

Ormstown's Mary McKeegan left an indelible mark on her community and her church

For nearly 96 years, Miss Mary McKeegan shared with us her joy, her simplicity, her hopes and dreams, and the power that blossomed from her heart.

Last week I dreamed I was strolling through God's heavenly garden, admiring all the flowers, bushes and trees from all over the world. The colorful blossoms perfumed the garden with the scent of Resurrection.

But some areas seemed neglected or abandoned, full of dandelions, creeping Charlie, switch grass and other weeds. Was this a special place set aside for new arrivals?

Suddenly I saw in a corner a bunch of tiny pansies which seemed to be having fun together, even in the rocky, sandy soil where they were growing. They were smiling and seemed glad of a visitor.

I asked them how long they had been in this part of the garden, so far from the other pansies. In unison, they answered, "Didn't you know Mary McKeegan has been transplanted from earth to Heaven? She was the finest pansy there - a humble little lady, a good-hearted leader, with an Irish temper to match!

"When she knocked at Heaven's gate, St. Peter was surprised to see her carrying flats of pansies and a bag of sheep manure. When he asked her why such little flowers,

she turned green with annoyance and answered, 'Ask St. Patrick, for God's sake!'"

Then suddenly, there was Mary coming toward me, laughing. She said, "Isn't this as nice as the path near the rectory in Ormstown?"

The phone rang and I woke up.

A life of service

This little parable tells us something about our beloved Mary - beloved by "her boys" but also by many other people in this area.

Born from pure Irish stock, (McKeegan and Cunningham), she bloomed where she was planted in the Ormstown garden. A native of the Rivière Outardes, she lived a simple yet extraordinary life. Her family was a loving one, but she suffered the loss of her mother at a very young age. Overcoming early disappointments, she turned to her God for support and guidance and though her life was not what she had dreamed of, she never abandoned her faith in God and the church. Instead, she seemed to realize that she was meant to serve her family, her friends and the entire community, no matter what their faith or beliefs. Overlooking her personal needs, she devoted time and energy to her neighbors, sharing all she had while keeping the minimum for herself.

Mary McKeegan was born to bring joy into the world and brighten the lives of the



Mary McKeegan.

less fortunate. She helped the needy, people in trouble and those who were suffering.

In her 95 years and 10 months, Mary wrote her own page in the Gospel, and she also wrote it in Ormstown history. How lucky we are to have such an angel in Heaven! She surely must be busy preparing a special path to welcome us among her pansies in the field.

"Mary, may God hold you in the hollow of His hand!"

(Fr. Yves Beaulieu, c.s.v., on behalf of "your boys")

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Birth and Deaths

Card of Thanks, In Memoriams, Engagements

DIED

DESCHAMBAULT, Rollande (née Legault) - Passed away Mrs. Rollande Deschambault (née Legault) aged 83 years. Predeceased by her husband Lionel. Dear mother of Roger (Pauline), Jeanne (Bruce), Gert (John), Robert (Nancy), Marie, Danny (Lyne), Marc (Liette) and Laurier (Donna), grandchildren, great-grand-children, brothers, sisters also many relatives and friends. The family received condolences on February 21, 2004 at 10:30 a.m. St-Joseph's Church, Huntingdon, followed by a funeral service at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers donations to the Huntingdon County Hospital or the Little Green Library would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements by Rodrigue Montpetit & Fils Inc., 170 Châteauguay, Huntingdon.

DUPUIS, Donald - In Cuba on February 9, 2004, at the age of 70 years passed away Mr. Donald Dupuis from Ste-Barbe, husband of Mrs. Liette Dupuis (née Quenneville). Besides his spouse, he leaves to mourn his children Josée, Sylvie (Dr. Marcel Lalonde), Judith (Marc Neal), Michel and Sophie, his grandchildren Adrien, Nicolas, Julie, Geneviève, Michael and Paul, as well as his sister Lucille (Raymond "Joe" Foisy). There will be visitation on Thursday, February 26, 2004 from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m., at Rodrigue Montpetit & Fils Inc. Funeral Home. Funeral will be private. Interment Ste-Agnes de Dundee Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Heart Foundation would be greatly appreciated.

LAUZON, Gilles - In Bromont, at the age of 51 years passed away Mr. Gilles Lauzon. He leaves to mourn his wife Francine Tessier, his sons Yan and Maxime, his parents Lauré and Yvette Lauzon, his sister Louise (Conrad). Funeral will be held on Saturday, February 28 at 11:30 a.m. in Bromont Church.

