the tribute to Lorraine in today's *Globe and Mail* (Saturday February 15) in the deaths notices in both the print and on-line editions. We have also updated the tribute to Lorraine on this website under "Obituary & Service" with details about the Memorial service this Monday February 17. Whether you can attend in person or in spirit only, we deeply appreciate your love and prayers. Ray, Lesley and Rob, Barry, Craig & Bonni

Craig and Bonni Harden & Lesley Rush - February 15, 2014 at 08:27 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Lorraine Margaret Harden.



February 14, 2014 at 12:11 PM

VA

“ On the eve of Family Day in BC we received the sad news that our Aunt Lorraine passed away.

Aunt Lorraine was the pillar of family. I have fond memories from childhood visiting her home on . Having tea and cakes with Mrs Harden and playing outside.

As an adult when I came to Toronto to visit from England, we got together many times for family visits.

We also had lunch at her home with fine china all laid out, finished off nicely with tea and cakes. Aunt Lorraine always recalled stories of working with my mom and Dad and how they walked everywhere. Sometimes one person would have a car and they would all pile in, but they preferred to walk. The way she told these stories, really made you feel as though you were right back there in that day and time.

Aunt Lorraine came out to the West Coast to celebrate our wedding too. We had a great time.

Last year Aunt Lorraine sent our son Josh some treasures in a tin box in the mail. Josh was so excited to receive this. Included were many photos and small toys that she said her boys used to love to play with and she wanted Josh to enjoy too and he did, and still does.

I'm really pleased that she met Josh in the summer. Again, she showered him with love and memories and presents, fizzy drinks in a fancy glass and veggie chips.

Thanks Aunt Lorraine for being so lovely, dedicated and devoted to family. For opening your heart, being yourself and sharing your memories. For always sending cards including inspirational words and phrases, articles and photos, and for how often you touched others.

My husband Tom just recently wrote about the healing power of memories and how we can reach deep into our minds, project into our subconscious and pull out positive memories that strengthen and heal our minds and bodies.

I believe that Aunt Lorraine knew this all along and so when it was her time to become an angel in a different universe, she was very well prepared and at peace.

I'm taking comfort know that she will be with her parents, and my Mom & Dad and all the others that she knew whose time had come to move on to another life.

There is no doubt in my mind that she is hosting lovely lunches and updating all the others in this new life about her memories since the last time she saw them all.

Love

Tom, Val & Josh Diamond and Garry Harkness

Val - February 14, 2014 at 09:46 AM

LR

Thank you very much Valeri, Tom and Josh and Garry. This gives me great strength in my time of need. LR xo I will share with Craig and Bonni, Barry and Rob.

LRHarden - February 15, 2014 at 05:35 PM

YF

“ *Yaron Fink lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lorraine Margaret Harden*



Yaron Fink - February 13, 2014 at 09:03 PM

BC

Dear Yaron, thank you so much for lighting a candle in memory of Lorraine. We deeply appreciate your loving thoughts and prayers. Bonni and Craig

Bonni and Craig - February 16, 2014 at 11:20 AM

HF

“ *Harden Family lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lorraine Margaret Harden*



Harden Family - February 13, 2014 at 08:12 PM

CA

“ *Carolyn lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lorraine Margaret Harden*



Carolyn - February 13, 2014 at 06:50 PM

MB

“ *I have had the privilege of meeting Lorraine on a couple of occasions. Like the obituary says she had an infectious smile. She treated me as though we had known each for years. She was a kind soul. I am happy she walked into my life, even though, it was for a brief time.*

Please accept my sincere and deepest sympathy. May God lay his hand on your heart to ease your pain.

*All My Love,
Marilyn Burton
Saint Petersburg, Florida*

Marilyn Burton - February 13, 2014 at 06:29 PM

LR

Thank you Marilyn for your kind words. My Mom always enjoyed your company when we were in Florida. Your words comfort my family and I xo LR

LRHarden - February 15, 2014 at 05:37 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carolyn - February 13, 2014 at 04:58 PM

LR

The mineral bath in Florida. Mom adored this treat. She felt restored and connected to the universe xo Thank you Carolyn xo LR

LRHarden - February 15, 2014 at 05:39 PM

HF

“ *Thank you Family and Friends for all these lovely messages and pictures. They mean more than you know and have given us the strength and courage to "carry on"-as my Mom would say ;)
Your truly,
Ray, Barry, Craig and Bonni, Lesley and Rob*

