



## Beryl Hutchinson (Rafuse)

October 8, 1928 - December 19, 2020

Beryl Marie Hutchinson passed away peacefully on December 19th, 2020, with her daughter Cindy and granddaughter Davara by her side. She had moved from her last home in Waterloo to Cindy's home in Ennismore, Ontario, on her 92nd birthday. She will be deeply missed by Sue (Roz, Jan), Lee and David (Michael and Anna, Pat), Cindy and Fred (Jessica, Javier, great grandson Felix, and Davara), Carla and Hiromoto (Shota and Maya).

Born October 8th, 1928 to Inez (Tuckey) and Les Rafuse, she grew up in south London, playing baseball and basketball. She shared many summer adventures on her first family's homestead on the south shore of Nova Scotia, along with older sister Norma and younger brother Jim.

Beryl met the love of her life, Richard (Dick) Hutchinson at South Collegiate High School and married him on September 14th, 1951. They were best friends throughout their 64 years together until Dick's passing in 2016. Their first year of marriage took them to Mozambique. A compilation of Beryl's letters home are now a family treasure.

"Beautiful Beryl" will be remembered as Dick's steadfast partner in all respects, including his outstanding geological career that led to countless trips across the world. She served legendary meals to legions of friends, family and colleagues in their homes in London, Colorado, Nova Scotia and Hillsboro.

Beryl was an extraordinary mother and devoted grandmother. She continuously put others ahead of herself.

Beryl's abilities and interests over her lifetime were wide-ranging. Mathematical aptitude led her to work as a high school teacher and an H&R Block income tax advisor. She loved to get lost in a book, and her love of literature was gifted to her grandchildren. Beryl was also notoriously lucky. She had an uncanny ability to thrash any opponent at cribbage, bridge or rummoli, and was competitive to the end. Beryl volunteered her personal time with seniors and The John Howard Society and gave generously to charity. She worked endlessly to promote her lifelong artist friend, Anna P. Baker in an effort to share Anna's talent with the world.

Beryl remarked that her life with Dick had given her everything she could possibly have wanted and often told friends, family and new acquaintances, "I've had such a wonderful life!"

Family will honour Beryl's wish that her ashes join Dick's, at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of choice, or to the Richard W. Hutchinson Geoscience Collaborative Suite, at Western University; attention Kendra Lealess, Western University, Westminster Hall, Suite 110, 1151 Richmond St. London, ON N6A 3K7 (cheques payable to Western University) or by calling 519-661-4200 or online at [www.westernconnect.ca/hutchinson](http://www.westernconnect.ca/hutchinson)

# Tribute Wall

SH

“ *A toast to our mom: With your quiet selflessness and ceaseless sense of duty, it rather seems to me that you always walked in Beauty. May your spirit flow serenely into the infinite, like your ashes to the sea. To the spirit of Beryl Marie*

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**Sue Hutchinson** - February 02, 2021 at 06:49 PM

MC

“ Everyone knows your Dad was a world-renowned Economic Geologist who contributed to knowledge on the subject and mentored dozens of PhD and Master's students, but some may not know how much your mom contributed in the background. I had insight into one example. Your Mom created a paper index of all your dad's work. This was a huge task since your dad had published hundreds of papers in journals, books and conferences around the world. Your mom created a paper database with index cards containing keywords pertaining to the published document, the title, data, and a few lines describing the document. This index card also had a numeric number linking to another set of index cards containing the abstract of the published document, and a numeric number linking to the printed document. So your mom had created 3 paper databases: 1. index cards holding key words, 2. index cards holding abstracts and 3. the printed published documents. She then tried to teach and help your Dad to retrieve this cross-referenced information to prepare for conferences, lectures and to publish other documents. This was so important for published document references to be validated by industry peers. So they had to be very accurate. Anyway, your mom was not satisfied with this paper process so she researched and purchased some software to try to automate these paper databases. The software was not doing what she was able to do on paper indexes, so she asked me to help. Being a young computer science student specializing in database information storage and retrieval, I thought this would be a simple task. I was so so wrong. I spent hours and days trying to understand the software and its capabilities, and how your mom wanted it to perform. I eventually gave up, and your mom did not ask anymore and continued to use the software as-is. It was not until years later, after 10 plus years working in database programming, that I understood what your mom was trying to do. She was looking for what is called "open text searching" which is a technology used in Google and Amazon searches. She developed the processes that she needed but the technology had not been invented yet for open database text searches. She was way ahead of her time.

