



Candles of Remembrance

a community memorial event

Thursday, November 30th, 2023

A lit candle in a glass holder with a decorative, lattice-like pattern. The candle is lit, and the flame is visible. The holder is placed on a dark, reflective surface.

“Those we love never truly
leave us. There are things that
death cannot touch.”

~ Jack Thorne

Thank you for joining us!

Order of Service

Welcome Louise Brazier

Land Whitney Vowels
Acknowledgement

Reading and Lighting Hospice Orillia Team
of Seven Candles

Music Angie Nussey

Readings Mayor McIssac
Mayor Burkett
Nicole Johnstone
Annalise Stenekes

Memorial Names

Readings Rev. Linda Patton-Cowie
Quentin Evans
June Gunn
Theresa Morrison

Music Angie Nussey

Final Words Louise Brazier

Music Angie Nussey

Followed by light refreshments.

Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that the land which we are gathered on today is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabek Nation; specifically, the Chippewa Tri – Council comprised of the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Rama and Georgina Island First Nations and more recently the Mississaugas of the Credit River First Nation.

Ontario is covered by 46 treaties and other agreements and is home to many Indigenous Nations from across Turtle Island, including the Inuit and the Métis. These treaties and other agreements, including the One Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, are agreements to peaceably share and care for the land and its resources. Other Indigenous Nations, Europeans, and newcomers were invited into this covenant in the spirit of respect, peace, and friendship.

Most of us have come here as settlers, immigrants, or newcomers in this generation or generations past.

We are all Treaty people. Every day we are mindful of broken covenants, and we strive to make this right. We commit to collaborating based on the foundational assumption that Indigenous Peoples have the power, strength, and competency to develop culturally specific strategies for their communities.

We are dedicated to honouring Indigenous self-determination, history, and culture, and are committed to moving forward in the spirit of reconciliation and respect with all First Nation, Métis and Inuit people.

Thank You Community Partners

Angie Nussey Music
Bridget's Bunnies

Casino Rama CREW Festive Fund
Community Foundation of Orillia
and Area

City of Orillia
Mariposa House Hospice
Mundell Funeral Home
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Township of Severn



Thank you for joining us!



Lighting of Candles

Recited by the Hospice Orillia team

First Candle: Grief

The pain of loss is intense. This candle reminds us of the depth of our love.

Second Candle: Courage

In confronting and being with our sorrow, in offering comfort to each other in trying to accept the change in our lives.

Third Candle: Memories

For the times we laughed, the times we cried, the times we were angry and for the caring and the joy we shared.

Fourth Candle: Love

We cherish the special place in our hearts that will always be there for you.

Fifth Candle: Unspoken Grief

For the grief we cannot speak of, for the grief we cannot name, for the grief that no one recognizes. We thank you for the gift your life has brought to us.

Sixth Candle: Compassion

Compassion for ourselves and for others. May we extend grace and spread kindness as we adjust to the world as it is now without our loved ones.

Seventh Candle: Collective Global Grief

For the collective global grief we feel as the harsh realities of war and humanitarian crises affect all peoples. May peace and love prevail and may the light always find a way to banish the darkness.

Readings

Let Evening Come

By: Jane Kenyon

Recited by: Don McIsaac

Mayor, City of Orillia

Let the light of late afternoon
shine through chinks in the barn, moving
up the bales as the sun moves down.

Let the cricket take up chafing
as a woman takes up her needles
and her yarn. Let evening come.

Let dew collect on the hoe abandoned
in long grass. Let the stars appear
and the moon disclose her silver horn.

Let the fox go back to its sandy den.
Let the wind die down. Let the shed
go black inside. Let evening come.

To the bottle in the ditch, to the scoop
in the oats, to air in the lung
let evening come.

Let it come, as it will, and don't
be afraid. God does not leave us
comfortless, so let evening come.

Readings

How Grateful I Would Be To Have Just One More Day

By: Kathy J. Parenteau

Recited by: Mike Burkett

Mayor, Township of Severn

If I could have just one more day and
wishes did come true,
I'd spend every glorious moment
side by side with you.
Recalling all the years we shared
and memories we made,
how grateful I would be
to have just one more day.
Where the tears I've shed are
not in vain and only fall in bliss.
So many things I'd let you know
about the days you've missed.
I wouldn't have to make pretend
you never went away.
How grateful I would be to
have just one more day.
When that day came to a close
and the sun began to set,
a million times I'd let you know
I never will forget
the heart of gold you left behind
when you entered Heaven's gate.
How grateful I would be to
have just one more day.

Readings

Remembrance

By: Alora M. Knight

Recited by: Nicole Johnstone

General Manager, Mundell Funeral Home

Published by Family Friend Poems
October 2017 with permission of the Author.

