

People

# Author pays tribute to grandmother with *Something to Remember Me By*

Stouffville author Susan Bosak will host a Mother's Day tea party tomorrow to help promote her new book, *Something To Remember Me By*.

The tea party starts at 2 p.m. at the Chapters Bookstore in Markham, Hwy. 7 and Woodbine Ave.

Mother's Day is a time for remembering mothers and grandmothers, and Bosak's book takes a fond look at this.

Memories and love across generations are the themes of the book which is released The Communication Project, a Stouffville-based company.

*Something to Remember Me By* speaks to the heart of every mother and grandmother, every daughter and granddaughter.

Written by Bosak and illustrated by Governor General's Award nominee Laurie McGaw, the book evokes nostalgic memories.

The book is a true story based on Bosak's relationship with her grandmother.

"Mother's Day is coming up and I bought a card for my grandmother the other day," said Bosak.

"It has the big, bright flowers on



Stouffville author Susan Bosak will be promoting her book *Something To Remember Me By* at Chapters in Markham on Sunday.

it that she likes so much. It's perfect. The only problem is that she won't know who the card is from."

Three years ago, Bosak's grandmother began suffering from an Alzheimer-like dementia.

"Before, when I would visit my grandmother she would be so happy to see me. She'd hug me,

and laugh, and want to talk and talk. Now I walk into her room and there's only a blank look. She doesn't know who I am. But even if she doesn't remember me anymore, I'll always remember her. That's why I wrote *Something to Remember Me By*," she explained.

"It's about celebrating the precious memories we all have and remembering the people we love."

Illustrator McGaw was moved by the story.

"When I first read the story it really got to me. It's such a universal story. It brought back warm memories from years ago of my own grandmother," said McGaw. "I thought of my relationship with my aging mom. And the story beautifully echoed my own young daughter's close relationship with her grandmother. I knew I just had to do the illustrations for the book."

Memories are powerful things. "I remember so many wonderful things about my grandmother," said Bosak.

"Her melt-in-your-mouth honey cake. The rose-scented lotion she used on her hands. How proud she was when my first book came out - and how she peddled it to all her

neighbors and joked about getting a commission! And her big, warm smile - the smile that everyone in the family says she passed on to me."

Bosak concluded, "The older you get, I think the more you treasure your memories, and start to think about your own legacy. Every birthday, first thing in the morning, I can't help but think of my grandmother. We had a little tradition that she would wake up early and be the first to call me and sing Happy Birthday. I can still hear her singing it."

Bosak will be signing copies at Sunday's tea party. For more information, call Chapters in Markham at 477-1756. The store will reserve a signed copy.

Bosak is an award winning author. Her previous book *Science Is...* was co-published by The Communication Project and Scholastic and has become a best-seller in both Canada and the United States, with more than 100,000 copies sold.

Founded in 1984, The Communication Project is a research and education group which publishes books for both children and adults.

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