**Michael Carmichael** - February 02, 2021 at 06:45 PM

“ Beryl was a remarkable woman, who had many talents and attributes. She was smart, insightful, compassionate, spoke words of wisdom and was patient. In the 1960's my family were neighbours with the Hutchinson family in London Ontario (no not London England, although at times, Beryl wished Dick lived there). I hung out with Cindy, Lee, Carla and Sue. I got to "experience" Beryl and Dick. Now, having "said" that Beryl was patient, this was not always the truth. There were times when Beryl read people the "riot act" for a misdeed or "misdeeds", that in Beryl's opinion, they committed over the years. Beryl did not exclude me. I remember, when I was around four years old, Dick took me to the "members only dining room" at Western University; Dick, being the s\*\*t disturber and joker that he was, arranged, unknown to me, for a woman that worked there to bring me this plate of really unappetizing food. When she brought it out and put it in front of me, Dick said "this is for you" \u2026 not wanting him to get one up on me, I said "I didn't know Beryl worked in the kitchen" Dick burst out laughing and said "I am going to tell Beryl about this.\u201d I didn't think anything about this, until that night when I went to hang out with my gal pals at their house. Beryl was in the kitchen. Before I had a chance to go to the basement, she said "\u2019ve got a bone to pick with you" and proceeded to read me the riot act and interrogate me about what had happened and asked me if I really thought she was the cook (I think she worked for the FBI). When I was a little kid, I remember her compassion, I think she could sense my lack of self-confidence and she would try and help me build it up. She brought me the book "The Little Engine That Could" and sat down with me and read it to me and then gave it to me to keep. Like many kids, I hated math, she would talk to me, telling me about the virtues of it and INSISTING that "I would learn to love it". Beryl and Dick throughout the years were so good to me and others and were good parents. They were also very much in love with and respected each other and were very "affectionate and frisky with each" Which explains why they had four kids..... and could have had more. There are so many other memories of Beryl ..... and Dick, you couldn't take one without the other. So thanks Beryl, for all the good and even a

*few bad memories, ha ha. The times up at the cottage, your great meals there, the trips to the local bakery on Saturday mornings for fresh apple buns and chocolate eclairs, playing board games, cribbage (unlike Dick, you never had to cheat to win) and the musical interludes and the beers, will always leave me good memories. Also thanks for slapping Dicks hand and giving him s\*\*t when he tried to steal food or booze from people. You join many people who died in 2020, including Alex Trebek, Helen Reddy, Eddie Van Halen (I know you were a groupie of his), Ruth Bader Ginsburg, John Lewis, Zindzi Mandela (Nelsons daughter), Jean Kennedy Smith and others. You, like them, will be "forever in our hearts and our inspiration. So I will join you sometime in the future and we can have some beers together, maybe even beat up Dick if needed, and can talk with each other; however you will never convince me to like math, because while you are good, you\u2019re not that good.*

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**Liz MacDougall** - January 22, 2021 at 10:59 AM

SS

“ *Cindy, Sue, Lee and Carla, I'm very sorry for your loss. Beryl was a kind, generous, caring and fun-loving person and will be missed by so many. Thank you for sharing all these photos and for the beautifully written description of her life.*

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**Sue Sullivan** - January 01, 2021 at 02:30 PM

