



Dr. Deborah Evelyn Godsoe MD

March 26, 1953 - September 23, 2022

Her loving family would like to announce the peaceful passing of Dr. Deborah Evelyn Godsoe, M.D., from cancer on September 23, 2022.

Deb was born on March 26, 1953 in Moncton, New Brunswick, the eldest daughter of Percy E. Godsoe and Marcia (Steeves) Godsoe. Raised in Saint John, Deb left for Halifax to study at Dalhousie University in 1970. She completed a Bachelor of Science, excelling in mathematics and chemistry before going on to attend Dalhousie Medical School, graduating with the DalMed class of 1977. She was the youngest ever graduate of Dalhousie Medical School at the time of her graduation.

Deb touched many people's lives with caring and kindness working as a family doctor in Halifax from 1979 to 2000, practicing for a time with her former husband Dr. Finlay Spicer. She later moved back to Saint John and worked as a hospitalist at the Saint John Regional Hospital, at the Saint John Sleep Disorders Clinic, and finally as Senior District Medical Officer for the Saint John branch of Veteran's Affairs Canada until her retirement in 2014.

Deb pursued a variety of hobbies and enthusiasms throughout her life. She was an accomplished musician, playing piano, organ and guitar. Deb was a talented seamstress, making everything from prom dresses to Halloween costumes to custom Barbie clothes. Madeleine had the best dressed Barbies

in town, down to luxurious faux fur coats, and Alexander was the best dressed werewolf and Winnie-the-Pooh the neighbourhood had ever seen. She was an avid quilter, completing a detailed quilt of the Krebs cycle with Madeleine for a high school biology class, as well as many more traditional beautiful quilts both on her own and as part of various quilting clubs.

Deb was also a knitter, and almost everyone in her family and circle of friends had wonderful hand-knit personalized Christmas stockings, though as her arthritis worsened she had to give up making them. Alexander's stocking even took home a ribbon at the Atlantic Winter Fair. She loved embroidery, especially crewelwork, and passed that love on to Madeleine. A talent for watercolour painting issued forth many beautiful works of flowers, and tropical fish from Finlay's aquarium. Deb was a keen gardener, like her mother Marcia and Aunt Marion before her, and daughter Madeleine after her. She made lovely gardens at every home she lived in, and could identify every flower, tree, bird and insect that visited with her keen biologist's eye. Deb enjoyed photography, especially taking landscape and garden shots.

She was a wonderful chef and baker, making celebrated and elaborate birthday cakes; another talent inherited from Marcia and passed to Madeleine. Debbie loved astronomy, taking her kids to watch the Persied Meteor showers every August, and geology and fossil hunting along the cliffs of Pictou and the Fundy Shore.

Debbie was an adoring and doting pet parent to a series of dogs (German Shepherds Pemba and Chloe, and Pomeranian Max), cats, birds, rabbits, hamsters, and even, reluctantly, Alexander's tarantula. She was an avid reader, of everything from mystery to science fiction, and passed that love, as well as full bookshelves, to her children. She especially adored Harry Potter, a familiar favourite and source of comfort when read aloud during her illnesses and in her final days. It's message of kindness and the power of love,

especially a mother's, to triumph over death and despair resonated deeply with her.

Deb volunteered with the United Church Women's Group in Saint John. She was a member of St. John's United Church in Halifax, and later Portland United Church in Saint John.

Deb was a wonderful mother to her two beloved children, Madeleine and Alexander. No mother was ever kinder or more loving, more gentle or more patient, even at three in the morning. She cheered her children on at every turn, was an active volunteer for Brownies and school trips, and went happily to every play and concert, no matter how small the role filled by her kids. She always had time to listen and teach, to admire a newfound skill or interest, from Madeleine's horseback riding to Alexander's karate and computer expertise.

Deb's mothering was the envy of her children's friends, and she was happy to share it around, mothering and loving every child who entered her friendly orbit. Her wicked sense of humor was a light in dark times, and a firecracker in the bright ones; those who knew it will miss it dearly.

