



## Helen Towell

August 14, 2013

Helen Heyens Towell, a resident of Wallaceburg, passed away peacefully at Fairfield Park on Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at the age of 87. Helen is the daughter of the late Joseph Heyens and Alma (Notchael) Heyens. Beloved wife of Earl Fleming Towell for 63 years. Loving mother and mother-in-law of Larry (Ann) of Bothwell, Linda (Anil) Misra of Lucan, Patsy (Gary) Johnson of Kingston, Earl Jr. (Violet) of London, Sharon (Bob) Klassen of Kingston, Dorothy (Mike) deBakker of Wallaceburg and Shelly Anderson of Wallaceburg. Dear grandmother of 22 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Predeceased by her eldest son Edward, her brothers Henry and George and sister Margaret. Helen was an artisan. Along with many beautiful paintings she restored various statues from the local churches. Music was a passion and she was a member of the traditional choir at Our Lady Help of Christians church for over 40 years as well as other choirs. She especially enjoyed playing bass guitar and singing locally with Earl at various settings. She volunteered for Meals on Wheels for 30 years and was a member of the Catholic Women's League. Helen was a part of the family business, (Towell's Auto Body) for 60 years. Her generous heart included supporting many charitable organizations. Helen's greatest achievement was to raise eight children along with Earl in a loving home. Her faith in God was her strength. Visitation will be held at HAYCOCK-CAVANAGH FUNERAL HOME, 409 Nelson Street in Wallaceburg on Sunday August 18th from 2-4 & 7-9 PM with Parish Prayers at 3:30. Funeral Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at

Our Lady Help of Christians Church on Monday, August 19th at 11:00 AM. Mrs Towell's ashes will lie in state at Our Lady Help of Christians Church 1 hour prior to the Funeral Mass. Interment at Riverview Cemetery. If desired, remembrances to the Parkinson's Society may be left at the funeral home 519 627-3231. Online tributes may be left at [www.CavanaghFuneralHome.ca](http://www.CavanaghFuneralHome.ca)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Helen Towell*

January 29, 2023 at 11:37 PM



“ *Sending our deepest sympathy to the entire family*

**Jerry and Karen Annett** - October 27, 2013 at 03:20 PM



“ *Laura MacKinnon lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



**Laura MacKinnon** - September 03, 2013 at 11:59 AM



“ *My thoughts and condolences go out to Helen's family.*

**William (Bill) Arends** - August 27, 2013 at 08:51 AM

DD

“ Part 3 of Eulogy...see Part 1 and 2 below

*Mom and dad moved to our big house in the country in the 1950's, spending their entire adult lives there. A few years ago as we saw our parent's health deteriorating, I tried to talk them into moving into town into a smaller, more manageable home. They would say, "Why would we ever do that? This is our own little slice of heaven here." Mom was the last to move to a nursing home when her health and safety required it. We are all happy that she was able to stay in her own little slice of heaven as long as possible, to enjoy her morning coffee looking out over the slow moving river that we swam and skied in, walking the yard filled with flowers and memories of her children playing, surrounded by photos of the family that she devoted her life to, reliving memories of a life well lived. She left us peacefully with my sister Patsy singing at her bedside.*

*May we all be so blessed to leave this world in such a way.*

*Thank you*

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**Dorothy deBakker** - August 22, 2013 at 02:57 PM

DD

“ Part 2 or Eulogy...see Part 1 below

*Our mother always taught us the value of hard work, and to be proud of it. She gained her work ethic, being raised the eldest child on a southwest ontario farm. As a scrawny, self conscious teenager, I would complain to her that I couldn't get a girlfriend because I had stained hands and fingernails from painting cars in my dads bodyshop. But she always said to never be ashamed of having a working mans hands, and that a woman is far more attracted to a hard worker than a delicate slacker. She, along with my dad, were successful at ingraining that work ethic in us all. And there is no better legacy than devoting a life to raising your children well.*

*Mom didn't waste time with unnecessary details. My wife Violet is Yugoslavian. But in moms eyes she was some times Polish, or Italian, or Ukranian, or any other European extraction that came to mind. As a homemaker she didn't always understand professional women, but she respected the perseverance and hard work that brought them there.*

*Although raising eight children assured that there were always meals to make and clothes to wash, mom was always available to help in the most practical of ways. When we were too young to drive, it was mom who would drive the long gravel country roads at night, to pick us up in town, no matter what time it was. And when I was finally old enough to drive, of course the first order of business was to buy a car. And the second order of business was to smash it up regularly. It was often mom helping me hammer out the dents and laying on bodyfiller.*

