

Margaret (née O'Neil) Anderson

May 14, 1923 – April 25, 2008

Death Location:

Barrie, ON

Worked For:

Orenda in the Cafeteria as a Cafeteria worker

Obituary (online):

ANDERSON, Margaret O'Neil 14/05/1923–25/04/2008 B. in the small town of Kilwinning, Scotland, a half hour drive south of Glasgow. Her full name was Margaret Mary Lennon O'Neil and she was the firstborn of Marion Brannon and Thomas O'Neil. Margaret had only one sister, Kathleen, who was five years younger. Margaret was a very intelligent person. She loved history and English and went to school faithfully, was fortunate to go through to St. Michael's College, but lost the Duck's medal to a boy. Those were the times. She worked hard all of her life, helping her parents run a store in a trailer park at a very young age, and then as War time approached, like so many women of that time, helped out in the factories, specifically the munitions factory which was near her town. She met her loving husband Hugh when she was 20 years old. He told her that he was 22 years old and she believed because he had grey in his hair. Later, once he caught her, he admitted that he was only 18!! 21 They loved to dance. They would meet at the dance hall. Hugh knew that Margaret had the nicest legs around. She was only 5 foot 2 inches, beautiful flaming red wavy hair, dressed to perfection. He was tall, 6 feet 2 inches, black wavy hair—with of course a fleck of grey—they were a fine looking couple and always would be. Margaret and Hugh were married in 1948, and had three children in Scotland: Marion and the twins Jamie and Brian. Eventually they decided to move to Canada because life would be better. They purchased their first home in Malton. They were going to have a wonderful life as Hugh was able to obtain a job working on the Avro Arrow but, like so many, were terribly disappointed when the project was shut down. They moved to California for a period but decided to return to Canada when Carolyn's birth was anticipated. Carolyn was born in 1959 and life went on. Margaret was a housewife, a wonderful cook, a mother who had very high standards not only for herself and her husband, but raised her children with very strong morals and values. Hugh began a new career as a blast furnace engineer, which had him traveling a lot and which left Margaret to tend to the homefront a lot on her own. She not only worked at home but, like so many women of that time, worked outside the home in the cafeteria at Orenda, Malton, ON, and later, in the 1960s and 1970s, as a bookkeeper for Ronson's in Rexdale. In 1985 Hugh was in a very serious car accident which basically turned their lives upside down. He was forced to retire early and go through a very long healing process. Margaret and Hugh stuck everything out together and when Hugh died in 1993, Margaret moved to Barrie to be closer to her daughters, both of whom lived there. As only Margaret would, she pushed herself forward, bought a new home, made a new family home for her children and grandchildren to visit, cooked as only Margaret could, continued to tend to her beautiful garden and keep a perfect home. Margaret began to have continual medical problems in the early 2000s. Not understanding what was going on made life difficult: she wanted to be independent but her body was not allowing that to happen. Margaret passed away just three weeks short of her 85th birthday on April 25, 2008. She believed that you had to work hard in life to get what you wanted and to fight for what you believe in. Margaret was not afraid to speak her mind, she had lots to say, she was worth listening to, and she didn't pull any punches!!! Margaret loved her husband, children and grandchildren. She believed in family and we believed in her. There will forever now be a void in our family's lives and we will shed tears of sadness for she is no longer here, but our hearts are filled with love for her. Mum is with Dad—All is Well—We will always have "a little thought for Mum and Dad." —Thanks to daughter Carolyn Belleau. GPH: 17/09/2007 S2017

https://www.grovecparkhome.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Connections_3_2003-2012.pdf (page 20)

Researched by: Barry Copp (2023)