

Carole Ann Clark Scholarship/Bursary Fund

It is an honour and a privilege to speak to you about a very special woman – Carole Ann Clarke. She didn't live in Gimli for a long time but she has left a lasting mark on our community and the surrounding area. I had the pleasure of getting to know Carole after she retired to Gimli and began volunteering in my grade one classroom at the Sigurbjorg Stefansson School.

Ms Clark was born and lived most of her life in Winnipeg. She attended St. Mary's Academy and Business College upon completing her high school. She worked for Investor's Syndicate for a number of years. She also worked and volunteered for the 170 Air Cadet Squadron. She also worked for the Canadian Embassy in Japan. Carol loved to travel and went on many trips all over the world. Her last trip, the year before she died, was a much anticipated trip to Australia to attend the wedding of her godson.

Upon her retirement she wanted to live somewhere quiet, away from the hustle and bustle of the city she had grown up in. She fell in love with Gimli and made her home at the Rotary Towers.

She was a person who liked to stay active and wanted to make a contribution to her adopted community. At the suggestion of one of her neighbours at Rotary Tours she put her name in as a volunteer at Sigurbjorg Stefansson Early School in the fall of 2001. She visited my classroom once a week until she fell ill summer of 2006. Carole was a faithful and reliable volunteer rarely letting anything interfere with her commitment to the school, often attending in inclement weather and continued to help even after being forced to use a walker to get around. Ms. Clark realized what a valuable contribution she was making to the education of the children of our community and often commented that her time spent in the school were some of the most fulfilling times of her life. She especially loved being recognized by the children she worked with when out in the community. When she phoned to tell me she had cancer and would not be able to start her visits in the fall she said she was determined to win her battle with cancer and that her hope was to be back in my classroom by after Christmas. This was not to be, Carole died in Oct 19 at the age of 67. She left a sizable donation the Sigurbjorg Stefansson School. The school has installed window seat installed in each classroom in her memory.

Carole also left 30,000 dollars to The Westshore Community Foundation. With the money, The Foundation has established the Carole Ann Clarke Scholarship and Bursary Fund” I know Carole would be pleased that her commitment to the children of this community and the surrounding area will benefit from her legacy for years to come.

Ruth Arnason