*Growing up on the Sydenham River was a large part of our childhood. In spite of the ever-present worries of eight children living on a body of water, mom instilled a respect of the water, but never a fear of it. Fear was never part of her vocabulary, but confidence in one's own skills was. The river was a constant source of pleasure for all of us. Water skiing on Sunday after church was a joy that we*

*all looked forward to. Dad drove the boat, but it was mom who gave us tips on how to water ski. She was always in good shape, and it showed when she was on water skis, being able to ski better than many of us even into her 50's.*

*With such a large gaggle of kids running around, and dad often required to work late at the shop, the dinner table often became a source of kids squabbling. Mom had to keep order. Parents today have all sorts of clever strategies to maintain positive child behaviour--buying their children toys, goodies, pony rides or trips to Disneyland. Not mom. She ate dinner with a large wooden spoon beside her plate. You fought with your sister--whack--finish your dinner. Sometimes clear and simple is the best solution.*

*In addition to the time commitment of a large family, mom served the church, the community, and God. She was a member of the Catholic Womens League, as well as cooking for Meals on Wheels for many years. And she used her musical talents helping families and communities celebrate events by playing country music with my father at weddings and dances, and in their later years, cheering up the elderly with music at the local nursing homes. Both of my parents loved music, and so all of us children learned to play at least one instrument. At an early age, we were all taught to perform at get togethers with family and friends. It wasn't a demand, that was just how you got to be part of the fun. She taught self confidence in the most practical of ways.*

*Mom and dad moved to our big house in the country in the 1950's, spending their entire adult lives there. A few years ago as we saw our parent's health deteriorating, I tried to talk them into moving into town into a smaller, more manageable home. They would say, "Why would we ever do that? This is our own little slice of heaven here." Mom was the last to move to a nursing home when her health and safety required it. We are all happy that she was able to stay in her own little slice of heaven as long as possible, to enjoy her morning coffee looking out over the slow moving river that we*

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**Dorothy deBakker** - August 22, 2013 at 01:58 PM

DD

“ *Eulogy given by Earl Towell Jr.*



*Thanks to everyone for coming here today to share in our loss. We know that mom has truly gone on to a better place--to be in paradise with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Over the past few days as I considered the qualities that made mom who she was, the stories that explain those qualities are through my eyes. And so, some of these stories are from my experiences with mom. I am certain my siblings and all of you have your own stories that you too, could tell.*

*Although this is a sad day, its also a celebration of mom's life and in life--we laugh. When the Towells get together as a family we like to laugh, and mom loved to join in.*

*(Pause)*

*Mom grew up in a time that the needs of her parents, siblings and the family farm always outweighed individual desires. She didn't have the opportunity to go to college or university, but we all knew she could have easily acquired a business degree. She did the bookwork for my fathers auto body business long past her 70th birthday. She had the foresight to purchase the Becher auto body shop for dads business to operate in. She bought local farmland when it was worth far less than it is today. She could have been a real estate tycoon.*

*Mom was also a talented, self-taught artist. Our childhood home is still filled with her remarkable paintings. And if you look at many of the statues and icons in this church and other local Catholic churches, she was the artist who repaired and repainted them. We all know where our brother Larry got his natural artistic abilities. And she was always willing to help us out with those talents. I remember one day back in grade five, bounding into the kitchen, and showing off my school award "best artist in the class" red ribbon. But that recognition was largely due to mom lending a hand on my school art projects, and helping me paint the backdrop to my school play,*

*"Sunbonnet Sue".*

*Mom was always the peacemaker. She wanted to make sure that everyone was included. And kids want to be included with family pets. Unfortunately, pets die eventually--it's a way for children to learn the circle of life. I went through a phase of having pet white mice, and they would die on me about every two weeks. This usually happened when I'd be playing with them on my bed, forget that they were there, and promptly sit on them. So I would arrange the most extravagant of funerals, complete with a cereal box casket and barbie dolls borrowed from my sisters to act as pall bearers. At that time, my younger sister Dorothy took great pleasure in finding ways to infuriate me, and so she would hound mom to insist that she was included in the ceremony, much to my protests. Mom made sure that I allowed Dorothy to take part. Dorothy would then shoot a victorious smirk at me while sticking out her tongue.*

