

LUCILLE MARIE BANDA – EULOGY
MARCH 29, 2019

What is the definition of time? Merriam Webster defines time as:

b: a non spatial continuum that is measured in terms of events which succeed one another from past through present to future

The life of Grandma can be defined by time....and at 94 she had a lot of time but her time on this earth cannot be measured by her years **BUT in how she spent her time!** What the following memories and reflections represent is how she spent her time in the past..... presentfuture.

Time with her family

She loved her family dearly and **ALL** of her family. Just this week once the obituary was published my son Brendan commented: “I always knew that I shared a special part in Grandma B’s life, but let’s be honest apparently she had 28 other great grandchildren so I couldn’t have been that special right?!?!” However, that is the farthest from the truth and not how she made you feel!!!! You were always made to feel special, **EVERYTIME**, you saw her or spoke to her on the phone.

She especially loved new babies and was so excited to welcome a new addition into her family spreading the love in the form of a newly knit or sewn baby gift. Even when Baby Nathan was born into Heaven, he was laid to rest wrapped in a handmade blanket made by his great grandma Banda.

Danielle’s two boys Landon and Kale **loved** riding on her walker with her pushing them and wearing the biggest smile ever. She would say when They facetimed “There’s my smiling Jack”. I always told Grandma we should “pimp up” that walker maybe some lights, sound makers.....she would have been the coolest in St. Anne’s.

Candice, Clint and Bev have memories of visiting Grandma and Grandpa's place and Grandma would bring the kids to the paddling pool by their place and even though it was the hottest days she would let them stay for what seemed like forever. She had so much patience and love and enjoyed watching her grandchildren enjoy the little things in life.

Grandma loved to have pictures of her kids, grandkids, and great grandkids for everyone to see. She would keep all the school pictures in a frame and leave the previous years in there, just add the new one to the front.

On occasion, **Bev** would change her siblings pictures to their dorkiest year and grandma would laugh and just leave it that way.

Any time you visited Grandma she would bring the grandkids to the grocery store down the street and buy them a pack of tic-tacs. We all still think of her when we see or eat an orange tic-tac.

Deb Banda cannot remember a time where she didn't have a smile on her face. If she didn't see Russell, Vicki or Shawna around their neighbourhood she knew exactly where to find them"Grandmas' House".

Shawna remembers spending a lot of time at Grandma and Grandpas house and she loved to play cards. For some reason she would always get distracted and when it was time to get back to the game again, she would ask "who's turn it was?" Shawna would reply "Mine" and she would get another turn and win the game!

On the topic of cards, my son Brendan is always going to remember his visits with Grandma at St. Ann's. He would say Grandma would constantly remind him how impressed she was that a 22 year old could sit there and visit for 3 hours and still have things to talk about!! He will always remember getting caught up on the latest family gossip (even though he didn't know 90% of the names) and will miss Grandma's rants about the

cheaters on the fourth floor who ended up taking her quarter every card night.

Russ has a lot of memories of biking to their house as they didn't live very far away. He always remembered she would have fresh raspberries and milk for him – as it was his favourite. We would watch the Blue Jays game together as she was a huge fan!

On the topic of Blue Jays Fans..... she was blessed when Paul coordinated a trip with Grandma for her to come to Ottawa to visit him in 2001. He was able to take her to her first Toronto Blue Jays game and she was also able to stand on the glass floor at the CN Tower (she said 'Won't Gerri be surprised I stood on that floor!').

In addition, they went to the St Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, a pilgrimage she had always wanted to do, Grandma also managed to get them invited to have dinner with the Order of the Grey Nuns in Montreal, which meant Paul, Grandma Banda, and 200 nuns for dinner. **You must have been quite popular with the ladies that night Paul.....**

Denis recalls the time when Grandma brought Paul and him to the bus station to send them back home. She told a slight fib so they got heavily discounted fare prices (no wonder the STC is no longer a viable service)also fond memories of staying at their house in the summer time and watching the blue jays with Judy and Grandma and Grandpa. All three were yelling at the TV!!!!

Connie recalls Grandma never missed a birthday, anniversary or Christmas, always a card, phone call, mitts, scarf or dish cloth were there for us. Grandma always called Leanne "HuggyBear" because she always gave the best hugs....she even addressed her cards in the mail that way. HMMMMMM WONDER what the mailman thought of that ????

Ralph remembers how she never judged or interfered in her families lives. She grieved with us and applauded our successes. She made sure through sacrifice of herself, that we always had clean clothes to wear to school and good food in our tummies. She made sure each were her favourite, with a

special pair of mitts or a handmade quilt. He will cherish what she gave of herself to make me the man that I am.

Kaleb and Amber will always remember her great big smile and how much she enjoyed their visits, especially the time at the spa. We could all agree with Amber that she always lit up the room with her presence when she entered, and left everyone feeling special.

