

A Special Tribute to our MOM and Mémé

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Today, we pay tribute to a special person, our MOM. Over 49 years ago, Mom married her soul mate on their journey together to start a new family. Not only were they married for so many wonderful years, they knew each other for 72 years as friends growing up together on neighbouring farms. Their friendship blossomed at such an early age and everyone soon found out what she cherished most in life - FAMILY.

She dedicated her life to family and friends. Walking into a person's home says it all, and Mom's home proudly displayed her loved ones everywhere. Her passion for family inspired her to research The Family Tree and her family grew in abundance over the years as new relatives and friends were discovered.

She loved life and the people in her life. She always made sure she had time to help others but never liked to ask anyone for assistance. She never felt sorry for herself and would never let anyone exhibit any signs of sympathy towards her. She taught us many valuable life lessons, mostly by her actions and by the way she lived her life each and every day. Another important part of Mom's life was making sure that her family and friends were happy and well taken care of and she worried about herself last.

Specifically for your three children Mom, you were there for us on our first day of school, to hold our hand and give us courage to go (even though it was just across the street). We learned from you the importance of volunteering your precious time as a parent volunteer at our school. It meant a lot to us to see your involvement in our schooling and your joy in helping others consistently on a daily basis. We were very proud of you.

Most importantly, you were always there for us. You listened to us when we needed to talk; you talked to us when we needed to listen. You let us grow and learn from our own mistakes. You never left our side when we were feeling down; we always knew you would be there to pick us up. We wish there was a way we could repay all the things you have done for us, but there's nothing great enough to repay the GREATEST mother of all.

We may not have our Mom with us here to talk to daily now; however we will always have fond childhood memories of growing up, spending time together on family vacations, to such places at Disney World, Western and Eastern Canada, and our many visits with family & friends. Yes, we'll even pleasantly remember all of times when she got angry with Dad when he would take one of his many "shortcuts" while driving. Also, Mom was very organized on all of our trips. She would keep a detailed calculation of all expenses (to the penny) and at the end of the day, she would record in her trip diary everything we accomplished that day. What a memory of events to cherish forever.

Even after we were well grown-up, married and leading our own lives, Mom always continued to be there for us, loving, assisting and nurturing us each and every day. She was there to assist us as new parents, and even when she couldn't, at times, always in her special way was present and guided us along the way. She was always there to help us out with any family issues. She always wanted to help out when and whenever needed. Her children and grandchildren always came first.

We must acknowledge that MOM was always, and will always be a TEACHER. The most important life lesson that Mom taught us was to never feel sorry for yourself, to always be optimistic and to ensure that you always find ways to improve someone else's life. No matter how bad you may think things are going for you, someone else is always in far greater need than yourself. She always remained optimistic no matter what situations she was faced with in life.

Today, we must also pay tribute to our loving Mémé. She always made her grandchildren feel special, even when nothing special was happening that day. We honestly don't think it was possible for us to ever disappoint our Mémé, no matter what we did.

We have a lot of favourite childhood memories such as sleepovers and days spent at Mémé's house getting away with things Mom and Dad would not approve. For example, eating Jell-O with candy on top for breakfast, having as many cookies as we wanted and raiding her chocolate bar drawer in the computer room every time we were over. Mémé was always on her computer and we could chat with her online whenever we wanted to let you know what was happening during the day. Even if we weren't with her, we always had ways to keep in touch. We will especially cherish and remember the many camping trips across Canada that we experienced together over the years. Such fond memories!

We also had special things that we only really liked or wanted to do with her. We especially liked watching Mr. Bean episodes over and over again for hours and hours. We enjoyed the yearly tradition of making gingerbread houses with her and again, getting to eat as much candy as we wanted in the process.

Mémé was always interested in hearing every story we ever wanted to tell her and knowing all about our lives. We would call her often with our school accomplishments. She was always proud of our report cards and sent money to us too!

We could always count on Mémé to be at every event that was special to us, like all of our hockey games, basketball games, school events, sacraments at the church and birthdays. We always looked forward to her awesome homemade cards for every occasion to cherish for a lifetime. In addition, she always seemed to be the one to buy us the gift that we REALLY wanted the most for Christmas, birthdays or other special occasions. Yes Mémé, you did spoil us, but we appreciated it a lot.

Overall, everyone came here today to pay their respects for our loss. However, our immediate family wishes to say sorry for your loss too. Each and everyone who knew our Mom and Mémé lost a loving person who influenced their life too. As Mom would say, be positive, stay strong, remember the good times you had together with her, help others and always stay close to your family and friends.

Mom, we loved you yesterday, we love you today and we'll love you each and every day to come. You are our mentor and guiding light shining down from Heaven now. You will be missed, but you will also be in our hearts and active in our lives forever.