

24 October 2021

Dear Friends of Elmwood,

I must be brief this week. I made a long trek to Peterborough on Friday to be with Ann Fitchett and her family. It was our chance, at long last, to gather at the graveside for a service of committal for Ann's mother, Maysie Reid.

Juel Howse-McLean, Maysie's elder, and Juel's husband, Malcolm McLean were there too. So was Jada, their dog.

Many of you knew Maysie. You'll not have forgotten her if you did. She was 'small but mighty'. She died last January, just a few weeks short of her 103rd birthday. Lt. Col. John McRae, the author of "In Flanders Fields", died on the same day she was born. Maysie lived long enough to be the oldest person I ever knew. I enjoyed her many memories of Toronto in the 1920s. It may as well have been the 1820s, so different was the life people lived back then.

The cemetery in Peterborough, on the shore of the Otonabee River, was serene and beautiful. The autumn leaves were bright and brilliant against a sharply blue sky. The air was crisp and chilly.

We remembered Maysie, prayed, read some passages of scripture, and found comfort in each other's laughter and tears.

If I needed convincing that occasions like this are necessary and good – though I didn't – my journey to Peterborough remedied that.

Miscellaneous Matters

Do you bake? The 'Food Fare' is definitely happening on Saturday, November 6. If you're an aspiring foodie, your help is needed! The 'Food Fare' organisers would very much welcome your cakes, loaves, cookies, squares, and pies for their bake tables.

I want to remind you, also, that at the worship service on Sunday, October 31, the Eve of All Saints Day, I'll read aloud the names of those who have died. We'll remember them all before God.

Because of Covid restrictions, our celebration of Holy Communion on that day will be different. Rather than having the elements passed from hand to hand in the pews, you'll be asked to come forward to receive them. If you're physically unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you.

Also, here's a reminder that Marjorie Howell is preparing a new edition of *Hark the Herald*, Elmwood's newsletter. She is awaiting your lovingly hand-crafted poem, limerick, joke, article, or story from your own life. Exaggerations are welcome.

The deadline is October 29. You can send it to Marjorie at this email address: scot65can@yahoo.ca

We're slowly coming back to life, aren't we?

Yours in the faith,
Andrew