She always had a special bond with Judy. When Mom would leave Judy at the end of her visit to Elmwood she would always kiss her and say "Goodbye Sweetheart". In the later years, she sat for hours and fed Judy popcorn twists and talked to her, even though Judy couldn't communicate back. Deb recalls when we went through the health crises with Judy, Mom and Deb always said they were a team, they made decisions together, they leaned on each other to do the best for Judy. Deb remembers after Judy was gone, Mom commented, "You were like another Mom to her" and that made Deb really proud that she acknowledged that.

Her love of family and compassion for others was evident in every moment she lived. Marlene's comments about her infectious smile and how her eyes lit up when talking about her family demonstrated of how she cherished her family.

Grandma Knew How to Spend Her Time.

She loved Time with Nature

Everyone remembers Grandpa and Grandma sitting on their patio with Judy giggling at something Grandpa said. It was very peaceful back there. She loved the outdoors and enjoyed the silence while sitting outside knitting and praying.

Grandma loved coming to Big Shell to visit Deb and Ken. When she came last summer, she said she couldn't wait to come back again. She loved rocking on the deck and looking out at the lake, knitting at the same time. She had such a good memory, still remembering past lake trips with George and Fern, all kinds of details of what they had done and when. She loved

fish, when we'd have fresh fish, it was great to bring some fish for her to eat.

Grandma loved her visits to my parents farm. She loved the rhino rides with Bill and loved to go look at the new baby calves. She was so excited if we had twin calves. She loved a glass of wine on the deck with Bill before her supper. She was just a couple months ago planning to come this spring.

Paul did bring out her adventurous spirit, such as when she wanted to take a picture while riding a wooden bear when Grandma and Gerri went to Oregon. Natalia and Paul got to take her to Radium Hot Springs and she made sure to take in all the pools and mountain scenery.

That spirit was equally apparent at Paul's wedding when it took Deb and three others, all they had, **to keep her from dancing on the tables-she was a young 84 years at the time!** We all hope to have half the spunk she had in her life with those ear to ear grins, and her sparkly kind eyes.

She loved animals but especially cats. She had cats on the farm and in the city as pets. Kitty and Cali provided many hours of entertainment and enjoyment. She passed along this love of cats to Deb, Judy and Marlene. She used to make little things for Deb's cats and treated them just like grandbabies.

Grandma Knew How to Spend Her Time.....

SHE HAD A LOVE OF PROVIDING FOR HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS.....

She was a woman of strength and love. Her children remember all the hardships that she endured raising 9 kids under tough conditions on the farm. Not once did she complain.

Deb recalls the hard working nature of doing laundry in the washing machine, wringing and hanging them on the line and in the winter, bringing in the frozen clothes to finish drying. Baking loaves of bread every few days, making donuts and hanging them in the ice house. She loved working in the garden, hoeing weeds and picking vegetables. Always wearing a plain housedress. Grandma loved the land and up until she sold the house on Ave Q still planted flowers and grew a garden, a **FULL** garden.

Grandma was an accomplished seamstress and sewed all the family's clothes. She did all her sewing late evening when the kids were all in bed. Memories of the sound of the sewing going late into the night as she made new flannelette pyjamas to have on Christmas morning. She did this labour of love meticulously. No patterns. I think she must of loved sewing on her singer treadle machine and these evenings were rewarding to her.

Her kids played near her sewing machine collecting the empty spools and putting nails in them to "spoolknit" or make "Button Buttons" with thread and large buttons to amuse themselves. Yes, no cell phones or iPads, can you imagine? Gerri definitely got her love of sewing from Grandma.

Along with her seamstress skills she was an avid knitter. I think she could knit in her sleep to be honest and absolutely could multi task....it was common to find her watching tv, rocking in her chair, knitting and carrying on a conversation. **ALL AT THE SAME TIME.** She would knit scarves, mitts, blankets, **dish clothes**, fidget mitts for the Elmwood residents and prayer shawls. She generously gave her knitting away to not only family, but anyone that impacted her life.

She made the best mitts, both regular and grow, for all the kids and felt it was important to knit a string on them so they wouldn't lose them. (Even Natalia got strings on her mitts so she didn't loose them supervising at recess) I feel like we should have had mittens and dishcloths in the procession as well. She kept her hands always busy and the doctors told her that is why even if she had arthritic hands, she suffered no pain because she kept them moving. She told Gerri, if she didn't have her

knitting in her hands, she would fall asleep and that would be a waste a time.

You know there was love and prayers in every stitch she so very generously shared.

She even passed on her knitting skills to Denis. When he was 9 or 10, he made stings and strings of Christmas finger knitting for Grandma. She kept it and put it up every Christmas till she moved from her house on Q North. She always loved and treasured what we gave her.