*Raising eight kids, six dogs, countless cats, gerbils, white mice, and the occasional racoon in a big old farmhouse, mom was always able to make due with what she had. Although we never wore 150 dollar jeans or nike air runners, she always provided a warm, loving home for us. We learned the value of a dollar. I did however, take great pleasure in making up stories with my own children that, as kids we had to make our own shoes out of the old tires from my dads bodyshop.*

*Mom never minded when we brought friends home. Everyone always seemed to want to come out to the Towell house in the country. She'd put another plate on the table, or pull out a sleeping bag for the night. Even when my older brother Ed would bring home his strange, nerdy friends from university who would do science experiments on our kitchen stove, or Larry's artsy buddies would try to convince us that granola was truly another food group, or my friends and I would blow up my fathers amplifiers playing black sabbath until 4 am, mom would put up with it. She would state, well, at least she knew where we were at night.*

*Our mother always taught us the value of hard work, and to be proud of it. She gained her work ethic, being raised the eldest child on a southwest ontario*

**Dorothy deBakker** - August 22, 2013 at 09:17 AM

TL

“ *We would like to share our deepest condolences with the entire family. We shared great memories at Island Lake for so many years with your entire family and our dearest grandparents Elmer & Francis. God Bless all of you and thank you for the special memories we all shared together.*



*Always remembered never forgotten...*

*Weigle Girls (Carey, Teresa & Lori)*

**Teresa & Lori** - August 21, 2013 at 03:54 PM

BF

“ *May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived. Helen was a wonderful gifted lady who welcomed everyone into her life.*



*Bill Weigle and Families*

**Bill Weigle and Families** - August 21, 2013 at 03:38 PM

BF

“ *Bill Weigle And Families lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



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**Bill Weigle and Families** - August 21, 2013 at 03:34 PM

BF

“ *Bill Weigle And Families sent a virtual gift in memory of Helen Towell*

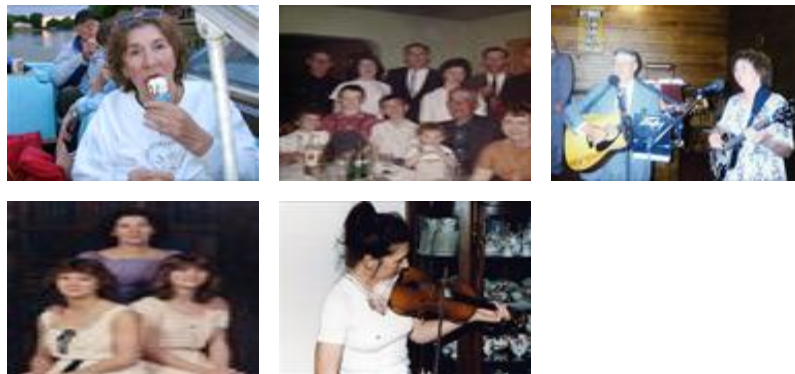


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**Bill Weigle and Families** - August 21, 2013 at 03:24 PM

DD

“ *31 files added to the album New Album Name*



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**Dorothy deBakker** - August 21, 2013 at 10:59 AM

PF

“ Please give a big hug to Earl from all of us. Our deepest condolences to all the Towell Family. We are so sorry for your loss. Helen was a very special and remarkable lady. We have many fond memories of all of you when you came to visit in the Sault , and spending time at Island Lake. It was a very enjoyable time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.



*Pat & Bob Pratt & Families*

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**Pat & Bob Pratt & Families** - August 20, 2013 at 07:27 PM

PF

“ *Pat & Bob Pratt & Families lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



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**Pat & Bob Pratt & Families** - August 20, 2013 at 07:21 PM

CG

“ *Carlene Gauthier lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



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**Carlene Gauthier** - August 19, 2013 at 12:28 PM

JD

“ *Julie DeMeyer lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



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**Julie DeMeyer** - August 19, 2013 at 08:39 AM

BS

“ *Brian And Elaine Shaw lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



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**Brian and Elaine Shaw** - August 18, 2013 at 09:28 PM

ER

“ *Ed & Odra Riedl lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



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**Ed & Odra Riedl** - August 18, 2013 at 08:26 PM

WL

“ *deepest sympathy to the family*



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**Wendy Love-Carpenter** - August 18, 2013 at 07:18 PM

KC

“ To all of the Towel I family:  
My deepest sympathies and thoughts are with you all. I am so sorry that I cannot be with you tomorrow for the service. We are currently on vacation in Cape Breton but will be thinking of you during this difficult time. I have such fond memories of Aunt Helen and our times with the whole family and holiday Hoe Downs with the Towell's. Every time I hear an old Hank Williams song it takes me back to your kitchen with Uncle Earl's foot tapping and playing and Aunt Helen singing and smiling and laughing. She loved her music but most of all she loved her family. I hope that thought brings you all comfort now. "To remain in the heart of those we leave behind is not to die".

