



## Mrs. Kathleen Mary Ellum (née Smith)

September 18, 1939 - May 8, 2024

With great sadness, we bid farewell to our beloved Kathleen who passed away peacefully on May 8, 2024 with family by her side, leaving behind cherished memories and a legacy of warmth and kindness.

Kathleen was born in Addingham, England, on September 18, 1939, to William and Gertrude Smith. The younger sister to Anne and Margaret, Kathleen had the dubious honour of being the village's first war baby. As a child and teenager, Kathleen attended the Ilkley Grammar School; later, as a young lady, she completed her education at Secretarial College in Harrogate. In 1963, Kathleen married the love of her life, Richard Ellum. Five years later, Kathleen and Richard emigrated to Canada, ultimately settling on an acreage between Okotoks and High River in 1976. On the acreage they raised their two sons and built not one, but two houses. After 45 years on the acreage, Kathleen and Richard moved into Okotoks in 2021. In 2023 Kathleen and Richard celebrated 60 years of marriage in the company of the many friends they had made in the Okotoks and the surrounding area.

Kathleen's warmth and sparkle illuminated every room she entered. Working as support staff in the education system she completed her career in the office at the Foothills Composite High School where she was known for her proficiency and reliability. Kathleen had a love for singing and sang soprano for several choirs over the years, most recently with the Foothills Philharmonic

Society. Physically active later in life, she enjoyed going to the gym, walking, and running, and even participated in a few 5 km events! An avid baker, Kathleen was well known for her traditional Christmas Cakes. Most of all, Kathleen enjoyed family gatherings and celebrating her children and grandchildren's lives.

Kathleen will be lovingly remembered as a strong and feisty woman by her husband, Richard; children, Sean and Cameron; daughters-in-law, Debbie and Lynn; grandchildren, Sophie, Caitlin, and Cassie; and sister and brother-in-law, Margaret and Leslie Allinson. We mourn terribly her loss, but we also celebrate the beautiful life she lived and the profound impact she had on each of us.

A Celebration of Kathleen's Life will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday May 26, 2024, at the Okotoks Alliance Church.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Canadian Cancer Society (<https://cancer.ca/en/>) in honour of Kathleen.

# Cemetery Details

## Okotoks Union Cemetery

30 Westland Street  
Okotoks, AB (CA)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

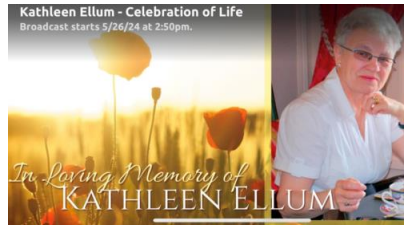
MAY **26**. 3:00 PM (MT)

Okotoks Alliance Church  
322183 15 Street East, NW corner of 338 Ave and Highway 2A  
Okotoks, AB T1S 1R1 (CA)

# Tribute Wall



“ Lyle Reeves Funerals created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Kathleen Mary Ellum (née Smith)



Lyle Reeves Funerals - May 24, 2024 at 11:58 PM

RS

“ I have fond memories of singing in the choir with Kathleen and enjoying her home-baked treats, which always reminded me of my home in the Yorkshire Dales. Kathleen was a lovely person who brought warmth and joy to us all.

*Please accept my deepest condolences.*

Rosemary Gillian Slater - May 23, 2024 at 12:19 PM



DD

“ Please accept my condolences for the loss of your wife/mom/grandmother. I remember Kathleen well from shared time with the High Country Chorale. She was a lovely person and I remember her Christmas cakes.

Deb Dolomount - May 22, 2024 at 09:51 PM



RS

*Kathleen's Christmas cakes were excellent, and her mince pies were too!*

**Rosemary Gillian Slater** - May 23, 2024 at 12:20 PM

ER

*Richard and Family, Please accept our deep sympathy for your loss and may the many good memories give you solace.*

**Emile Rocher** - May 26, 2024 at 12:14 PM

EP

“ *Sincere sympathy Richard, Sean & Cameron. The Angle Choir has just added another voice!*



**ELIZABETH PITURA** - May 22, 2024 at 08:52 PM

KP

“ *Richard and Family: My deepest condolences for your loss. I have the fondest memories of Kathleen from FCHS and the community. She was a great lady and I am glad I knew her.*

**Karen Peters** - May 22, 2024 at 07:44 PM

JM

“ *I have so many good memories of Kathleen. She was so professional, smart, witty, cheerful, caring, beautiful and strong. It is so hard to believe that she is gone. What a great loss. My deepest sympathy to Richard and his family. May God bless you in this most difficult time. Jo Anne*

**Jo Anne Morris** - May 22, 2024 at 06:23 PM

SR

“ Richard so to hear for your lost, I have many incredible memories seeing both of you the school we met and while I was working at Sobeys  
Scott Rozander

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**Scott Rozander** - May 22, 2024 at 06:05 PM

HJ

“ Dear Richard and family,  
Thinking of you and yours -Kathleen was an amazing woman. Singing together for several years, having tea in your kitchen- Kathleen's personality shone through! Take care.  
With love  
Helen Jones

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**Helen Jones** - May 22, 2024 at 09:00 AM

AS

Dear Richard and Family,  
It is with great sadness that I just learned of Kathleen's passing. I sang with both of you in High Country Chorale and enjoyed Kathleen's "feisty" personality and her contribution to "tea" nights. I will miss running into her at various choir occasions. Please take care of yourselves in this sad time .  
All the best,  
Angy Stimson

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**Angella Stimson** - May 22, 2024 at 09:17 AM

NB

“ Sincere condolences to you Richard, and family, Kathleen was such a special person. Norm Brennand and family

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**Norm Brennand** - May 21, 2024 at 02:33 PM

PE

“ Will always be remembered! Sorry for your loose Richard and Family. Peggy & John Sorkilmo

Peggy - May 20, 2024 at 12:22 PM



“ Although we haven't connected with Kath and Richard recently, we have fond memories of Kath, personally and professionally. She was always a delightful, cheerful lady and fun to be around! The world has lost a beautiful lady, with Kath's passing. Our sincere and heartfelt condolences to Richard and family. Ann and Dave Hodgson

AD Hodgson - May 18, 2024 at 11:54 AM

PH

“ Losing a mother at any time is very traumatic. My sincere condolences to you Richard, her husband and sons Sean and Cameron. She made an impact at Foothills Comp.

Phyllis - May 17, 2024 at 11:49 PM

PP

“ Kathleen was a model for professionalism and she was always kind and helpful.

Phyllis Pope - May 16, 2024 at 12:35 PM