



Mrs. Bernadette Helen O'Donnell

April 15, 1954 - October 12, 2025

Mrs. Bernadette O'Donnell of Calgary, Alberta passed away at the Rosedale Hospice in Calgary, surrounded by her family on October 12, 2025 at the age of 71 years.

Obituary and service information to follow.

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass)
403.652.4242.

Tribute Wall

MR

“ Not a day has gone by where Bernie is not in my mind. I just cannot wrap my mind around the fact that she is no longer with us. She was my Godmother, my mentor and I was so blessed to also have her as a dear friend as I became an adult. She taught us so much about loving, listening, and just being there for someone. She was a rare beauty who never judged, but instead offered kindness. She was an Angel, long before she ever gained her wings. We wrote letters back and forth at least once a month and I am so grateful now to have those letters. I often wrote to her about how she was a snowflake. Not in the sense that people now say snowflake as an insult. If you have ever really studied a snowflake, the harsher the environment, the more intricate and beautiful that snowflake becomes. On the coldest day, it will sparkle like the most beautiful diamond. She had a delicacy about her, just like a snowflake. But there is another side to a snowflake. Anyone who has lived through a blizzard knows that snowflakes hold great power and can change the world. And she did just that through her work both in the education system, and at the clinic. She was the perfect example of being both delicate and strong. She did it all with grace. The last mail I got from her was a card. In it she simply wrote " so much to be thankful for. I love you. Bernadette." I try to carry those words with me everyday. To remember that even in the darkest moments, we are blessed and to celebrate life as she would have wanted us to.

I miss you so much Bernie,. I hope you have found the most beautiful piano and now accompy the heavenly choir. And I am sure you have a quilting room filled with gold threads and intricate fabrics to create new masterpieces.

Mandy Rempel - May 07 at 02:44 AM

KJ

“ Bernie was like a second mom to me and taught me so much about being a strong woman. I worked with her at FASD Vernon. She always had a kind word and supported myself and my family fiercely. Her and I were a "dynamic duo". I can not remember a time during our friendship when she wasn't trying to help someone. The world is a lonelier place without her. I have so many beautiful and funny memories with Bernie. I am better for knowing her

Kim Johnson - March 27 at 12:35 AM

LM

“ I had the pleasure of working with Bernadette at Columbia College. She was so supportive as I took on my 1st Ironman. She "caught" me at the finish line and hung my medal around my neck. May she rest in peace.

Leslie-Anne McKenzie - November 26, 2025 at 11:04 PM

KS

“ So very sorry to hear of Bernie's passing. She was an amazing educator and a wonderful colleague and friend. She cared and loved deeply. My sympathy to the family.

Kathy Sisco - November 09, 2025 at 02:07 PM

BH

“ Bernadette and I worked as colleagues in the FSD for many years but our time at Cayley was amazing. Together and as a staff and school community, we shared an Excellence in Teaching award. She was a key member of our team as she cared so deeply about the students and staff and worked so hard to ensure that everyone was taken care of. She knew each of the children so well and her vast background knowledge ensured that they had as much support as could be gathered. Even after leaving our school, she worked to ensure that the next generation of EA's and Teachers knew what was most important in their future jobs and that was love! She also loved to laugh and make people laugh. She always had a glint in her eye and whether she was leading the adventure or one of the group, she had an infectious way of having fun. Bernadette was well travelled and hard to keep track of. Cheryl and I were so sad to hear of her passing and send her family all of our thoughts and prayers at this time. You were a teacher of students, a teacher of educators and a good colleague and friend. Be at peace Bernadette.

Bill Cheryl Holmes - October 27, 2025 at 12:23 PM

BC

“ I have very fond memories of Bernie. Years ago when my brother, John, was in a coma in Foothills Hospital, Bernie sat and read to him hoping it would bring him out of the coma. I knew Bernie's parents in Taber when we were all in my Dads Church choir. Such are my thoughts of Bernie as I reflect on her passing. May she rest in the peace of Christ who she served so faithfully in her life. Condolences to her family and friends.

Barbara Charette - October 26, 2025 at 03:44 PM

SC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this sad time. Bernie was a special friend and awesome educator. She always sought to ensure maximum learning for all children. She made a difference for so many. She will be sadly missed.

Shirley Crawford

Shirley Crawford - October 24, 2025 at 01:10 PM

DM

“ Bernie was a quiet influence in many directions. Her own children were precious and for the children of others, she was a defender. "Every child has worth and every child is worth our efforts to maximize their abilities and talents." She worked tirelessly to support children less capable, to help them feel valued. Her departure is too early...her loss will leave a very large void in the lives of many, especially those of her Family. May she Rest in Eternal Peace.

Donald McCuaig - October 21, 2025 at 08:51 AM

JN

“ So very sorry for your loss

Judy Nielsen - October 17, 2025 at 03:22 PM