

## Edna Hazel Carey

On behalf of Edna's family, thank you for coming here today to remember Edna, to give thanks for her presence in our lives, and to celebrate her long life and legacy. We appreciate your presence here today.

The story in the leaflet tells you some facts about Edna's life. I'm going to spend a few minutes talking about Edna the person. Edna filled many roles in her long life – friend, neighbour, and to her family a wife, daughter, sister, cousin, aunt, great-aunt and great-great-aunt.

Edna was a very classy lady. She took pride in her appearance and she enjoyed shopping outings with her friends. Her homes were tastefully decorated with her beloved treasures, and many of us enjoyed being served drinks, even orange juice, in a crystal glass. Milk came to the table only in a breakable jug.

My cousin Joel recalls that “Edna did her best to teach my brother Mark and me some rules of etiquette at a fancy restaurant in Ottawa (likely the Green Valley). Very brave of her and Doug, and of course we were perfect students. We often even use forks when dining to this day.” My cousins Kim and Stephen and my brother Andy and I recall similar outings.

Edna was very committed to her various endeavours; she was industrious and reliable. Edna's brother Earl recalls that a young Edna worked at their uncle Gus' gas station on John Street. The gas pumps were old fashioned and she had to pump the gas up to the container that was marked to show how many gallons were being sold. Engine oil also had to be pumped into a container that had a long spout on it to pour it into the engine. In more recent years Edna never embraced the “self serve gas” model and this likely explains why!

Whether it was her career work as a nurse, or her volunteer activities at church or the hospital, or her many knitting projects, often socks which many of us here have received as gifts, she put everything she had into a particular task, setting high standards for herself, and getting great results and much accomplished.

Edna was especially committed to her friends and family. She and Doug enjoyed entertaining in their homes in Deep River, Ottawa, and on Albert Street in Arnprior, and they loved family celebrations. Many occasions were celebrated – milestone birthdays, anniversaries, wedding showers, and engagements. Joel's wife AnnE recalls “On my first trip to Arnprior Edna and Doug invited all the family to their house to celebrate our upcoming wedding. Edna bought corsages for both of our girls. It was lovely - she welcomed Sonia and me to the family. I have always been grateful to Edna for that. I was so nervous at the time - Edna helped me – what a welcome to the family.” There are many of Edna's in-laws here today who have similar memories, including my husband Hugh who enjoyed dinners at their house on Mansfield Avenue in Ottawa where in his words “Edna doted on me.”

Edna had a large circle of friends, including very long friendships with Isobel Munro and others from her nursing class of 1946, and her childhood friends Hazel and Dorcas. Edna's furry companions included their dogs Patsy, Bonnie and Bridie.

On many occasions Edna directed her compassion and nursing skills to family, from my birth at the Arnprior Hospital, to my cousins' tonsillectomies in Pembroke hospital, to nursing her sister Alma, and also her mother, my parents, and her beloved Doug through their final illnesses.

Edna was a prolific correspondent and she recognized birthdays, anniversaries, births, and deaths of people and pets with cards and thoughtful, caring messages written in her distinctive handwriting. Joel recalls "Edna and Doug were generous with Christmas gifts for us 5 boys, often giving us toys or books that made opening presents exciting and memorable. She remembered our birthdays with a card that often included money when we were in our teens." Graduations were marked with a gift, often a pen with a personalized inscription. And Edna was generous with her time, making many visits over the years to friends and family in hospital or in care facilities.

Edna was kind and thoughtful. She always asked how you were, and she dug deeper with personal questions related to your family, your work, your travels, or your leisure pursuits. It was harder to get information out of Edna regarding her activities, and more recently her health, than it was for her to get it out of you! She especially enjoyed talking to children, her conversation geared to their interests and activities. This combined with generous gifts of smarties, or chocolate to mark Christmas and Easter celebrations, made Edna and Doug real hits with the younger generations. For nieces and nephews, car rides with Edna and Doug usually included a stop for ice cream cones and playing all sorts of road trip games like 20 questions.

Edna was adventurous and a risk taker. When she pulled up and left Arnprior for a new job at Atomic Energy of Canada, in a new industry, nuclear energy, in a new town, little did she realize that she was joining a company that would grow to thousands of employees and would have a tremendous impact on Canada's contribution to scientific innovation. And she repeated that when she joined Digital Equipment of Canada, the newly formed subsidiary of the US parent company, first at a small facility in Carleton Place, and then at the large manufacturing plant in Kanata; again she worked in a new leading edge industry, this time computers.

Edna took fun risks and was sometimes unpredictable. My cousin Paul recalls "My brothers and their families were at our brother Mark & Donna's country home near Edmonton many years back when Edna stood on the railing of the deck and jumped into the giant net that was strung up amongst the trees. After she did it all the other adults were forced to do the same." This was in 1991 when Edna was 66 years old.

Earl recalls that "A number of people on Landrigan Street kept chickens in their backyards. One time young Edna dropped in to see Grandma who was in the hen house getting the eggs and feeding the chickens. Edna was playing with the lock on the hen house door and was told several

times by Grandma to leave the lock alone. Edna put the lock back on the hasp and then headed home. Grandma had to break the door to get out!”

While picturing the dignified, lady like Edna, you may not realize that she enjoyed sports. Earl recalls “There was plenty of softball played during and just after the war. Edna, her sister Alma, Isobel, my future sister-in-law Jean, Morna and Marion McNab, all played. Some games were played at the corner of the White Lake road and Kippen road.” Incidentally this is a field that my husband Hugh now farms. Earl continues “Some of the players would get a hit and make it to second or third base. Edna would get a similar hit and would be lucky to be safe at first!”

Both Doug and Edna loved to swim particularly at her sister Alma’s family cottage at Round Lake where she and Doug played in the water with the boys.

And Edna had a very good sense of humor. My cousin Tom recalls “I remember lots of laughter and also recall Mom’s stories about she and Edna laughing uncontrollably in their younger days.” And Earl has similar memories “It was easy for Edna and me to get Alma laughing to the extent that she would collapse on the floor. Then we would each get a leg and drag her from the kitchen to the living room back to the kitchen and continue the circuit!”

In recent years Edna valued her independence and her ability to live on her own, which she did until 3 weeks before she died. She enjoyed excellent health until a fall last spring but with her usual steadfast determination and perseverance she regained her strength.

In every relationship there are 2 sides. Each of you brought something special to your relationship with Edna which she truly valued and for which she was very grateful. While she enriched our lives, you also enriched hers. So thank you for bringing so much happiness and joy to Edna’s life. Today we celebrate those relationships and Edna’s long healthy, faithful life, and pray that “light perpetual will shine upon her.”