Harden Family - February 13, 2014 at 03:03 PM

VA

“ 3 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Val - February 12, 2014 at 10:21 PM

LR

Great Val ! Thank you xo

LRHarden - February 15, 2014 at 05:41 PM

JO

“ *Creative Spirit ~ Joan, David, Natalie, Jaki and Lesley will remember...we took Nanny Harkness when in her wheelchair up to Blackwater Lake cottage. Nanny upon arrival said "how the hell am I going to get down the steep hill with all the rocks!?" We all looked at each other. Lorraine had a certain look on her face... we who know her well recognized. Lorraine said, "I've got an idea!", and quickly disappeared...*

A few minutes later Lorraine appeared pushing a wheel barrel! We gathered around Nanny and hoisted her into the wheel barrel. Nanny had some objections, but Lorraine wheeled her down the neighbours driveway and path to the cottage lickity split! Lorraine was a marvel!

Joan - February 12, 2014 at 07:09 PM

LR

Thank you Joan, David, Natalie and Jaki. Grandma Harkness is pleased as punch to have Little Lorraine by her side xo

LRHarden - February 15, 2014 at 05:43 PM

“ *Memories of Lorraine*
From Alan & Nicky

We have been lucky enough to have the Hardin family and then the Rush family as our next door cottage neighbors. Lorraine coined the phrase “dream neighbors” which I am proud to say she called us but which we knew applied more accurately to her. She was simply the most loving, generous and selfless person we know. Our mutual gift giving was legendary, to us anyway, but she always won.

Have you ever experienced Reiki? Lorraine became a Reiki practitioner and we were fortune enough to be two of her early patients. She definitely had the touch and became more and more proficient as time went on. It is hard to describe the absolute tranquility and awareness of spirit she was able to manifest within us.

When our cottage was broken into on New Year’s Eve a number of years ago, Lorraine decided she needed to bless the cottage and clear out any bad vibrations that might remain as a result of the break-in. She bought frankincense and burned that, together with sage leaves, moving through the house, upstairs and down, to purify the atmosphere and rid the cottage of any malevolence.

This is not the only protection she afforded us. We are the proud owners of two wooden black crows that sit on the corners of our lakeside deck, as well as a horseshoe she gave us to hang above our back door.

We will miss so many things about Lorraine. We will continue to look for her head bobbing as she floats in the lake and the sound of her voice and laughter. But at the end of the day, we can proudly say that she considered us her “dream neighbors” and our lives have forever been enriched by knowing her.





Alan & Nicky Savage - February 12, 2014 at 02:49 PM

LR

Many thanks "Dream Neighbours" Alan and Nicky! Cherished memories xo LR and family

LRHarden - February 15, 2014 at 05:44 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Carolyn - February 12, 2014 at 12:13 PM

MB

The picture is priceless and you will always cherish as you have kept so long in your treasure of wonderful memories

Marilyn Burton - February 13, 2014 at 06:24 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Carolyn - February 12, 2014 at 12:10 PM

CA

“ 4 files added to the album



Carolyn - February 12, 2014 at 10:32 AM

LR

Thank you Carolyn for all the beautiful memories xo God Bless you and Natalie. LR and family

LRHarden - February 15, 2014 at 05:46 PM

MP

“ *Dear Lesley and Family, I am so so sorry for your loss. I will always remember your Mom as a very lovely and peaceful lady. I remember meeting her for the first time when she came on a school trip with us, and then when you invited me over for a New Year's meal. She is an angel now with God, and I know she is very proud of you, and will watch over you and guide you in all you do. Know that I share in your sorrow, and am here for you, whatever you may need. Love and Hugs, Maria Presta*



Maria Presta - February 11, 2014 at 09:53 PM

LR

Thank you Maria. I appreciate your kind words. God Bless you! xo

LRHarden - February 15, 2014 at 05:45 PM

CA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Carolyn - February 11, 2014 at 01:32 PM

CA

“ 2 files added to the album



Carolyn - February 11, 2014 at 01:28 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Carolyn - February 11, 2014 at 01:26 PM

VA

“ 16 files added to the tribute wall



Val - February 11, 2014 at 12:59 PM