



REMEMBERING
Cecile Godin

December 10, 1922 - August 14, 2019



Cecile Marie Eugenie - Leguerrier/Thomas/Godin

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Cecile is survived by her three children and their spouses: Shirley (Michael) Taylor, Maurice (Shirl) Godin and Richard (Marcelle) Godin. She also leaves behind her 5 Grandchildren and their spouses: Denise (Tony) Nardi, Kevin (Cheriena) Taylor, Michelle (Matthew) Weisbeck, Allen and Melisa (Trevor) Ritz as well as her 7 Great-Grandchildren: Nicholas, Ashley, Tianna, Joey, Lucas, Raelynn and Carson.

Cecile is survived by her 3 sisters Yvette Rivard, Jeannette Sebastien and Lise (Bert) Pigeon and one brother George (Lorna) Leguerrier and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents George and Julie-Anna Leguerrier, her husband's Rusty and Joe, her 4 sisters Lucienne Alberts, Madeleine Thoreson, Laurette (Ken) Moffat and Claire Beattie and her 3 brothers Paul, Lucien, Maurice (Margaret) and Roger.

We will be holding a funeral mass for Cecile Godin on Tuesday, September 17th 7:00 PM at Immaculate Conception Parish in Vancouver, BC (3778 West 28th Ave). Following the service, there will be a tea in the Jesuit Room at the parish hall.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to BC Cancer Agency or the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Cecile's History

Cecile's Father "George Leguerrier" was born in Quebec. George came west to Bonnyville, Alberta with his brother Evariste in 1919 from Montreal. They worked for their Uncle EvaristeDubord at his sawmill at Muriel Lake for one year. In 1920 the brothers returned to Montreal where they were married in a double wedding on July 15, 1920. George married Julie-Anna Deveault (Cecile's mother) and Evarist

married Yvonne Gladu.

They brought their wives back to Bonnyville and settled 3 ½ miles east of the Dubord farm where the first 3 children were born. In the winter of 1921-1922, George went logging on the Cold Lake Indian Reserve to cut enough logs to build a log house on their newly acquired homestead 9 ½ miles east of Bonnyville. In the spring of 1922, they went back to the Dubord farm and worked in the sawmill until 1924. Then they moved to their log house on their new homestead.

Cecile was one of 13 children born to George and Julie-Anna Leguerrier between 1921-1941. She was the second eldest. All her children were born at home and delivered by Grandma Michaud, except for the oldest (Paul) who was born at St. Louis Hospital in Bonnyville and the youngest (Lisa) who was born in Montreal.

Cecile was born on the Dubord farm in Durlingville. It was Dec. 10, 1922 and a blizzard was blowing. Word was sent to Grandma Michaud to come and deliver the baby. Grandpa Michaud hitched up the horse to the sleigh and started out. They lost their way and when they finally arrived, the baby was born, delivered by Grandma Leguerrier. Grandpa Michaud came in to see Julie Anna (Cecile's mother) and he shook his finger at her and said: "When I die, I'm going to come and pull your toes for making me come out in such a blizzard." Julie-Anna never forgot that and November 10, 1937 (15 years later) when he passed away, she would not go to his funeral.

Cecile was baptized on December 15, 1922. Godparents were Aunt Eugenie and Uncle Remi.

George and Family farmed until 1939. The Second World War broke out and George went to Montreal to work in an ammunition plant for one year. He came back and two years later he went to work at Norman Wells N.W.T. for one year.

In the meantime, Cecile went to work in Montreal at Noorduyn Aviation Ltd. with her two sisters (Lucienne and Madeleine) in the early 1940's. Cecile would have been in her early 20's. Cecile then moved west and worked at Saint Mary's Hospital in New Westminster until 1945.

George sold the farm in 1948 and bought the Bonnyville Bakery. They sold the bakery in 1950 and went to BC to join their children. Paul, (their eldest) was the only one who remained on a farm in Alberta to raise his family.

Cecile married Rosaire (Rusty) Thomas at age 26 on August 6, 1949 in New Westminster. Rusty was born in New Brunswick, raised in Montreal and was a sheet metal worker.

Cecile and Rusty purchased a home on 6th Street New Westminster in 1949 where she set up a sewing shop there and she was a parishioner at Saint Peter's church. They never had any children. Cecile began work as a BC Tel telephone operator in 1953. She always worked the nightshift.