NC

“ We first met Beryl when she and Dick moved to Mines Park in Golden. What followed were many dinners there and at their home in Golden Gate Canyon. Beryl and Norma shared book discussions during her participation in the Colorado School of Mines Women's Club. Beryl and Dick continued to welcome us for a visit in NS and for many an overnight stay in Forest. She was a gracious hostess welcoming us and any additional family member who may be tagging along with us. Our sympathy goes out to Sue, Cindy, Lee, Carla and their families. Graham Closs and Norma Tubman

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**Norma Tubman and Graham Closs** - December 28, 2020 at 08:42 PM

LK

“ Somewhere a ukulele strums, the whiskey flows, and yarns, limericks and lyrics take turns as the evening's stanzas. A "Chinook"-like wind blows, a pack of wolves howls, fire and ice crackle. Perhaps Beryl, like Saturn just recently with Jupiter, has at last caught up too. I'm so sorry for your loss. It was an honor and privilege to have shared a small part of her life and to have met those to whom she was especially close. Best to all of you. Lew

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**Lew Kleinhans** - December 27, 2020 at 03:17 PM

JS

“ So sorry to hear about Aunt Beryl. Wonderful memories for you in those photos. Sending lots of hugs.

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**Judy Simon** - December 25, 2020 at 08:01 AM

CC

“ My deepest sympathies to Sue, Lee, Cindy, Carla and families. I have never forgotten the kindness both Dick and Beryl showed to me during my stay in London.

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**Cas Clarke** - December 24, 2020 at 11:25 AM

EH

“ I have many fond memories of my trips to the Hutchinson cottages on Lake Huron during the summer of 1979 when I was working to finish my M.Sc. thesis with Dick. I would arrive in mid-afternoon every couple of weeks starting some time in May and immediately be handed a beer by either Dick or Beryl. That was usually followed by a trip to the beach for a swim or to the tennis court to play against Dick, Beryl or any one of numerous visitors. On one occasion we played volleyball with a bunch of the neighbours including a 4 or 5 year child. At one point in the game I ended up standing directly across from the 5 year old on the net and he insisted that it wasn't fair for me to be standing directly across from him. Beryl just about fell over laughing at the situation and the child's plea for me to be replaced because it just wasn't fair for him to have to deal with me. The afternoon outings were always followed by a wonderful dinner prepared by Beryl and various helpers. Dinner was followed by watching the sunset over Lake Huron, playing cards or Dick playing the Ukulele and the rest of us trying to sing along. I was most appreciative of Beryl's ample dinners (and breakfasts the following morning) because I was a starving grad student who lost 30 or 40 lbs between January and August of 1979. She invariably served fresh fish, bought from the nearby First Nation reserve, steak or some other meat that was beyond my budget at the time. On subsequent trips to visit Dick and Beryl, she would insist that I take an extra helping or two of meat or fish if she thought I was being too polite and not living up to my ability to eat large quantities of food that I had demonstrated as a grad student. There are many other things I remember about Beryl including her love for gardening and the story about how her joy of working with her hands presented a problem when she needed to have her fingerprints taken when she became a US citizen (gardening had worn down her fingerprints to the point where they were nearly impossible to capture). My treatment by Dick and Beryl makes me think that you had amazing parents and hope you remember the good times you had with them. Sincerely, Ed

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Ed Van Hees - December 24, 2020 at 10:56 AM

FS

“ *A beautiful collection of photographs! So many great memories. A long and interesting life.*

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**Faith and Scott** - December 23, 2020 at 09:45 PM

HW

“ *Condolences to the family from Gregg and Heather Weatherall.*

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**Heather Weatherill** - December 23, 2020 at 06:44 PM

MJ

“ *Our condolences to Sue, Lee, Cindy and Carla and families. I have a lifetime of memories of your mum that spans three countries. I'll cherish my memories of her kindness, generosity, patience, sense of fun and intelligence. The best bridge partner anyone could ask for. Rest in peace. With love Margot and Bud.*

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**Margot Jorgensen** - December 23, 2020 at 03:49 PM