*Kathy (Heyens) Cormier*

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**Kathy Cormier** - August 18, 2013 at 06:31 PM

JH

“ Dorothy you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.



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**John and Judy Hooper** - August 18, 2013 at 03:33 PM

AN

“ My heartfelt condolences to especially my good friends, Larry & Ann Towell & their children's family , as well to the extended Towell families together. I am with you in 'Spirit of Thought' with you as you experience this intimate time spent with your dear ones & family & friends during this time of reflection & celebration of the 'life-&-times' of Helen Towell. Peace be with you... Annie vanAlten (Guelph, Ont.)



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Annie - August 18, 2013 at 01:47 PM

DK

“ Denise Kellett(Bertrand) lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell



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Denise Kellett(Bertrand) - August 18, 2013 at 01:36 PM

JT

“ Jack And Kim Thomaes lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell



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Jack and Kim Thomaes - August 17, 2013 at 11:12 PM

BL

“ Dorothy and Mike and the rest of your family, you have our sincerest sympathy. Helen was a wonderful woman and mother who spread her love to many. I will always remember her for her musical and artistic abilities, She will be missed in the community.



Bun and Rose Marie Lozon - August 17, 2013 at 11:04 PM

VM

“ Dear Dorothy, Mike and family, please be assured of my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

vallerie macdonald - August 17, 2013 at 09:49 PM

VM

“ Vallerie Macdonald lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell



vallerie macdonald - August 17, 2013 at 09:45 PM

KW

“ Ken And Janet Wade lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell



Ken and Janet Wade - August 17, 2013 at 07:01 PM

DB

“ *Dora Gibbons Flynn ( Becher) lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



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**Dora Gibbons Flynn ( Becher)** - August 17, 2013 at 05:15 PM

GT

“ *Gerry And Marian Turner lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



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**Gerry and Marian Turner** - August 17, 2013 at 03:20 PM

DA

“ *Donna & Bev. Alexander. lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



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**Donna & Bev. Alexander.** - August 17, 2013 at 11:33 AM

BF

“ *Beverly Fish sent a virtual gift in memory of Helen Towell*



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**Beverly Fish** - August 17, 2013 at 11:29 AM

GB

“ George And Bev Bradley lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell



George and Bev Bradley - August 17, 2013 at 11:10 AM

JE

“ Jean And Dave Elliott lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell



Jean and Dave Elliott - August 17, 2013 at 10:33 AM

AS

“ Arden And Virginia Smith lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell



Arden and Virginia Smith - August 17, 2013 at 09:31 AM

CH

“ Christopher Heath lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell



Christopher Heath - August 17, 2013 at 08:02 AM

BF

“ *Brenda And Steve Foster lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



**Brenda and Steve Foster** - August 17, 2013 at 06:47 AM

JB

“ *Judy Beresford lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



**Judy Beresford** - August 17, 2013 at 06:34 AM

JS

“ *John And Linda Seys sent a virtual gift in memory of Helen Towell*



**John and Linda Seys** - August 17, 2013 at 06:14 AM

FJ

“ *Frank,Cathy,David&Aimee Johnston lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



**Frank,Cathy,David&Aimee Johnston** - August 16, 2013 at 08:38 PM

RW

“ *REG. & ROSE WALTER lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



REG. & ROSE WALTER - August 16, 2013 at 07:56 PM

JC

“ *Janice Conway lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



Janice Conway - August 16, 2013 at 06:17 PM

RR

“ *Ray & MaryLou Racz lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



Ray & MaryLou Racz - August 16, 2013 at 06:12 PM

RB

“ *Rralph Belanger lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell*



Rralph Belanger - August 16, 2013 at 06:06 PM

RB

“ Roger & Judith Braet lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell



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**Roger & Judith Braet** - August 16, 2013 at 04:48 PM

DG

“ David And Michele Garraway lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell



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**David and Michele Garraway** - August 16, 2013 at 03:35 PM

LO

“ Lionel And Cathy Ouellette lit a candle in memory of Helen Towell



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**Lionel and Cathy Ouellette** - August 16, 2013 at 03:30 PM