Her quilts were fondly know as Grandma Banda quilts and were highly sought after by everyone in the family. Each Christmas she would raffle one off for all those in attendance. WE ALL LOVE these quilts. In addition she passed along her love of quilting to Candace.

Grandma was an amazing cook and took the time to teach and pass down her craft. She would bake and cook on the wood stove no matter the temperature outside. Grandma could bake around 20 loaves of bread in a day and buns another day in large amounts. Saturday was spent baking pies and cakes. They milked cows, separated milk, made butter, had cream and milk - all stored in the ice house. They would can lots of quarts of chicken; moose meat, pickles, Saskatoons, blueberries, fruit, jams, jellies, relish, soup, vegetables and even potatoes. Eileen attributes her love of cooking and baking to this day to Grandma and she is grateful to her mom for her guidance and instruction. Whomever knows Eileen (my Mom), knows she can do these things in **extreme** quantities but I guess growing up on the farm preparing three meals a day for around 10 people at the table was the norm ... she comes by it honestly.

Gerri remembers each year on her August birthday Grandma would go out and kill a chicken so they could have fried chicken, the first feed of corn on the cob and angel food cake made from scratch for birthday supper. I think she is partly responsible for the family love of KFC. It was very common for a bucket of KFC to be on the table for any family feast.

Denis also remembers coming home from hunting with Grandpa in the Oldsmobile near Marcelin and bringing back a **very, very small buck**...it didn't even have teeth (**I guess the better question is DID IT HAVE HORNS? WAS IT A BUCK EVEN?**)...But Grandma being the kind soul she was, told Denis it was a good size and would make nice meat. They cooked the tenderloin that day and enjoyed every bite!

Her house always smelled of fresh chicken noodle soup, buns, bread and the most sought after item.....CABBAGE ROLLS! Brent, Clint, Connie, Renee, Leanne, Vicki and myself all have these fond memories. She had a secret ingredient in them that made them so tasty we all had watering mouths when they were served.

She always remembered to make members of the family her sought after cabbage rolls. Gordon always looked forward to his gift every year for the holidays....except for one time.....right Vicki? A couple years ago Grandma made Gordon his casserole of cabbage rolls and trusted their precious delivery to him via Vicki. Little did Grandma know that Gordon never did receive his package of cabbage roll goodness.....**because Vicki ate them!**

Grandma Knew How To Spend Her Time

Love of her FAITH:

Grandma was a woman of strong faith. She didn't preach it ... she lived in faith.

My mom remembers how the family was taught to pray at a young age. They knelt by their bed to pray every night and recite prayers. They attended mass at Muskeg Lake Catholic Church regularly and typically used two church pews just to fit the entire family! They always wore a hat to church and if it was forgotten, Grandma would bobby pinned Kleenex on their heads to makeshift one!

Grandma's faith was so strong and I know now, that is how she survived through all the tough times she endured. Along with her faith, she was also very devoted to prayer, recalls Marlene. She and Judy were members of the CWL for years and went to mass every day. In addition, Judy and Grandma prayed the Rosary every day accompanied by a specific cassette tape.

After she moved to St. Anne's she cherished the ability to walk and attend mass with her sister Aurore every day. She loved the activities and friendships she made while living there.

Renee provided this quote from Mother Teresa that perfectly sums up all of our thoughts about our Mom and Grandma:

"IT'S NOT ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU DO, BUT HOW MUCH LOVE YOU PUT INTO WHAT YOU DO THAT COUNTS"

Grandma Knew How To Spend Her Time

I appreciate your patience as I try to provide a small glimpse into how Lucille Marie Banda impacted our lives. She was a precious soul and the best Mom, Grandma, Great Grandma, and Great Great Grandma. Her faith and kindness will live on through all of us. In conclusion, I would like to read a short poem written by Pat A. Fleming.

The True Meaning of Life

The years have passed by
in the blink of an eye,
moments of sadness
and joy have flown by.

People I loved
have come and have gone,
but the world never stopped
and we all carried on.

Life wasn't easy
and the struggles were there,
filled with times that it mattered
times I just didn't care.

I stood on my own
and I still found my way,
Through some nights filled with tears
and the dawn of new days.

And now with old age
it's become very clear,
things I once found important
were not why I was here.

And how many things
that I managed to buy,
were never what made me
feel better inside.

And the worries and fears
that plagued me each day,
in the end of it all
would just fade away.

**But how much I reached out
to others when needed,
would be the true measure
of how I succeeded.**

**And how much I shared
of my soul and my heart,
would ultimately be
what set me apart.**

**And what's really important
is my opinion of me,
and whether or not
I'm the best I can be.**

**And how much more kindness
and love I can show,
before the Lord tells me
it's my time to go.**