Deb is survived by her children Madeleine Donna Spicer and Alexander Finlay Spicer, her mother Marcia Godsoe, her younger siblings Karen (Armel Daigle), Richard (Helene), Phyllis, and Douglas (Pam), as well her nieces and nephews Jennifer, Jonathan, Sarah, David, Charlie, Victoria and Allan, and her former husband and friend Dr. Finlay Roy Spicer and his wife Johanne Gallant, friend and former sister-in-law Donna Spicer, and close friend Janis Bowser. She was predeceased by her father Percy E. Godsoe in 2020, and her beloved pomeranian Max, who went ahead of her in July to make sure the food in heaven was up to snuff. It is her family's firm opinion she tripped over

Max first thing through the Pearly Gates.

Our family would like to thank Dr. Karen Anderson and Dr. Isabelle Delisle, all the doctors and staff at the Cancer Centre, and all the wonderful staff at 8.2 in the Halifax Infirmary. A heartfelt thanks and lifelong gratitude also go out to the wonderful staff and volunteers at the miraculous Hospice Halifax, where Deb passed.

A final thanks goes out to everyone who was ever a patient of Deb's; she dreamed of being a doctor from a young age, and fought hard to achieve it. Her life of service to all the people she took care of was a source of deep pride and joy, to her and to our family.

In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made to Hospice Halifax.

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Dr Godsoe was my family doctor for many years, she was compassionate, caring and nhad an awesome. Bedside manner, so sorry for your loss, just found out from a patient of your fathers today. My thoughts and prayers are with you all

colleen Murphy - April 15, 2023 at 12:08 AM

AG

“ Doctor Godsoe was my family doctor for many years. She was always so bright and caring. My sincere condolences to her family. Best wishes, Angie G ❤️

Angie Giammario - October 25, 2022 at 11:05 AM

RM

“ Dr. Godsoe was a wonderful doctor she took care of my family I'm so sorry to hear of her passing sending our love to her family she will never be forgotten 💔🙏🕊️

Rosalyn martell - October 24, 2022 at 03:59 PM

AR

“ So very sorry to hear this. Dr.G was my doc from the time she started in family practice until she left. I missed her ever since. Sincere condolences to the family .

anna robaczewski - October 13, 2022 at 10:00 AM

CH

“ *Deb and Finlay were good friends of myself and former husband Rod through the Dalhousie years. Those memories are precious even though I see we both ended up with new partners later on in life. We both I see also shared in the joy of bringing up 2 children. Finlay my deepest condolences to you and your children- the memories of those days remain sweet- we were all embarking on such an exciting time in life! I'm so sorry to hear of Deb's death at such an early age (I too lost my husband at age 60 of cancer.) Yo all are in my thoughts. Camille (Rogers, MacDonald/ Herbin)*

Camille Herbin - October 08, 2022 at 10:04 AM

ML

“ *Portland United Church Quilters enjoyed having Debbie with us. Her friendliness, enthusiasm and talents gave life to our group. Our sympathy is with Debbie's family and a donation in her memory has been made to Portland United Church.*

Marilyn Lester - October 07, 2022 at 07:01 AM

JF

“ *So very blessed to have had Dr. Godsoe as my first doctor back in 1984 till the mid 90s. Having just moved to Halifax with a new baby my best friend recommended her. She always greeted us with a smile, calmness, wit , and reassurance . Never rushed. Always related to us in a personal way . She left us in very good hands with Dr. Spicer who has continued to truly care about our family. To Her family and friends we send you our heartfelt prayers . May her memories and many talents be carried on in a way that brings you peace. With much love, Jeanie and Robert Fievet and Family.*



Jeanie and Robert Fievet and Family - October 05, 2022 at 08:21 AM

RP

“ Dr. Deborah Godsoe was my very first medical doctor in Halifax in the early 1980's. Sinceres condolences to the whole family.

