

Eulogy

We have all lost an angel.

My Grandmother, Aline Cecile (Houle) Pighin, was born in Prudhomme Sask on July 26, 1930 to Marie and Joseph Houle. She had 6 brothers and 1 sister. Her sister Cecile and brother Dennis are here today. Aline moved to Port Alberni in 1942. As a teenager she became involved in the Catholic Youth Organization and worked at an ice cream parlor. She was a beautiful young woman who caught the eye of many young gentlemen in town but Grandpa was the fortunate one who was gifted with her love. They soon married and began raising a family. They had 6 sons and 1 daughter born in Port Alberni before moving to Prince George in 1965 and having their 2nd daughter, completing their family. Over their 72 years of marriage their family grew to include 22 Grandchildren and 37 Great Grand Children.

Her children are so grateful for all the fond memories they have of their time with her. These are some of the memories they would like to share.

Mom was a devoted Wife, Mother and Grandma. She took care of dad and eight kids and still had time to do the things she loved, such as; baking, sewing, gardening and trips to the lake. Mom also loved skiing. She and dad would take

us out every weekend to Purden Ski Village. Mom loved having her grandchildren over and taking them to Quinn Park.

We remember the time we built a raft on Roger creek and Mom and Dad and all the kids came out to see it. Dad put a rope on it and was pulling the whole family up the creek. The front of the raft went under and all the kids were swept off. Mom calmly swam around collecting kids and putting them back on the raft as it popped back up.

We will never forget and always appreciate mom packing us up and taking us out on picnics and adventures. These included; rock climbing at upper Roger Creek off the highway, swimming at River Road Park and Paper Mill Dam and on Sundays going to Sproat Lake with Dad.

It was incredible growing up in Port Alberni and going to Paper Mill Dam on weekends. It seemed to us that our super mom was the only person who could swim across the fast, flowing river. She was bound and determined to teach us to swim. Mom would hold us in both hands, take us into the water, then let us go. We would sink like a rock. She could not understand that we also had dad's genes and we don't float. However, through her persistence we all learned to swim.

In Prince George Mom took us to Nechako flats, Salmon Valley, Summit Lake, West Lake, 10 Mile Lake and Bear Lake. When we would go out to Bear Lake, Mom swam across the lake as we floated on an air mattress beside her. We now take our own children to all those places. She loved the water and loved going out to Bernie and Linda's cabin. She would stay in the water for hours. Mom would swim every chance she had and while traveling across Canada, she managed to take a dip in all the great lakes.

Mom loved to travel and especially enjoyed her sun-filled trips to the Southern States and Mexico, where they often met up with family members. She and Dad began making their annual trips in a motorhome in 1984 and continued to do so for over 30 years. While on vacation, Mom loved taking aqua-fit classes and picking citrus fruit. Even when on holidays Mom was thinking about her family and we all appreciate the Mexican blankets she brought back for us.

Mom always looked great and she had a very high standard for how she and her family were dressed. Once Wayne was allowed to buy his first pair of pants and mom sent him to Stedman's to pick them out. He came home with some psychedelic checkered pants that he was so happy with. And even though Mom was always easy going she did have limitations and sent him straight back to exchange those pants for a pair of corduroys.

When her grandchildren were left with Gramma & Grampa, grandma would have the kids kneel down beside the bed every night to say prayers and as soon as they did, it calmed them and they went straight to sleep. Many of us continue this tradition with our own kids to this day.

We know we are all here today because we have been blessed and protected by her powerful prayers.

Mom was always so endearing, comforting and kind. She had the patience of a Saint.

We will treasure the times we got to go on walks with mom and hours of doing puzzles with her. Mom was our ally, she always had our back. She would never say a bad word about anyone. Everyone who met her loved her immediately. Even animals were drawn to her magnetic personality.

Our Mom was tireless in her compassion and patience and helping with anything that needed to be done for her family, her church and as a member of Catholic Women's League. Humility and charity and the love of God showered all who knew her. She was a woman of courage and faith in every situation. Mom never complained or blamed and she never said a negative word about anyone.

Strength and composure and grace are her legacy.

We have all lost an angel: but, our loss is heaven's gain.

Pause a second then please announce:

The grandchildren also have memories that have been printed and can be read at the reception along with a slide show of Grandma's life.