



Mrs. Phyllis Beresford Atkinson

June 15, 2017

Phyllis Beresford Atkinson, nee Shatford, age 96, died peacefully Thursday June 15th, 2017, surrounded by family. She was predeceased by her husband Frank Atkinson and her sister Dorothy Fraser. She was mother of Peter Atkinson (Cheryle), Nancy Hoyano (Brian), Leslie Atkinson (Henry) and Jill Atkinson (Vern), and Grandma of 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Phyllis was born in Mill Cove in 1920 and grew up in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. She graduated from Mt. Allison University with a BSc in Chemistry in 1941. She worked as a chemist in Ajax during the war years, married Frank and later moved to Pointe Claire, Quebec where they raised their family. Phyllis became a potter, working first as a production potter and later as a teacher at the Saidye Bronfman Center for the Arts. She continued into her 80's being an active part of the ceramics and arts community,

Phyllis was an active volunteer and contributed generously throughout her life. A down to earth women, she enjoyed many activities, among them gardening, basket making and bird watching. Like many, she dedicated so much of her life and love to raising her children.

A Celebration of Life for Phyllis Atkinson

Saturday, June 24, 2017

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

We will gather people for a short remembrance at 2:00 pm

Please feel free to participate in the remembrance with stories, thoughts, photographs, music or anyway you wish to remember and celebrate Phyllis.

Location:

McMichael Canadian Art Collection, in The Studio
10365 Islington Avenue, Kleinburg, Ontario

There will be free parking as well as complimentary entry to the McMichael Gallery. Our Mom really enjoyed the McMichael so feel free to visit the gallery during the day. There are also lovely grounds, walking trails and a cafe should you arrive early.

We hope that you can join us.

Peter, Nancy, Leslie and Jill

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN **24**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

McMichael Art Gallery
10365 Islington Avenue
Kleinburg, ON (CA)

Tribute Wall

EM

“ *Ellen McLeod lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Beresford Atkinson*



Ellen McLeod - May 20, 2018 at 10:35 AM

EM

“ *I have just now found out, with a heavy heart, that this most wonderful and gracious lady has passed on to her great reward with her Maker.*

I was a student of hers when she was teaching at the Saidye Bronfman Centre in Montreal, oh so many years ago. She taught me to persevere in my pottery endeavors, and encouraged me when my math skills for glaze recipes seem to be lacking. She visited me in the hospital, when I was there for a whole month, missing my potter friends like crazy. She brought me a book on crafting with your hands and a signed card from all my fellow potters. Her kindness has never been forgotten. I still have both the book and the card, 43 years later.

Strange how, a few days ago, I was going through cards and letters, getting ready to move to a seniors apartment, when I came across a beautiful 4 page letter from her, sent to me after I moved to Ontario. She was so proud of her children, growing up to be young caring, kind adults. She loved her family dearly, and her potter friends and family too. I will cherish that letter, and the lessons and memories that I have of Phyllis.

Thank you, dear lady, for having been a part of my life, so many years ago. Love you.

Ellen McLeod - May 20, 2018 at 10:32 AM

SS

“ Growing up in Pointe-Claire with the Atkinson family was a wonderful experience. We (all the kids on Yonge Crescent) would all get together regularly for games of kick the can, or hide and seek and use everyone's yard. I particularly remember one hallowe'en when some of the boys decided to lay a joke and mover everyone's lawn furniture to someone else's yard. Phyllis was the most gracious and just said "thanks for putting everything back in its place". She was a terrific person and friend who will be missed by many. Condolences from Susanne (Streubel) Butler and Al Butler.

Susanne Streubel - June 23, 2017 at 08:51 PM

SF

“ As President of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) White Rock/Surrey Club condolences to all the family on the loss of Phyllis who for many years was an active member of the club in various activities enjoying fellowship, supporting education and the improvement of women's lives.
Sue Foley-Currie

Sue Foley-Currie - June 21, 2017 at 11:53 PM

OF

“ Olga, Sons and Loving Family. purchased the Ringed by Love for the family of Mrs. Phyllis Beresford Atkinson.



Olga, Sons and Loving Family. - June 21, 2017 at 10:56 AM

LH

“ Many years ago, I took a couple of ceramics courses at the Saidye Bronfman Centre, here in Montreal, taught by Phyllis Atkinson. I have fond memories of her: her kindness, her patience, her thorough knowledge of the work. Although I have not continued doing ceramics, I deeply love pottery, and can probably attribute much of my appreciation of this art to Phyllis. ... I don't know her family at all, but I do want to extend my condolences to them for the loss of this fine lady. But if I may say so, it is nice to know that she had a long and full life! My blessings to all, Louise Halperin in Montreal, Quebec

Louise Halperin - June 20, 2017 at 11:49 AM

SW

“ I first met Phyllis at a Fusion (Ontario clay and glass) conference in Ottawa. Then I began to run into her everywhere in Pointe-Claire. Our friendship slowly developed. Memories of walking my dog(s) to her house to say hello and I would find her sitting in her huge rocking chair reading the Montreal Gazette... she grew a wonderful garden for dried flowers which she arranged in her baskets. She would fire up her raku kiln in her backyard. What energy. I would often find her in the shops volunteering for Christian Action. She was involved in so many aspects of the community and the story goes on.
Phyllis introduced me to the Baie d'Urfe Potter's Guild and the Pointe-Claire Salon des Artisans. We attended many Fusion conferences together with other potters. A wonderful person to know and spend time with. My condolences to her wonderful family.

Susan Weaver - June 20, 2017 at 09:18 AM

RS

“ *Phyllis was an amazing woman. She was my pottery teacher at the Sadye Bronfman Centre, but also a friend & mentor who helped her students in every way. She was always kind & patient with us, sharing her knowledge & experience to help us become better at our craft. Phyllis will always be remembered by the people she taught & i am very grateful to have had her in my life.*

Rhoda Satin - June 20, 2017 at 07:02 AM

MB

“ *Mrs. Atkinson was a great potter of from the Pointe-Claire community. She was part of the Salon des artisans for many years as a potter, as well as being involved with the organizing committee. We will remember her contagious energy and how she strived for excellence, bringing the Salon des artisans to a very high level of quality.*
Thank you Phyllis!

micheline bélanger - June 19, 2017 at 11:17 AM

 Sheila
McCulley

“ *My condolences to the family, and especially Peter, with whom I worked for many years in the north. It sounds like your mother was a full of energy and active sort of person who lived a long, full life. May she rest in peace, and with time, may you share happy memories of her.*



Sheila McCulley - June 19, 2017 at 09:29 AM

GF

“ *Well a wonderful woman and wife, mother, grandmother who lived a busy life. I always admired her as she was so talented and always up to new challenges. Say hello to Frank from his sister Geraldine.*

Geraldine Fortune - June 19, 2017 at 08:31 AM