Let everyone gather
With heartaches, smile and tears.
Let the bright memories flow
From all the past years.

Let there be music,
Familiar old songs.
Let flowers stay in gardens
Where their glory belongs.

Let peacefulness reign
'Til the evening sun sets.
Let no words be unspoken,
Then there will be no regrets.

True love's everlasting
Through eternity.
So brighten the world
In remembrance of me.

Readings

I Missed You

By: Donna Ashworth

Recited by: Annalise Stenekes

Executive Director, Mariposa House Hospice

I missed you today but that's nothing new
I missed you a million times yesterday too
I picked up my phone to tell you the news
then realized again, I can't text it to you.

I saw your bright smile at least twenty times
and then I remember it's all in my mind
I drive without presence, the world feels surreal
and on comes your song and this doesn't seem real.

I missed you today but I miss you a lot
it's helpful to miss you, it's all that I've got
I wish I could pull you down here for a while
I fear I'll forget the shape of your smile.

I miss you today and I'll miss you tomorrow
there seems to be no coming end to this sorrow
I try to go on as I know that you care
I know that you're willing me on from up there.

I miss you today but I'm trying to find
a way to move on but not leave you behind
a way to forge on with the love that we had
a way to recall you and simply feel
glad.

Readings

What the night is for

By: Jan Richardson

Recited by: Rev. Linda Patton-Cowie

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church

Oh, my heart,
if we could cease working
on our sorrow
like we were trying
to stitch together shattered glass.

This breaking
is not for fixing,
as though,
if we could just find
the fitting tool,
everything would tumble
into its place,
joined and whole.

Perhaps it is time
to let the shards lie
where they have
fallen.

Perhaps it is time
to let ourselves
sit and weep
over them.

And then perhaps
we scatter them—
into the soil,
into the sky,
it does not matter
where.

Let them take
their place.
Let them shimmer
like a constellation
in all that darkness—

sky-dark, soil-dark,
at home in that strange
and radiant solace
that knows
what the night
is for—

how it takes
the broken things
and sets them
shining
to light our way
from here.

Readings

When I am Gone

By: Becky Hemsley

Recited by: Quentin Evans

Director, Hospice Orillia

When I am gone, do not fear my memory.

Do not be afraid to speak my name or look through old photographs.

Do not be scared to play old videos so that you might hear my voice and see me laughing.

Do not be wary of visiting my favourite places or eating my favourite foods or singing along to my favourite songs.

I know it will hurt. Those memories will remind you that I am gone.

They will stab at you like a knife in an open, gaping wound. Raw, excruciating pain.

But after a while the knife will become less sharp, the wound will become less open and the pain will become less raw.

And those memories will remind you that I was here.

That I lived.

Do not reduce my life to my death.

Speak my name, hear my voice, sing my favourite songs and visit my favourite places.

Because that's how I can stay alive a little.

Right here with you

Readings

Remember Me

By: Margaret Mead

Recited by: June Gunn

Volunteer, Hospice Orillia

To the living, I am gone,
To the sorrowful, I will never return,
To the angry, I was cheated,
But to the happy, I am at peace,
And to the faithful, I have never left.

I cannot speak, but I can listen.
I cannot be seen, but I can be heard.
So as you stand upon a shore gazing at a beautiful
sea,
As you look upon a flower and admire its simplicity,
Remember me.

Remember me in your heart:
Your thoughts, and your memories,
Of the times we loved,
The times we cried,
The times we fought,
The times we laughed.

For if you always think of me,
I will never have gone.

Readings

I'm Home

By: Kelly Jane

Recited by: Theresa Morrison

Executive Director and Co-founder, Bridget's Bunnies

I'm home,
Dancing among the stars,
I feel your heavy heart from afar,
I see a thousand tears you cry,
Cry if you must but remember to smile,
I wish not to be a sad thought,
I long to be a memory of glory,
For my short life is my precious story,
To most, it might not seem a lot,
To me, it's everything I've got,
The life before we had to part,
How I danced to the beat of your heart,
There's so much I didn't get to see,
I pray you'll be my eyes for me,
As each new day begins to start,
Approach it with an open heart,
As though your very eyes are mine,
See things as though it's the first time,
See awe and wonder in all that be,
And when you do, think of me,
Then I will see the wonders too,
By living through the eyes of you.

Candles of Remembrance

The 2023 Candles of Remembrance ceremony is dedicated to all who have experienced a loss and to those who are no longer with us.

Thank you for joining us!
Our hearts are with you.

**Grief & Bereavement
Resources**



<https://nsmhpcn.ca/grief-bereavement/>

