

Tribute to Susan Smith



"Today I made a phone call just so I could hear that cheery recorded voice answer "Hello my name is Sue. How do you do?" Then my smiles turned to tears as I know I will not hear that voice again.

Sue Smith was all about smiles, friendship and bringing joy to others. She was always there to lend a hand and always offer a wealth of encouragement.

Sue gushed when she spoke of Gord. We would sound like teenagers when chatted about our respective spouses and how lucky we are to have them.

Recently many of our talks were about Gord's rein as DG. Sue was so looking forward to that. She was excited about the District Conference. I assured her it would be a perfect Conference with all the bells and whistles.

Sue's voice would fill with pride when our conversations would turn to her daughter, son-in-law and absolutely perfect, granddaughter and how they had recently moved to England from the Orient.

Sue had a passion for youth. Ryla was something very dear to her heart. We shared so many thoughts on how to make both Ryla North and South even better. She was thrilled over the prospect of a new Ryla Northwest and informed me that both she and I would help make it go.

Sue and I had planned to meet in Vancouver on my next trip the end of September to catch up. She will always hold a special place in my heart.

I am lucky because I knew that special gal. Until we meet again, here's to you, my friend Sue." - *Kathi Travers, Rotary Club of Prince George & Ryla North Chair*

"Sue did everything with passion and commitment, and we all know that youth and RYLA were her greatest passions. I urge each one of you to find your own way of celebrating the gift that was Sue Smith." - *Yours in Rotary, Angiola-Patrizia De Stefanis (filling the immense shoes of Sue Smith as current District RYLA Chair)*

"Sue was an inspiration to me, that special kind of person who always gets back to you, who helps you; she was a friend, all be it a long distance e-mail friendship. Her dedication to our youth through RYLA was exemplary. What a delight it was to meet Sue at our 50th Anniversary, to give her a hug, and then see her eyes and those of Michael and Chelsea sparkle as they reminisced about Camp Jubilee. Sue's loving ways will not be forgotten. We will remember her with a smile. I know we all will miss her deeply. I also know her Rotary family will pull together and draw upon each others love and strength in this time of great sorrow." -*Yours in Rotary, Eleanor Kendell, Kitimat*

"I was terribly saddened to hear about Sue. ... I knew her from when she first arrived in Vancouver and was always amazed by her vitality and positive approach to life. She was one of those people that despite some hard knocks in her life had the ability to cheer up others, we will truly miss her." - *Martin Pengelly, Branch 12 Project Resourcing, IBM Canada*

"We only got to know her for just a little bit this past couple of months, when she was visiting us in Prince Rupert. She was definitely a very upbeat and positive person and one heck of a lot of fun to be around. She is going to be missed big time. She was a very strong supporter of the 2010 District Conference being held in Prince Rupert. We also got to meet Gordon just a couple of weeks ago and they came to Rupert, attended our weekly Rotary meeting and then Jacki and I met them at the Crest Hotel for a couple of drinks and lots of laughs and chuckles"- *Regards, Doug Kydd, Prince Rupert Rotary*

"She was a wonderful woman. I didn't know her well but was always impressed with how quickly she answered any concerns I had." - *Cathie Roy, Sunshine Coast-Sechelt*

"With sadness and a heavy heart that we receive the news of Sue's passing. We will remember her for her hard work and dedication to Rotary." – *Gus Cruickshank, Burnaby Rotary*

"We will miss Sue's smile, her energy and her passion to Rotary and live." – *Becky Tsukishima, Rotary Club of Richmond*

"Sue will always be remembered as the most positive, supportive and caring person I have gotten to know. She was always so willing to help in any way possible. I know that in time, she and I could have become good friends. I will always be thankful that I did get to meet her." – *Nancy Wilson, Prince Rupert Rotary*

"On behalf of all the members from the Rotary Club of Prince George, Yellowhead, we are deeply saddened by the passing of Sue. I have only just come to know her through our recent meetings at PETS but she made a great impression on me. We will all miss her and I know the whole district will feel the loss." - *Ken Kilcullen, Rotary Club of Prince George, Yellowhead*

"...I shall always remember Sue's eternally smiling face, her zest for life and especially for Rotary from the day she joined our great organization. Her continuing involvement in Rotary from day one has left an indelible mark in the hearts of all particularly within our Youths for whom she cared so much and who will be the beneficiaries of her legacy to them. Above all I shall always personally remember how easy it was for her to say the right things at the right time when you

were down and needed to hear a kind word, which for me was as recently as when I was... and she later said to me in her e-mail, and I quote: Wilbur.....you are so gracious! If the rest of the world could follow your example....there would be no more wars. Thank you for being who you are! - Sue”– *Wilbur Walrond, Rotary Club of Richmond*

