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Dr. June Irwin

June 22, 2017

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IRWIN, Dr. June – On June 22nd, 2017 in her 83rd year. Beloved daughter of the late Thomas Albert Irwin and Gertrude Youngs Irwin. Sister of Sister of Doris Annie Irwin Taylor, Thomas Albert (Bert) Irwin, Kathleen Gertrude Anne Irwin Annable.

“Academically, whether high school or university, she astounded educators by earning 100% in most subjects. Lowest mark of 98.7 would send her to the books to make sure she would not get such a low mark again. She had to be the best to prove to professors that she could succeed. In the late 50’s, women were considered too delicate to take on the responsibility of a doctor, let alone becoming a dermatologist.

High school graduation, June earned 6 of 7 scholarships, losing out to the French person who had the highest mark in English. Of course, Junie now had to become bilingual.

This zest to excel and an innate stubbornness spilled into her dedication to ridding the world of toxic pesticides. Research, lab tests, and all related costs were borne from her own pocket. She would rather not eat than allow the cause to fail.

Her pioneering diligence caught the eye of many reporters, TV. hosts, magazines, politicians, especially in Hudson. Five decades of intense fighting for toxic free communities were victorious June, 2003 when the city of Hudson P.Q. was the first country in Canada to ban pesticides. Ontario did not comply until 2013.

June was unique. No small talk for her at any social event. It was a time to spread the dangers of pesticides. She managed to collect a few hair samples to be sent away for pesticide tests. Her goal was to see Canada become pesticide free.

No person with a cause can work alone. June was blessed to have valuable friends who went above and beyond to ensure she could devote her time to eradicating pesticides and still have time for her patients. Heartfelt thanks go out to Carol and Guy Forest, cook, chauffeur, shoulder to cry on, and so much more in the past 30 years. They did their best to keep her as healthy as possible.

Odette Forest, a good friend for over 25 years, her receptionist, did many odd jobs, grocery shopping, and organized and cleaned her office.

Linda Nelson of Vancouver, a friend for over 25 years, a competent computer researcher, found extensive information for June. Linda had a great loyalty to June’s fight against pesticides


Danielle, longtime friend, shopped for organic food for June. She brought variety for June’s meals.

Gerald Proulx, you are a gem. A concert pianist & piano teacher, rolled up your sleeves to care for her animals and hens, buying the feed, caring for her humongous yard, all in a most gracious manner for over five decades. When it was obvious June was becoming weaker, you took on extra chores such as laundry, house cleaning, tending to personal necessities, allowing her to maintain her dignity. It is your piano recording we are hearing today.


Julius H. Grey, thank you for continued legal counsel. June had a lot of respect for you.

When June decided to move to a pesticide free heaven, it was most gratifying to have nephew Tom Irwin step in to represent Bert & Marnie, nephew Bill Taylor to represent Doris & Boyd. Being the youngest sister of June, I represent myself and Howard Annable. We co-operatively worked together because we cared and wanted what was right for June.

Junie, May God Bless You and hold you in His hands. May the angels hold you in their arms as you look down upon us, knowing you also had an impact on the world. Your final Mark for anti-pesticides – 100%.”


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