



Leila passed away peacefully with her husband Doug by her side. Doug did not hesitate to decide that his wife of 67 years would stay with him and receive palliative care in their room at their retirement residence. Many of their children and grandchildren were able to spend time with Leila and Doug during that difficult week.

In addition to Doug, Leila is survived by her children: Brian (Jayne); Steve (Cathy); Lori (Steve); Lisa; Lynda; Laraine; Lesley (Joe); her "adopted" son Paul (Karen); and eighteen grandchildren – Ben, Chris, Zana, Chelsea, Brad, Bryana, Nick, Calvin, Chiara, Bianca, Sam, Luc, Etabez, Deneke, Tyghe, Jacob, Michael and Alex. She was predeceased by her son Jeffrey (Robin) in October 2017.



Mother of Fairlawn Avenue United Church's, Lori Hale

Leila was born in Bancroft, spent her early days in Colborne and moved to Belleville after high school to become a "Bell girl". Doug and Leila were married in September 1954 and in 1955 she began her dedicated career as a mother and homemaker while Doug launched his career as an autobody repairman. Leila volunteered for many years with Girl Guides and the Cancer Society. She didn't re-join the paid workforce until her youngest child was in high school.

Leila will always be remembered for her hospitality towards anyone who showed up at their home. Drop-ins were normal and for Leila, the more the merrier. She was a magician in the kitchen. Feeding such a big family wasn't easy - what Jesus did with two fish and five loaves, Leila routinely did with a can of tuna. There was always a jar of homemade cookies on the kitchen counter. She loved to cook, to host, and to share her bounty with family, friends, neighbours and work mates.

Family was everything for Leila. Beyond her own large family, she took in others who needed guidance and love – some temporary and some deep and lasting. She loved having kids around - she made every child feel like they were perfect. She loved playing cards and board games - euchre and cribbage were a mainstay when Gramma was babysitting. She had one rule that we all learned early – "If you start a game, you finish the game". It was a life lesson. She also expected good sportsmanship - it was more important to be a good sport than to win the game.

Leila had an adventurous spirit, ever ready and willing to visit her children at home and abroad, travelling within Canada and to the United Kingdom, Europe, Japan, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand. Leila and Doug always spoke fondly of those trips. As much as they loved the travel, the destination was secondary to just being with family.

Leila grounded her family in rituals: meals at the dinner table with homemade desserts, Sunday picnics followed by the traditional dinner of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, summer cottage vacations, Christmas traditions, family picnics with the extended family and annual anniversary jaunts. One of those rituals was attendance at Holloway Street United Church where the Hale family was admired for its growing numbers - the whole family was baptized en mass one Sunday. Leila and Doug attended Fairlawn Avenue United Church (FAUC) on a number of occasions with Lori, Steve and their daughters, Chiara and Bianca. They were never big believers in religious dogma; rather, they were more interested in the positive impact that faith communities could have on individuals and communities. They were impressed with the sense of community and the commitment to community service that they witnessed at FAUC.

Doug and family would like to extend a sincere thank you to the staff of Peterborough Retirement Residence for their kindness and exceptional care and support of Leila. Their respectful dedication was epitomized in the "honour guard" that they gave Mom as she left the residence for the last time.

We love you and we will always miss you, Mom. Thank you for all that you've given us. Especially the memories that will sustain us forever.

Fairlawn   
Remembers

*Submitted by Lori Hale*