“I am greatly saddened by the news. I had the pleasure of meeting and talking to Sue at PETS. What a great lady. I will miss her emails.” - *Ingolf Sandberg, President Williams Lake Daybreak Rotary*

“...It was just last year that we went on the BC Tour together and bunked together at Ryla and laughed and laughed all the way. She will be greatly missed!” - *Roslyn Stroschin, Whistler Millennium*

“...Rotary has lost a great friend.” - *Jag Dhillon, Ladner (Delta)*

“Sue's love and passion has touched us all and she will be remembered lovingly. We appreciate having known her. I am sure our members and RYLA youths share the sadness and also the joy she inspired in us all.” - *Gloria Tom Wing Staudt,, President, Rotary Club of Burnaby Metrotown*

“Many of you have known Sue for many years and it will be hard to imagine the branch without her cheerful, positive outlook on life and work. We will miss you Sue!” - *Tor Fransvaag, Service Delivery Manager, Technical Services British Columbia, IBM Global Services - IBM Canada*

“Sue was a wonderful friend who always did more than was expected of her. She made this world a little better for me and for all the others who knew her...” - *Yours in Rotary, Michael Chiu, Rotary Club of Richmond Sunset*

“... I was just thinking about her Saturday night at EDUCO with the new inbound students because she did the talking stick around the campfire last year. We will all miss her tremendously but she was a pleasure to know and we were fortunate to have her with us.” - *Best Wishes, James Martin, Rotary Club of Squamish*

“I am sitting at my desk here in Shanghai reading your email. I have to admit there is a big tear in my eye. Although I did not get to know Sue well, my image of her is definitely how you described her. What I do know is the relationship you two had was very special. You found happiness in each other and it was so pleasing to be around the two of you, I would soak up the energy and positive vibes.” - *Sincerely, your friend Douglas Webster, Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise*

“...She was a wonderful lady with a warm, caring heart full of life! She lived Rotary and all the wonderful things it means and gives to others. The room was always brighter when Sue was there. Our hearts are saddened and heavy. To say she will be greatly missed is an understatement.”– *Barbara Hurst, Richmond Sunrise Rotary*

“..Sue was such a warm and friendly person to be around, we always enjoyed her presence before she joined the Sunrise club and even more after she became a member. She will be greatly missed by all.....” - *Dick and Barb Wagner, Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise*

“She was such a bright light in all our lives - and will be greatly missed....” – *John and Kathy Ross, Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise*

“... my Prayers are with you, my thoughts are with you about this very special Lady.” – *Don Kavanagh, Vancouver Rotary*

“When I think of Sue I think of so much fun and energy. Its hard to imagine a world in which she doesn't play an enormous part. Her footprint on our lives will always be there and can't be diminished....” – *Georgina Patko, Richmond Sunrise Rotary*

“Sue was larger than life in the way she touched everyone around her. Her enthusiasm was contagious and refreshing to us all. All youth are better equipped for their future for having known her. We personally as a family- Malcolm, Stephanie and I - are each feeling your loss as she was so supportive of each of us in different ways. I will miss her smile, her laugh, and her friendship... Love, Chris” - *Christine Brodie, Mayor of Richmond's (Malcolm) wife*

“She holds a special place in my heart. We worked together to organize RYLA. I remember her being so excited to take on this new adventure, and so determined to continue its success. She will be missed greatly.” - *Kind Regards, Stephanie Brodie, (Past President of Richmond Rotaract) Rotary Club of Lloyminster*

“...I will always remember Sue as a great classy lady with a beautiful engaging and friendly smile..” - *Ron Benoit, Richmond Sunrise Rotary*

“Sue was an amazing person. She was so positive and had so much energy for Rotary and especially young people. We are all going to miss her....” - *Debbie Tablotney, Richmond Sunrise Rotary*

“It is my belief that our paths are crossed each day with the people we need to meet in our life and that is certainly the way I regard every day that Susan Smith crossed my path. She brought a warmth with her smile, wisdom with her ideas, enthusiasm without reserve and vision and passion for Rotary. Susan always showed appreciation for any small gesture of assistance and made everyone feel special, valued, and loved. Susan revitalized and rejuvenated RYLA with new ideas, the Interact and Youth Exchange students were so enthused with the changes she implemented. How blessed I was to share the last few days in Halifax with Gordon and Susan as they went through the first level of training for the District Governor 2009-2010. She was so excited about sharing the next few years building their plans for a great Governor year. Susan will be so sadly missed and happily remembered. The angels are rejoicing at her presence, and I believe she knows the sorrow in my heart. Gordon, my thoughts, prayers and love go to you

for the trying times, your friends will surround you with their love and assistance.” -*Sonia Wolowidnyk, PDG 2005-2006 Rotary Club of North Vancouver.*

“This is a great loss to the Rotary World, our district and every Rotarian she touched.” - *William Parmar, Prince Rupert Hecate Stra*

“How could this happen? I was soooo sure I would see her again! Sue was such a nice person and I'll never forget her... all she did for me... she made my first day in Canada sooo exciting! I remember I was soo nervous and frightened and she calmed me down and answered every question for me. On my last day I didn't want to do anything anymore, but she took me out shopping, out to the Buddhist Temple and to the port where the fisherboats are...it was soo nice!