McGOWAN, John F. - In Powerscourt on February 23, 2004 passed away Mr. John F. McGowan aged 61 years. Beloved husband of Helen Elliott. He leaves to mourn his son John (Sheila Shedrick) his grandchildren Julie, Steven, Stacy, Sean, and Jeff, his mother-in-law Bessie, his sisters-in-law Francie (Robbie) and Lily (John), and many relatives and friends. Visitation will be held at Kelly G.S. Funeral Home, 19 Lake Street, Huntingdon on Thursday, February 26 from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m., also Friday, February 27 from 1 p.m. Funeral service will take place Friday, February 27 at 2 p.m. in the chapel. Burial Powerscourt Cemetery.

ROY, Jacques (Jim King) - At the Barrie Memorial Hospital, Ormstown on February 18, 2004, at the age of 78 years, passed away Mr. Jacques Roy (Jim King) husband of Rosanne O'Connor. Besides his spouse, he leaves to mourn his children Roger, Laurette (Yvon), Michel (Fernande), Rachel (Jacques), Chrystianne (Normand), Marie-Paule (Armand), Sylvain (Manon) and Gilles (France), his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brothers and sisters, their spouses, as well as many relatives and friends. There was visitation on Friday, February 20 and Saturday, February 21, 2004 at Rodrigue Montpetit & Fils Inc. Funeral Home, 170 Châteauguay, Huntingdon. Funeral was held on Saturday, February 21 in St-Joseph's Church, Huntingdon at 2:00 p.m. Donations to Huntingdon County Hospital Foundation, 198 Châteauguay St., Huntingdon, QC, J0S 1H0 would be greatly appreciated.

DIED

TURNER, Eva (née Sauv ) - age 91 years, passed away peacefully at the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital in Burlington, Ontario on Friday, February 20, 2004. Dear mother of John Paquette and his wife Marcelle and Richard Turner. Beloved grandmother of Pierre (Suzanne), Jean, Denis, Ann (Denis), Michelle (Donald), Richard-Ian (Judy), Damiel and Adam. Great grandmother of Julie, Benoit, Zachary, Joshua, Stephanie, Mathieu, Robert, Brian, Tara, Jonathan and Brigit. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2004 at 11 a.m. from the Eglise St-Sacrement, Howick, QC. Donations to the Ladies Auxiliary of the Barrie Memorial Hospital would be greatly appreciated.

CARD OF THANKS

To everyone who helped and supported us in various ways from all over Canada and the United States during Laurie Anne's brave battle with cancer. Thanks for the excellent care to the Barrie Memorial Hospital, CLSC Huntingdon, Kelly Funeral Home and the Legion. This will never be forgotten.

John, Samantha, Jason Goldie and family

The family of the late Georges Renaud wishes to express their gratitude to the doctors and wonderful nurses of the Barrie Memorial Hospital and the staff of the CLSC for their excellent care and compassion. Also, to family, friends and neighbors who helped and supported them during their difficult time.

Gladys Renaud & Family

To you, friends for your condolences and friendships at the occasion of the departure of our friend Mary McKeegan, many thanks. Your presence was deeply appreciated. Thanks for visits at the parlor, prayers, flowers, donations and for your presence at her funeral.

Her Boys
by Fr. Yves Beaulieu c.s.v.

Sincere thanks to friends and relatives who came to pay a last tribute to Mr. Roch Dumouchel, who passed away on January 3, 2004, either by their presence, mass offerings, donations, cards, flowers, visits or attendance at the funeral. Be assured of our deep gratitude for your show of sympathy.

The Dumouchel family

Thank You

M. Guy Duheme

The family of the late Guy Duheme would like to thank friends, neighbors & relatives for the support we received at the time of Guy's death. We appreciated the food, yard cleaning, cards, masses, flowers, memorial donations, visits to the funeral home and attendance at the funeral. Everything was greatly appreciated.

Nicole, Yvon (Annie), Guylaine & grandson Gregory

Thank-You

Yvan Boucher

Following the death of Yvan Boucher on December 17, 2003 at the age of 47 his wife Susie, his children Jason, Joel, and Nicolas, his parents, brothers and sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews would like to thank everyone who expressed sympathy at the time of his death. We appreciated the visits at the funeral home, flowers, donations, mass and sympathy cards, and attendance at the funeral.

Special thanks Denis Boucher, Chris M, and Chantal and Brigitte and gang at Leblanc Patates for all the extras they did for us.

Please consider these thanks as personal.

8212802-250204-4 **The Boucher family**

Engagement

Phyllis & Andy Tessier and Warren & Debra Rankin are pleased to announce the engagement of their children

Jennifer Tessier to Shawn Rankin

The wedding is being planned at a later date