

OBITUARY – funeral arrangements at the Mackey Funeral Home are forthcoming

Winifred (Wyn) Margaret Alice McNabb (nee Fogden): Dec. 13, 1929 – Jan. 05, 2020



After a decade's plus, escalating struggle with Alzheimer's disease, Wyn McNabb passed away at Lindsay's Ross Memorial Hospital, with youngest son, Dr. Jamie McNabb, by her side.

Loving wife of J.A. Pete McNabb (d. 2008), adored mother of Andy (wife Jolanka), Tammy (d. 2008), and Jamie (wife Robyn). Predeceased by her mother, Eva Fogden (nee Vicary) (d. 1957), father Henry (Harry) Upton Fogden (d. 1982), and brothers John and Bill Fogden. Cherished grandmother of Nikki and Colin Kirkby, Harrison and Oliver McNabb of Lindsay, and Madeleine, Victoria, Will and Haven McNabb of St. Catharines.

Years after Pete's and Tammy's passing, when asked if she could have a platform to share one piece of wisdom with the world, she responded: "Love one another" – and that is her legacy.

Two months and a day after the stock market crash of 1929, Wyn was brought home from Wiarion Hospital on Christmas Day, bundled in blankets – most fittingly, in a one-horse open sleigh.

In 1935, Harry moved the family to England, to assume operation of his family's farm, Hunston Dairy, immediately south of Chichester.

Wyn was a first-hand witness to the Battle of Britain, as Allied gunnery crews stationed on and around the farm would down German fighters and bombers. The Chichester Cathedral spire pointed a direct line to London, serving as a guide to the Luftwaffe planes that passed over the family farm on their way to bomb London. A number of times, her father would take her out by

horse and wagon to retrieve downed Allied flyers, and mother Eva would have them in for tea and biscuits. Brother John was killed in an RAF training crash.

After the war, Wyn enrolled at Clark's College in Brighton for secretarial studies. Later, after attending the London Olympics in 1948, Wyn and parents returned to Canada; whilst then surviving brother Bill stayed in England and became a career RAF officer.

Wyn found secretarial work in Toronto with Maclean Hunter Publishing; and soon after became personal secretary to Lord Thomson of Fleet, Roy H. Thomson, who became one of the world's 10 wealthiest men.

After having met husband Pete in 1950, the couple married in 1952 at University of Toronto's Wycliffe College Chapel.

Not long thereafter, forsaking the soot and the smog of the city, for the blue skies and green grass of the Kawarthas, Wyn and Pete chose to move to the more intimate and friendly environs of Lindsay. Upon arriving in Lindsay, Wyn became plant secretary at Visking for Barney Schenk.

From 1961 through the mid-1980s, while husband Pete pursued his vision of community service through local radio ownership of CKLY, it was said that Wyn provided the glue that held that vision (and her family) together. Pete often remarked of her irreplaceable counsel for him in key decisions as the radio station grew to be one of the highest rated radio stations in Canada (percentage of market audience).

"We had a good marriage – it was a partnership" she'd often say; a remark that was a trait of her always looking at the positive side of things, no matter the circumstances.

When Pete collapsed from exhaustion on Christmas Eve of 1969, Wyn was thrust into the position of acting CKLY president for the winter of 1970; and managed the station prior to CKLY's expansion to cover most of Central Ontario.

Wyn would gain strength from reading scripture in her Daily Bread devotional. "I have a very deep faith and feel my life is guided. I was brought up in a family where we went to church and grew in faith within my family. The family is a firm foundation." Her favourite hymns were "Nearer My God To Thee" and "Abide With Me". When asked who was the most important person in her life, she said "Christ".

Her most often repeated quote was "The years of raising my family were the happiest years of my life."

When asked what words of wisdom she would like to offer all people, Wyn replied: "Stick with the marriage and enjoy your time together. Keep the faith".

The McNabb families would like to thank the staffs of Victoria Manor, Revera Living, and the Ross Memorial Hospital for their care, time and attention to Wyn's well-being.