

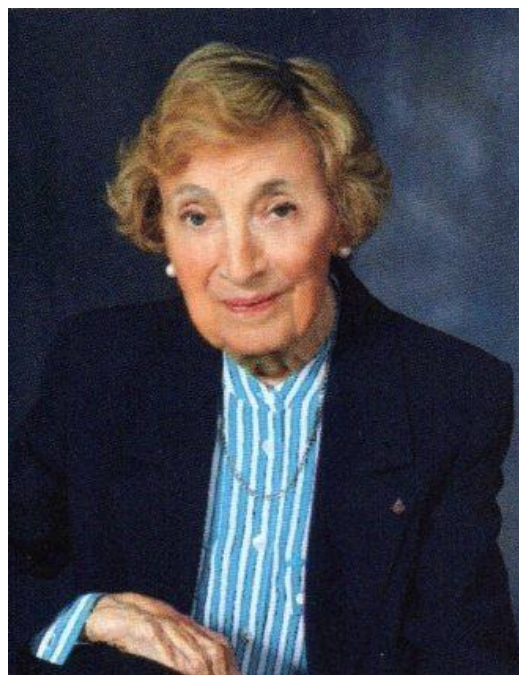


Eileen Prettyman

November 16, 1926 - June 15, 2021

Eileen Prettyman lived a remarkably full, accomplished, and varied life. She was born on November 16, 1926, in Toronto at Women's College Hospital to Florence Ash-Greaves and Percy Albert Prettyman, who had come to Canada from Durham and from Kent, England. Eileen was Florence and Percy's only child, and Eileen remained very close to her parents throughout their lives.

Eileen graduated from Victoria College, University of Toronto, and then went on to Teacher's College at Columbia University in New York. On her return, she taught with the Toronto District School Board for 36 years, 22 of those years at Pauline Junior Public School in the west end, as a teacher-librarian. She also spent 11 years as a Special Education Teacher for the Deaf, and even worked for three years in the Toronto offices of Imperial Oil Ltd.



But it was working with children that was Eileen's passion and particular gift – as a teacher-librarian spending time with the kids at Pauline School, encouraging them, helping them to find what they needed, and instilling a love of learning that Eileen herself had in abundance.

This love of children was also reflected later in life when Prettyman family relatives in Australia had children and then grandchildren. Eileen delighted in receiving cards and letters telling of their life and achievements, and occasionally phone calls too – and she was eventually able to include travel to Australia among her many travels to visit the family there in person.

Eileen's parents were a strong influence in her life – her father was an accomplished pianist and nurtured Eileen's love of music, and her mother had an artistic flair that Eileen inherited as well. Her parents also gave Eileen a strong sense of faith, and prayer in her life, and she spoke of her firm belief in God as Creator, fueled by her love of gardening, and of animals. Eileen and her parents were members of Fairlawn Avenue United, and Eileen herself taught Sunday School, and was a member of a young women's Bible class known by the Latin name, *Sursum Corda* ("lift up your hearts") which also played an active role in the community.

Eileen was a life-long learner and after retirement spent 21 years volunteering as a docent at the McMichael Art Gallery in Kleinburg. Eileen enjoyed cross-country skiing, sailing, and travelled extensively going to England, Australia, Hawaii, various parts of Europe, and the Arctic. Her enjoyment of music, and of piano, was a continuing interest nurtured through her association with the Toronto Conservatory of Music. In her seventies, Eileen took up ballroom dancing which quickly became a passion, earning her many awards.

Eileen met and got to know Sheila Coulter and Helen Watson through teaching, at Pauline School, and after retirement they kept in touch and being colleagues evolved into being close friends. They would get together often, travel together, spend time at Helen's cottage and take in the odd Blue Jays game.

About five years ago, as Eileen was turning 90, she sold her house, and moved into Amica Bayview Village, where she continued to be active and to make friends until her death. Eileen will be missed by family members in Australia, and by her many friends, including Sheila and Helen.



Fairlawn  Remembers