

**BIRTHDAYS**



**Happy 85th Birthday  
 Helen Ratcliff**

You are invited  
 to an Open House  
 In honour of Helen's 85th Birthday

Sunday, August 7, 2016  
 from 2-4 p.m.  
 at Eastern Gate Village  
 36 Eastern Gate Cres., Stouffville, ON

Meet the family at 3 p.m.

Best Wishes Only.

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**TRENHOLM-GUEST, Karen Georgina**

Karen Georgina Trenholm-Guest, 57, passed away surrounded by her family on the evening of Sunday, July 24, 2016. She is survived by her children; Brooke (Blair) Cain, Jeremy (Krystle) Guest, Emma Guest, her four grandchildren; Brayden, Abi, Lux, Bexley, and her siblings; Lois (Carl), Irma (Worthen), Joanie (Jim), and Brian (Charlene). Please join Karen's family on Friday, August 5, 2016 at the Stouffville Legion (150 Mostar St.) from 6-9 p.m. in celebration of her life.

*In tears we saw you sinking,  
 we watched you fade away,  
 our hearts were almost broken  
 you fought so hard to stay.*

*God saw you getting tired  
 when a cure was not to be,  
 so he wrapped his arms around you  
 and whispered "come with me."*

*Your golden heart stopped beating,  
 your gentle hands at rest.  
 God broke our hearts to prove to us,  
 he only takes the best.*

*But when we saw you sleeping,  
 so peacefully free from pain,  
 we could not wish you back,  
 to suffer that again.*

Arrangements entrusted to the Low and Low Funeral Home, Uxbridge (905-852-3073).

For online condolences,  
 please visit [www.lowandlow.ca](http://www.lowandlow.ca)

**Architect built friendships with gingerbread houses**

**BY ADAM MARTIN-ROBBINS**  
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If you knew Bill Whitney chances are pretty good, at one time or another, you found yourself the target of one of his jokes.

And if you were fortunate enough to be counted among his close friends, neighbours or clients, you likely tasted his one-of-a-kind, homemade gingerbread houses.

An accomplished architect, Whitney, who died of cancer June 13 at 86, also made his mark through the landmark buildings he designed across Canada and abroad.

"He was just a colourful person," his eldest son, Gordon, said. "He would tease people and we'd get him back, too. But I just found dad great with everybody; very generous and thoughtful."

Whitney was born, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Dec. 1, 1929.

As a youngster, his family moved about a dozen times to communities across Canada as a result of his father's job as a "troubleshooter" for Woolworth's department store.

When he was 14, they settled in Etobicoke.

He enrolled at Etobicoke High School and that's where he met and began dating Marg MacLean, a Toronto native, who would become his wife of more than six decades.

"It was Grade 10 and he went with someone else in Grade 9 so everybody said to me, 'Well, you'll only see him for a year,'" Marg recalled with a chuckle.

After graduating, Whitney studied architecture at the University of Toronto while MacLean went into nursing.

He proposed on her birthday, in 1953, and they wed Sept. 11, 1954.

"As he told everybody, we were married for 61 years, but before that we had nine celibate years together," Marg said.

Within a couple of years, their first child, Barbie, was born.

Sadly, she died at five and a half months old, but they went on to have four more children: Gordon, Jim, Jean and Nancy.

In 1962, they left the city for

Woodbridge.

"Bill wanted to get out in the country and it was country back then," Marg said.

They moved into a y-shaped bungalow on Hayhoe Avenue that Whitney designed.

It was one of the few houses he worked on, choosing instead to focus on industrial, commercial and institutional buildings.

Among his notable projects were the award-winning Garnett A. Williams Community Centre, the former McGuinness Distillery in Etobicoke, the former Weston Produce Plaza on the northwest corner of Martin Grove Road and Hwy.7. He also designed buildings in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ireland and the Caribbean.

In the early 1980s, Whitney grew fed up with giving his clients alcohol at Christmas so he decided to create elaborately designed, home-made gingerbread houses for them instead.

They featured doors, shutters, chimneys, trees and icicles; he'd even bake little gingerbread men to go on the lawn, Gordon said.

Whitney enlisted Marg and their children to help.

They made more than 20 gingerbread houses each year for his clients as well as family, friends and neighbours.

"He'd invite the neighbourhood kids in and they'd decorate their own," Gordon said.

The tradition lasted until 2014 and during that time, they made more than 750 gingerbread houses.

Whitney also loved to cook up large meals for church functions as well as for family and friends at the countless backyard barbecues and pool parties they hosted.

He taught cooking classes in the evenings and penned a couple of cookbooks, copies of which he gave to his children.

One featured a section called 40 Hints from the Old Man, which included this gem: "Never cook in the nude - splatters can be painful".

A deeply religious man, Whitney often said if he hadn't become an architect, he'd have become a minister. Instead, he served as a lay reader at Christ



Bill Whitney of Woodbridge remembered for being generous, thoughtful father and friend.

Church Woodbridge.

"He was a fine Christian gentleman," said longtime friend Ken Maynard.

In his retirement, Whitney was a volunteer driver for the Canadian Cancer Society shuttling patients from Woodbridge down to Princess Margaret Hospital for treatment.

He was also keenly interested in genealogy and traced his family roots back several generations to the United States and Britain.

But chief among his pastimes was fishing.

He and Marg spent their honeymoon casting lines in Lake of Bays and for many years, he and a group of friends trekked up north to Gowganda, just south of Timmins, to fish all weekend long.

Fittingly, Whitney's ashes are now stored in an old metal tackle box.

Whitney was also a dedicated family man, who loved his children deeply and praised them in his own, special way, Gordon said.

"When he was very proud of us kids he'd often say, 'You've done noble.'"