# Shirley Kathleen Joyce Ritchie



JANUARY 12, 2018

RITCHIE, Shirley Kathleen Joyce

We've lost one of the good ones. "It is what it is." On January 12, 2018 Shirley decided it was time to stop fighting. The passionate wife, caring mother and adoring grandmother passed away after a lengthy battle with several illnesses; diabetes, multiple sclerosis, kidney disease and heart failure. Despite all her ailments, Shirley remained a positive spirit, a pillar of support for those around her and an inspiration to all.

In hospice care since January 3, 2018 Shirley defied expectations and held on long enough to celebrate her 47th wedding anniversary with the love of her life, Rick. They spent the evening watching the Calgary Flames hockey game and sipping Bailey's flavoured coffee.

Shirley will also be lovingly remembered by her daughters, Carla (Chris) Gimber and Karen McIsaac as well as her five grandchildren, Veronica, Ivy, Cache, Chantz and Camya. Her grandchildren were the light of her life and brought her tremendous joy. One of her favourite pastimes was entertaining them and listening to their stories. Shirley loved chatting to everyone, friends and strangers alike. When given the opportunity, she talked at length about her grandchildren and showed off their pictures with the smile of a Cheshire cat. She also enjoyed playing cards, specifically Skip-Bo, with friends.

Shirley spent her working life in public service with the Canadian Government where she made many lasting friendships. She only ever had one employer. She

started there in the mailroom in her teens and retired from there as a manager in internal audit after more than 40 years of service.

When Shirley entered the room, lightbulbs weren't needed. She was always full of care and compassion. Throughout the years she remained optimistic and selfless. Once, many years ago, while discussing her many illnesses she said, "I'd take every disease there was if it meant my children never got one." She battled every day with admirable strength and poise. She was the strongest, most positive, caring and genuine individual; always concerned about everyone else before herself.

Along those lines, she didn't want a big service or ceremony. She wanted to "Keep It Simple Stupid" for those left behind. ***Inline with her wishes, the family will hold a gathering celebrating Shirley's Favourite Things at her former residence on Sunday, January 28, 2018 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm.***

For more information please email: shirleys.favourite.things@gmail.com

**"Goodbye until next time."**

## Messages of Condolence

My heart breaks for you all, aunt shirley was one in a million, I will always remember her waddling up to me to give me a big hug, I will always cherish the moments spent with her and never forget her. Love you lots Aunt Shirley, RIP Now, and say hi to all family members up in heaven with you.

**— Lesley Mulcahy**

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Printed on November 22, 2026