I love Sue! She has such a good heart for everybody and so does Gordon. In the evening I went out for dinner with them. It is a really nice memory I got in my mind!... Much Love” - *Laura Tschümperlin - Youth Exchange Student from Switzerland - 2006 - 2007*

“I heard the news from Roger (the guy from Australia) about Sue. I'm very sorry to hear it. I'm sending this email to you to show my sorry. I hope you get through it, and I know it's such a hard time you are going through, and I really don't know what would be the best word to say right now other than the word sorry to show my respect to her. Please, take care....” - *Patt (Patthamaporn Piriyaakitpaiboon) Exchange Student from Thailand 4 years ago that stayed in Terrace*

“...I can't to explain how I feel. My thoughts are with you. Sue was a very special lady and her memory will live on in the hearts of everyone she befriended. I feel privileged to have been able to meet her....” - *Roger Cameron, Youth Exchange student from Australia, 2003*

“I just heard the tragic news about Sue, I truly am in shock as I write this. I am so very sorry and also that this email from me is so late in coming and I regret that I have not kept in closer touch with both you and Sue. Please keep in contact. My thoughts are with you” - *Fraser McDonald, Youth Exchange student from Australia, 2006*

“I'm really really sad because Sue passed the way, you both were a very important part of my exchange and Sue was an amazing and a very special person for me; I spent great times with her and i'm very very glad I got to meet her. I hope you are doing ok. I'm very sad that I can't be there in this sad moment for you and everyone that met her, and I'm sure we'll miss her a lot!!! Lots of love” - *Mayela Duque (Youth Exchange student from Venezuela, 2006 - 2007)*

“.. We will pray for the soul of Sue as she travel to heaven may she rest in peace... we miss her friendly smile, her passion for the youth and a hard working Rotarian.” - *Elena Agala Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise*

“Hello DGN Gordon, Further to my telephone calls, first to your home and then to the office, I wish to communicate the sorrow Joan and I share for you on the sudden loss of your partner Susan. A rush to the airport made it impossible for me to meet with you Sunday morning but I did want you to know that we were thinking of you. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you feel Rotary can be of some assistance.” - *Sincerely, Wilf (President of Rotary International)*

"All of us at the Rotary Club of Richmond are deeply saddened to learn of the unexpected passing of Susan. On behalf of myself, the Board of Directors and all the members of the Rotary Club of Richmond, I extend to you our deepest sympathy..." - *Yours in Rotary, Peter Raju, Rotary Club of Richmond President*

"We know that our words will not take away the sorrow that you are feeling right now, but please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We did not get a chance to get to know Sue well, but Mary and Sue bonded right at the start and she will be missed by all of our classmates." - *Sincerely, Terry and Mary Drader, DGN District 5370*

"... Sue was an amazing person and I feel blessed to have gotten to know her better over the last year or two. She is definitely going to be missed by so many people..." - *Love Judy Judy May, Youth Programs Chair, Rotary Club of Richmond Sunrise*

"...Before Gay, my wife, died she passed a slip of paper to me, and it was this poem, by Elizabeth Browning I think, which I'm going to take the liberty of sending to you.

Remember me when I am gone far away,
Gone far away into the silent land,
When you can no more hold me by the hand
Nor I half turn to go, yet turning, stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you planned.
Only remember me: You understand
It will be late to counsel then, or pray
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far that you should forget and smile
Than you should remember and be sad.

- *Neville Atkinson Steveston Rotary club and one of life's surviving 'gentlemen' - as Sue called him.*

"Just a small note to let you know that even though I am presently in Russia, my thoughts turn toward you frequently. I trust that you are holding up well, with all of the business of making final arrangements for your beloved Sue.

Rest assured, and be comforted, that many of us are thinking about you and wishing you the best in this most difficult time. The sun will shine again.

It was for Liz and I a wonderful thing to get to know Sue during our short time together both in Vancouver and at the Institute. She will be missed by all.

Thank you for what you have both done for Rotary," - *Monty and Liz Audenart, RI Zone 22 Director*

