

# *Marilyn Heywood*



In June 1984, Marilyn's car was broadsided by a drunk driver, killing her instantly. This eulogy reproduced below was prepared by Beth Westfall and read at Marilyn's Memorial Service.

Her friends and colleagues decided to create a scholarship fund very much in celebration of her life and contribution to the education community, and beyond, of Quesnel.

The Marilyn Heywood Memorial Scholarship Fund is administered, in perpetuity, by Quesnel Community Foundation, working in partnership with Quesnel School District #28 who administer scholarship applications and awards.

If you would like to make a charitable donation, please contact Quesnel Community Foundation.

*“When Marilyn came west from Winnipeg in 1974, she had with her, her young son, Brian, and one friend from home. This crowded room today, just ten years later, is testimony to her ability to reach out to people and touch their lives.*

*On arrival in Quesnel, Marilyn soon surrounded herself with friends. With her amazing energy and determination, she became involved in a number of community activities and quickly became indispensable to the people around her.*

*In her work, Marilyn never merely did a job. The work she produced was an expression of her self, and she was satisfied with nothing less than a total effort. During her seven years in Quesnel, Marilyn worked as Assistant in the Alternate class at Riverview Elementary, as Library Steno in a number of schools, as Secretary at Quesnel Secondary School, and, finally, as Secretary at Continuing Education. She loved positions where she could use her initiative and assume responsibility, and, in every job entrusted to her, she aimed for perfection.*

*But, what was remarkable about Marilyn as a colleague, over and above her efficiency, was her incredible sensitivity and commitment. No-one I have known was ever more responsive to her co-workers' personal needs, more ready to celebrate their triumphs, commiserate with their hurt and anger, or fight for their rights. Marilyn became an activist in the Union, not out of any generalized political conviction, but because she cared deeply about her fellow-workers.*

*This human commitment and loyalty marked Marilyn's involvement with the students at the various schools in which she worked. She endeared herself to a generation of Band students at Quesnel Secondary with her willingness to lose time at work and miss her own birthday celebration to chaperone, at short notice, a Band trip that otherwise would have been cancelled.*

*And, for Marilyn to miss a birthday was no small sacrifice! No-one had a greater sense of occasion; when someone close to her had a birthday, plans were made months in advance. Marilyn didn't just give birthday presents; she invented the Birthday Basket, a beribboned cornucopia overflowing with individually-wrapped personal gifts.*

*Smaller annual celebrations did not go unnoticed, either. Each Halloween, St. Valentine's Day, and St. Patrick's Day, Marilyn went the rounds of her former schools distributing special cupcakes to the staff. A sick friend could be sure of a visit from Marilyn, and fruit, and flowers; she was always ready to share our grief and our joy.*

*All of us who were close to Marilyn, whether we knew her through work, or her association with Little Theatre, the Library, or her passion for Bridge, her sorority or through family ties, know we have lost from our lives a beautiful person of extraordinary energy, vitality, and heart. Let the magnitude of our loss reveal to us how immeasurably richer we are for having loved her.”*