



## Shirley (Sherri) Russell

July 18, 2024

March 18, 1934 - July 18, 2024

In loving memory

On July 18, 2024, Shirley (Sherri) Russell, 90 years young, passed away peacefully at home with family at her side. Sherri was predeceased by her parents Theresa and Elliot and brother Peter Russell and is survived by her children Chris (Sharon) and Susan Meg (Joe) and her grandchildren Michael (Richelle), Andrew (Kaela), and Kevin (Christina) and many relatives and friends who dearly loved her as she did love them.

Born in Montreal Sherri grew up in Charlottetown PEI before moving back to the city. With her then husband Bill raised their 2 children in various parts of eastern Canada and Europe until she moved to Toronto in the '70's where she lived out her years. Toronto was where she flourished. She discovered the women's movement and her innate ability as an activist, and became an engaged community member in her St Lawrence Neighborhood. Throughout her life Sherri's entrepreneurial skills led her to pursue several businesses in baking, ex-offender programs, theatre and real estate. She engaged in many creative pursuits as well, among them short story writing, fine art, and the Raging Grannies.

Sherri's dynamic presence filled a room. Her infectious smile and enthusiasm

engaged all those she crossed paths with. She never shied away from a good discussion or a political debate.

Family was extremely important to her. Her son worked diligently in partnership to allow her continued independence, for independence was vital to her being, while her daughter assisted in other ways from across the country. Huge thanks to Hyatt for her dedicated and loving years of care. As the matriarch she held gracious command at the raucous and fun-filled family gatherings. She leaves big shoes to fill as her social grace, humour and original ideas made events and gatherings happen. We will dearly miss our mother, Tita (grandmother) and friend. Love you forever Mom.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Toronto Humane Society would be welcomed. There will be a small Celebration of Life Saturday August 10, 3-5 pm at 9th floor common room at 31 Princess St. for family and friends.

# Tribute Wall

SK

“ *Such a deep loss. Such an important part of our lives. Sherri was my mother in law , my other mother! Always kind and supportive towards me! Always caring!*

*She was blessed to have wonderful children that loved and supported her.*

*Deepest condolences to Chris, Meg, family and friends for their loss.*

*I will always admire her for her love of life! Never sitting still and always on the go. Nothing ever slowed her down.*

*She loved her family and friends deeply.*

*She also cared deeply about her city and community.*

*She was an activist who fought for the underdog and people's rights.*

*She had a word or two to say about our politicians and if she didn't like something you did or said you would know it !!*

*She had a better understanding of cell phones and laptops than I would ever know (even if it meant having help desks and family on speed dial to sort things out)*

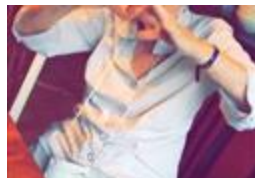
*She loved a good party and she loved a good laugh and I will always cherish the great times we had together.*

*She was one of a kind.*

*I love you and I will miss you.*

*You will forever be in our hearts.*

*Sharon*



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Sharon Kukemueller - August 09, 2024 at 12:59 PM

“ On behalf of Rick Carpenter:

### SHERRI RUSSELL – A TRIBUTE

*I cannot remember when I first heard my mother mention the name of her Russell family\* relation, Sherri. But the name intrigued me and I wondered if one day I might find out who had been given such a lovely name. The opportunity arose about 20 years ago. My cousin Jane Evans was in touch with Sherri and we all arranged to meet up for lunch at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. I recall several visits of this sort as well as Sherri coming to stay with us in Ottawa 16 years ago. (She entered her name in our Visitor Book dated August 21, 2008).*

*These occasions together, although brief, were always lively with plenty of conversation across many topics. Bit by bit I learned a little of her life as a mother, a senior military officer's wife, an enterprising businesswoman and, above all, a valued community member where she lived in Toronto. It was evident that Sherri was a "mover and a shaker" in her community: a "mover" because she covered a lot of ground on her bicycle and in later life physical infirmity couldn't slow her down when she took to zipping around on her scooter; a "shaker" because where she saw room for improvement in local and civic affairs for the folks around her, she made sure the authorities got the message.*

*Despite our too brief acquaintance, Sherri's admirable strength of character shone through. She radiated a wonderful sense of fun whenever we met and it was always a special occasion to have time with her. I was touched by her kindness and sensitivity to my wife Ann whose dementia had become quite advanced by the time of our penultimate occasion together. Wise to the ways of the world, it was evident to me that Sherri understood the importance of being considerate of others. She exemplified this virtue to the very moment of ending her long and richly textured life.*

*Rick Carpenter  
Ottawa*

*\*Sherri and I are second cousins through our Russell family connection. My mother and Sherri's father were both grandchildren of Judge Benjamin Russell (1849 - 1935) of Halifax, NS.*

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**Meg S** - August 08, 2024 at 10:11 AM

VH

“*Sherri was an original - both stylish and spunky. She fought hard to maintain her independence to the end. I will miss her and her dramatic entrances to our gatherings of friends. My condolences to her family for their loss.*



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**Vivian Harrower** - July 27, 2024 at 10:11 AM

JG

“*I shall never forget Darling Sherri who was a GREAT FRIEND to me and she was kind and thoughtful and generous to a fault. We talked almost EVERY morning OR sometimes during the day or evening.*

*We shared so much in common and admired her and will remember her as  
a WONDERFUL WOMAN.*

*Sherri will be greatly missed by me and her many many Dear Friends and Family who all, without a doubt, loved her dearly.*

*June Gurvich*

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**June Gurvich** - July 26, 2024 at 04:01 PM

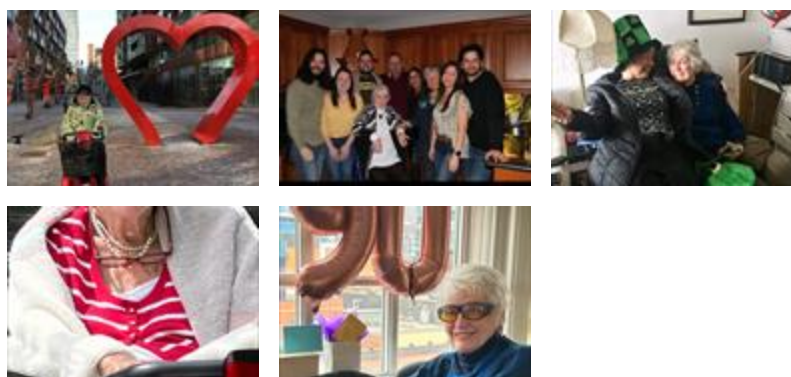
IL

“ *Sherri was a dear friend who will be missed so much. We in the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood loved seeing her roar around town on her scooter, always off on a new adventure! Sherri loved going down to Sugar Beach and found great comfort being by the water.*

Ilse Lichtenberger - July 26, 2024 at 11:07 AM

SS

“ ❤️ *miss you Mom*



Susan Meg Stewart - July 26, 2024 at 10:47 AM

JE

*Dear Sherri we found each other about 30 yrs. Ago, and I met her Dad, too. It was one of the best presents in my later life to find my second cousin or her to find me. She took me to theatre and concerts as she lived near such an interesting part of Toronto, I had the privilege of meeting her Grand's, when in their teens. They sure loved their Gram, and she sure loved them. Many visits of dining together, laughing at her hearty jokes, and lovely heartwarming letters. Thank you Chris and Meg for including me to remember your Mom. Love to All, Jane p.s. I wish to send a few photos, and will be thinking of you all Friday.*

Jane Evabs - August 07, 2024 at 10:24 PM