



Ella Mae York (née Dehlinger)

April 16, 2025

Ella Mae York (née Dehlinger) passed away peacefully in Halifax, surrounded by loved ones.

Born on December 24, 1942, in Bensenville, Illinois, Ella Mae was the only child of Ethel Frieda Bloom and William Paul Dehlinger. She attended Colorado State, Penn State and Minnesota State Universities, where she earned degrees in Education and found her purpose in teaching and nurturing young minds.

In 1967, she married David York. They moved to Canada in 1971 and made their home by the lake in Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia. David taught at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, while Ella Mae pursued her love of teaching at the Halifax Early Childhood School.

In 1973, Ella Mae became a mother to Amanda York, followed soon after by the adoption of Dustin York in 1974. The family later moved to Halifax, where Ella Mae joined the Halifax Regional School Board. She spent the next 25 years in the public school system as a cherished colleague, a gifted educator, and a beloved teacher who shaped the lives of many young Nova Scotians.

Ella Mae was also a generous and loyal friend—someone who brought warmth and humor to every room. Her deep love extended not only to her

students, friends, and family, but also to the many dogs who shared her life: Garth, Basil, Parsley, Chancy, and Riley.

Ella Mae is survived by her children, Amanda and Dustin, and her daughter-in-law, Tamara; her two grandchildren, Morgen and Rousseau; her sweetheart, Barry Paton; the “Cottage Girls” and a wide circle of friends and former students who will miss her sparkle and wit, her playful humor, and her courageous heart.

A celebration of Ella Mae’s life will be held at a later date. In honor of her memory, please consider a donation to the Nova Scotia SPCA.

Tribute Wall

SF

“ I was sad to hear of Ella Maes passing . I taught with her at Holly Drive school where she was a great teacher. I was talking to one of the parents at the school this week. Her memory of Ella Mae was she was a lovely lady.

Holly Drive was a special school. We formed a tight group enjoying an occasional poker game.

I remember our trips to Florida to visit our friend Janet. We had fun shopping ,hitting the beach ,dinner and fashion shows of our shopping trips. It was fun.

Im sure David was waiting for her. Such a lose

Susan oleary farrell - April 27, 2025 at 11:13 PM

JO

“ My heartfelt condolences to you all. I worked with sweet Ella Mae at Westmount Elementary. It was a deep privilege to know her and to learn from her. She had a glow about her that told you that she loved what she shared and the children under her charge. She projected joy in her life and just made you feel good about your day! She was creative and such a hands on teacher; Such an example to us all and truly a team person. Any child who was blessed to have her will never forget her. While my main memories are at the school, I was certainly grateful for times together outside the profession where I also experienced lots of laughs, and caring. She was a dear lady and I'm grateful to have known her. May precious memories bring you comfort.

Jackie O

Jackie O'Hearon - April 27, 2025 at 08:26 AM