Cecile and Rusty sold her home on 6th Street New Westminster and bought her home on Strand Ave, New Westminster in 1957. Rusty passed away of cancer in 1962.

Cecile re-married Joseph Godin at age 42 on July 17th, 1965 (Joseph was a

widower who lost his wife to a brain tumor at age 37 in 1964). He was left with 3 children: Shirley (age 9), Maurice (age 7) and Richard (age 3). Joseph was also born in New Brunswick, but left home for BC as a very young man.

When they were married, Joseph worked for Fraser River Log sorting as a Log sorter boat operator. Cecile became an instant mother to three children. She still continued working night shift as a telephone operator and helped raise a young family.

They all became parishioners at St. Michael's because that is where all three children went to school. Cecile was their stepmother but they were always raised and loved by her as her very own children. Their parents always worked hard to put them through Catholic school.

Cecile and Joseph purchased waterfront property at Bosk Lake in 1969. The family cabin was enjoyed by many for many years. Gatherings by children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends would meet for camping, fishing, hunting, campfires, sing a longs, cooking on woodstoves, tobogganing, card games, outdoor hikes, swimming, outdoor wildlife and so much more. But most of all a place where all family and friends could be together to laugh and have fun. So many memories were made at Bosk Lake.

Cecile and Joseph were also foster parents for Frances Greer and Catherine Shields approx. 1969-1974.

Cecile retired from BC Tell June 25, 1978 at age 55. She had worked for 25 years. Joseph retired from Fraser River Log Sorting Co. Ltd July 1, 1982 at age 60.

In 1984 they sold their home on Strand Ave, New Westminster and bought a trailer in Blaine, Washington and a 24-foot boat. When they weren't in Birch Bay enjoying the sunshine and fishing, they were staying with their children and their families or spending time at their cabin at Bosk Lake. They also did a lot of travelling and visited many places. They made numerous visits to another one of their favorite places, "Hawaii".

They always did their hunting trips and vacations trips with Cecile and Joseph's siblings and their families. They were always big supporters and cheerleaders for all their grandchildren's activities. Cecile also spent most of her time sewing for her grandchildren, nieces and nephew's children and a never-ending amount of wedding dresses she sewed.

Cecile and Joseph (along with their three children, their spouses and grandchildren born at that time) went to Hawaii January, 1990 for a family vacation.

In July 1990 Cecile and Joseph celebrated their 25th Anniversary and surprise party with family and friends. So many more memories made!

Cecile then lost her second husband to cancer too. Joseph passed away on April 18, 1991 at age 68. Cecile lived on to enjoy all her great-grandchildren both that her husband never had the chance to meet.

Cecile sold her trailer in Blaine 1998 and moved in with her daughter, Shirley and lived with her for 15 years until she had her stroke in June 2013.

She was then placed at New Vista Care home in Burnaby until there was an

opening at Buchanan Lodge Care Home, New Westminster on May 5, 2015, two years later. It is such a beautiful care home. It is right in the middle where her home was on Strand Ave and where her son Maurice now lives (in the old BC pen site) and on the other side where her daughter Shirley lived near St. Michael's Parish. Back to the original Family Grounds. The family would like to thank the staff for the wonderful care given to Cecile during this time.

Cecile was always caring, eager to help others, perfectionist, hardworking, sense of humor, loved to tease, strong willed, opinionated, kindhearted and feisty. She loved to be surrounded by family and friends.

She grew up on a farm with four brothers and seven sisters. They were a very united family, grew up with very little and always enjoyed the little things in life. She lived life to the fullest.

Cecile was never a real good sleeper. I think it was the many years of working night shift and raising a family. She was always busy. Her home was always a gathering place for family and friends. She was the core of the family for reunions and get togethers.

She used to say that the last thing she would think about before falling asleep was thanking the good Lord for letting her live one more day. Cecile was a devoted Catholic. She attended church on a regular basis and made sure her children received all their sacraments.

Cecile was always happy just living life day to day. Always busy, could never sit still. If she was sitting still, you would find her sewing, knitting or some kind of craftwork. To fall asleep at night, she would read a book. She loved to rock in her rocking chair, especially with Joseph at her cabin.

Cecile was always on the phone talking and keeping in touch with her family and friends near and far. I think that was part of her being a telephone system operator for 25 years. Cecile loved to cook and entertain. She made the best bread, cinnamon buns and fudge on her old wooden stove at their cabin.

She will be missed by all.