Raymonde Poirier - October 04, 2022 at 04:29 PM

AS

“ My mother first brought me to Dr. Godsoe when I was about 13 and we both thought the world of her as a physician - she was caring and compassionate and always made us feel like we were in good hands throughout the years that she was our doctor. She will certainly be missed. Our heartfelt condolences to the family - Angela Sanford and Elsie Fenerty

Angela Sanford - October 04, 2022 at 12:11 PM

PM

“ Dr. Godsoe brought my daughter into the world in 1979 and was our family Dr. for many years. We are still patients of Dr. Spicer. I am so very sorry for your loss ❤️

Pat Mombourquette - October 04, 2022 at 10:26 AM

DS

“ Sending condolences to Debs family on her passing. Such a wonderful woman. I had the pleasure of working and having her as my doctor for many years. She sure will be missed. Rest now Deb!

Debra Scott - October 04, 2022 at 08:33 AM

MS

“ I was so sorry to read of Dr. Godsoe's passing. As my family doctor she was caring and thoughtful and it was through her recommendations that I had my first mammogram at age 49 where I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I credit her for giving me these past 24 years, To all her family, my sincerest sympathy

Mary Stevens

Mary Stevens - October 04, 2022 at 07:58 AM

AR

“ To Debbie's family, So sorry to hear of Dr Godsoe's passing. She was my family doctor for years and so very kind. RISP Dr Godsoe you will be missed

audrey ross - October 04, 2022 at 12:12 AM

CM

“ My condolences to Deb's family. She was my very first Dr. and she played a very important part in saving my daughter's life.



Cheryl MacLeod - October 03, 2022 at 03:58 PM

TZ

“ Part of my extended family. A beautiful person. My love and condolences to Maddie and Alex.

Theresa Zukauskas - October 02, 2022 at 07:57 PM

DW

“ We'd like to send our sincere condolences to Maddie, Alex and the rest of the family on Deborahs' passing. We first met Deb when we moved next door to her and her family in 1985. She was a great neighbour, ready to help with any advice needed and upbeat with a friendly smile on her face. We had heard at the time that she was much loved and appreciated by her patients. This was no surprise. We hope she has relief and peace now. She was taken much too soon.

Don & Lora White

Don White - October 02, 2022 at 02:59 PM

BG

“ My sympathies to Deb's family. Thinking of you. Hugs, Barb Godsoe (Ontario)

Barb Godsoe - September 30, 2022 at 09:48 AM

LC

I took my daughters to Dr. Godsoe for shots to go to summer camp when they were 10 and 12. They thought she was soooo cool as she was wearing Levi's with her white coat. They never felt a thing. Young mothers themselves now. God bless her.

Lorraine CASTEL - October 04, 2022 at 06:24 PM

SM

When I moved back to Halifax in 1987, I was fortunate to have a friend recommend Dr. Godsoe. She was a lovely, compassionate doctor and I was only sorry when she left town to return to New Brunswick. My sincere condolences to the family.

Sharon MacDonald

Sharon MacDonald - October 05, 2022 at 01:57 PM



I had the good fortune of attending medical school with Debbie. In third year, we lived in the same grad house. I She was so incredibly brilliant! I loved her quick, dry wit. We had so many laughs! I want her family to know how sad I am for their loss.

Carol Critchley

Carol Critchley - October 06, 2022 at 08:16 PM

TL

My sincere condolences to the family of Dr Godsoe.. She was my family doctor for many years and she was such a compassionate when I had my brain surgery. RIP. Thelma LeBlanc October 8 at 11:45 AM

Thelma LeBlanc - October 08, 2022 at 11:12 AM

MS

Sincere condolences to Dr. Godsoe's family! Such a compassionate and understanding Doctor! She was my family Dr. for many years and she will never be forgotten! RIP Dr Beb!

Marg Stone

Marg Stone - October 08, 2022 at 11:52 AM

BS

I came upon Deb's obituary practically by accident. I knew her from her first days at Dal and though I didn't know the extent of her accomplishments beyond doctor, wife and mother, I am not really surprised.

Her passing so young is a great loss for sll yhay knew her and loved her. Condoléances to her family and friends.

'Bob Steele, Québec

Bob Steele - June 18, 2024 at 07:36 PM