

(Marjorie) Ruthe Murphy 1948 September 30 – 2023 January 9



Born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, to Morris and Marjorie (Kent) Dolson, Ruthe grew up in Leeburn, moved to Echo Bay and then Wawa with her family before attending Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario where she earned a B.A. in English and a Social Work degree (while pregnant). She worked as a Corrections Officer at Cecil Facer Youth Centre and then for the government as a Probation Officer working with young offenders in Sudbury. She quickly realized that she needed to start earlier in the process and help parents help their children and themselves to heal. In her retirement, Ruthe started a counselling service in London, Ontario for adult survivors of childhood trauma, abuse and neglect, offering real help in understanding what was broken through their childhood experiences and taking practical steps in healing the damage so clients could be free to live the whole, healthy, happy lives they always deserved. Ruthe worked directly with nearly a thousand people over 20 years and the change in their lives as a result of Road to HOPE continues to ripple out in positive ways to their families and friends affecting thousands more. Along with friend and colleague, Kathy Root Parr, Ruthe trained nearly 30 other counsellors to offer this program in London, Toronto, Windsor, Detroit, Guelph, Burlington and Thunder Bay and was making plans to reach out into Indigenous communities in Northern Ontario in partnership with Indigenous Leaders. Road to HOPE is her legacy.

Widowed for many years, Ruthe was married to an Australian professional wrestler named Lloyd Murphy and their family included a daughter, Erin Murphy (Richard Copeland), Erin's step-children Grace and Brandon, and "the boys" (grandpuppies Rhodey, Starky, and Loki "Paperweight" Murphy). Ruthe also had an honorary daughter, Serena Godda LeBlanc (Joseph LeBlanc and their boys, Cheyden, Zyah, and Joren), as well as a step-daughter in Australia, Bebe Murphy (Glenn Jones and their two daughters, Kaila and Brittany) and she fostered a daughter named Mary before getting married. Ruthe was very proud of all of these strong and courageous women.

Ruthe enjoyed motorcycles more than maybe anything else on Earth. She started riding a Harley when she was 11 years old. The sound they made was like music to her ears. She also adored singing and playing music and was part of many choirs. She taught, played, coached and refereed many sports over the years including judo, baseball, basketball, volleyball, archery, and canoeing. She was an avid card player and a stealth pool shark. In her later years she picked up a real love and passion for golf. She always had a joke to tell, likely in a voice she had made up, or she would tell the joke in a different language. She was sarcastic and hilarious. Ruthe was a proud member of the Sudbury Rebekahs, Lodge # 282, and

rose to the rank of Noble Grand. She attended Westview Baptist Church in London for 20 years where she served in many and various capacities.

Ruthe died peacefully in her 75th year with Erin and Richard by her side. Her family and friends are especially grateful for some key staff members (YOU know who you ARE!) at University Hospital 8th Floor (to you PSW Trudy and Dr. Hudson – never change!), 10th Floor (<3 PSW Skye, Nurses Karen and Jenn <3) – and at Parkwood Institute (<3 Nurses Renee and Vicki and PSW Susan <3). Ruthe is also survived by her “little brother John,” nieces, great grand nieces, and great grandnephew).

3 Celebrations of Life are being planned as Facebook Events

London (Sunday, June 11) **Celebration of Life** from 2-6 pm at Westview Baptist Church, 1000 Wonderland Rd S; AFTER PARTY Location TBA

<https://facebook.com/events/s/ruthe-murphys-celebration-of-1/1383297062423329/>

Live Stream of the 2:00 pm service will be available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@westviewbaptistchurchlondo8023/streams>

Thunder Bay (Saturday, September 23) **Celebration of Life** from 2-6 pm at Oliver Road Community Center, 563 Oliver Road; AFTER PARTY at Madhouse (Pub), 295 Bay St.

<https://facebook.com/events/s/ruthe-murphys-celebration-of-1/254016026955762/>

Leeburn (Saturday, September 30) **Celebration of Life** from 2-4 pm Location TBA (burial at 5:15 pm) at the Aberdeen Cemetery (Hwy 638 across from Eleanor Lake between Echo Bay and Leeburn); AFTER PARTY on **St. Joseph Island**

<https://facebook.com/events/s/ruthe-murphys-celebration-of-1/229628322856582/>

– to give lots of opportunity for the many people who loved her to say
Good-bye... until we meet again!

As Ruthe was not a big fan of “cut flowers”, in lieu donations in her memory may be made to the following:

Emmaus International Support Services (the official name of the charity she started) “Road to HOPE” c/o Kathy Root Parr, 315 Auburn Ave., London ON, N6J 3K8 or by e-transfer to rootparr@sympatico.ca with “Road to HOPE” in the notes

OR

The **Food Cupboard** at Westview Baptist Church, 1000 Wonderland Rd S., London ON N6K 3S4 or by e-transfer to designateddonation@westviewbaptist.ca (Please put “Food Cupboard” in the notes).

**(Please include your address so we can
send you a donation receipt next January.)**