



## Hugh Wilford McKervill

June 15, 1931 - August 5, 2025

Two years after suffering a stroke, at age 94, Hugh Wilford McKervill died at his home in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on August 5th 2025. He is survived by his wife, Moonhei Gye, by his elder daughter Kathleen Belva Glauser and by his son-in-law, Roland Glauser. Also surviving are his daughter, Mary Maureen McKervill, his grand-daughter Grace Emma Merrett, his son Hugh James McKervill, his daughter-in-law Darlene McKervill and his grand-son Padric McKervill.

Hugh Wilford was the son of Hugh McKervill of Ballymoney county Antrim, Northern Ireland and Annie (Nan) Hutchinson McKervill, nee McCandless, of Coleraine, county Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Hugh Wilford was born in Toronto Ontario during the great depression, a reality that caused the young immigrants to return to Northern Ireland while their son was still an infant.

In Northern Ireland Hugh W. commenced and completed public school, then began apprenticeship as a carpenter. Following the Second World War the family, including another son, Alan Raymond (now deceased) and a daughter, Myrna Ann, returned to Canada and settled in London, Ontario.

Hugh Wilford served his apprenticeship and worked as a carpenter in various Canadian locations. In 1953, he entered Waterloo College as a mature student. He was valedictorian when he graduated in 1956 with a B.A degree

in Arts and Science. He then entered Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto. He graduated in 1969 with a Masters Degree in theology (M.Div.). In the same year, he was ordained a minister of the United Church of Canada. As a minister, he spent four years in Bella Bella, B.C., four years at Trinity United Church in Kitchener Ontario, and two years in Port Hope, Ontario.

In 1969, he left Church work to become Regional Liaison Officer with the Federal Secretary of State Department. Stationed in Moncton, New Brunswick, he spent ten years promoting the Federal Governments social and cultural policies in New Brunswick and P.E.I. In January 1979, he was appointed Atlantic Regional Director for the Canadian Human Rights Commission, a position he held until early retirement fifteen years later.

A belief in life-long learning led him to engage in post-graduate studies in Counselling and Therapy at University of British Columbia; in Adult Education at St. Francis Xavier University; Principles of Management at the University of Moncton; and Human Relations Training at the National Training Institute where he was appointed as A Fellow in 1983.

Besides his ongoing studies, Hugh had a busy life following a broad range of cultural, social and sports interests. Until his middle years, he sang in everything from barbershop quartets to oratorio and Gilbert and Sullivan light opera. He was an award winning Life Member of the Halifax Dartmouth Photographic Guild and an enthusiastic participant in the art of home wine making through membership in the Halifax/Dartmouth Wine Circle where he was President for two years. He was an avid salmon angler and for many decades was Editorial Contributor with The Atlantic Salmon Journal. Hugh founded the Irish Canadian Children's Association that for several years brought groups of children from Belfast to Halifax for a period of respite from the troubles in Northern Ireland. He was an able organic gardener, and he was the author of four Canadian non-fiction books as well as scores of

magazine articles for which he won Atlantic Journalism Awards on three occasions.

# Tribute Wall

SB

“ I never met Mr. McKervill, but I am saddened by the news of his passing. On a recent trip to London Ontario, I came across a copy of his book about his canoeing adventures in a used bookstore...I was trying to look him up to let him know how much I enjoyed his stories when I learned of his passing. I will be sharing his book with all of my canoeing friends so that his tales will reach widely across northwest Ontario.

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**Steve Bobrowicz** - January 06 at 08:46 PM

KG

What a lovely note; this would have made my dad so very happy. He LOVED hearing from readers and spoke fondly of various conversations he'd had with folks who had reached out. His friend and canoeing partner Tom predeceased dad, so now all we have are these stories.

*Kathleen (McKervill) Glauser*

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**Kathleen Glauser** - February 01 at 06:56 PM

EC

“ On behalf of Emmanuel College, we send our deepest sympathies on your recent loss. Sincerely, the staff of Alumni Affairs & Advancement.

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**Emmanuel College** - September 29, 2025 at 01:02 PM

DM

“ My condolences to the McKervill family. I only met Hugh once, and the occasion was the Smoky Burn Reunion where we were the only former student ministers in attendance. Many United Church ministers, including me, have Hugh's book, "The Sinbuster of Smoky Burn: The Memoirs of a Student Minister on the Prairies" in our library. It is a treasured keepsake and wonderful reminder of the warmth and acceptance of the fine people of Smoky Burn and Battle Heights, SK, whose positive influence on generations of student ministers, including Hugh and I, will always be remembered. Rev. Doug Martindale, Winnipeg.

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**Doug Martindale** - September 04, 2025 at 12:03 PM

PW

“ My fondest memories of Hugh are when we angled for Atlantic Salmon on various rivers in Atlantic Canada and during photographic excursions both in Nova Scotia and the Southwestern USA. I shall miss him very much as I'm sure will his wife and family. From my wife Annie and I, our sincere condolences. Pat Wall.

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**Pat Wall** - September 03, 2025 at 01:18 PM

EC

“ My friendship with Hugh goes back many years to Moncton days and continued throughout our time in Halifax. I have many happy memories of concerts, plays, dinners and much laughter. Hugh was a presence and I admired him greatly. He will be missed. Sincere condolences to Moonhei and all the family.

*Elaine Casey*

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**Elaine Casey** - August 28, 2025 at 07:36 AM

MM

“ *Deepest condolences to the McKervill family. Hugh's unwavering support to myself and others New Democrats (eg. Alexa) was so appreciated. A man of great integrity and empathy.*

Maureen MacDonald - August 16, 2025 at 07:41 PM

MM



Mary McKervill - August 17, 2025 at 08:23 AM

JC

“ *Sincere sympathy to my friends, Kathleen and Roland, to Moonhei, and all of Hugh's family.*

Joan ( McCulley, Czapalay) Cormier - August 15, 2025 at 02:30 PM

LM

“ *Kathleen (Roli and family)*

*So sorry to learn about your dad's passing. It is so hard to lose our loved ones even understanding the circle of life. A memory of your dad was Belfast when we backpacked Europe (a few moons ago). I was introduced to soda bread and eagerly enjoyed a slice, going back for seconds. Your ever-knowing dad knew what would transpire in half an hour after eating this 'heavy' bread and got a kick out of my feeling like an anchor. I don't think I ate for the rest of the day as was so full.*

*Thinking of you at this very sad time. Hugs...Lisa Morris*

Lisa Morris - August 13, 2025 at 05:13 PM

PD

*Happy memories of Hughs visits to Northern Ireland- he visited my brother Tom and I in Bangor and came to Donegal to our holiday home as well. Hugh and I have kept in touch by letter and then by email and I have missed our newsy exchanges. My condolences to all the family he will be sorely missed. Pauline &♥♥*

Pauline Diplock - September 10, 2025 at 02:30 PM

KG

*Pauline, I'm so pleased to hear from you. We spoke of you recently when dad helped us to plan our recent trip to Ireland and Northern Ireland. He didn't think he had a way to reach you. I've tried to send you a friend request on facebook, but it won't allow me to. You can reach me at rkglouser[at]gmail.com  
Kathleen Glauser (Hugh's eldest daughter)*

Kathleen Glauser - September 26, 2025 at 07:45 PM

KM

*“ Hugh was an exceptionally good friend...I certainly will miss him*

Katharine Mott - August 09, 2025 at 07:17 PM

MM

*Xo*

Mary McKervill - August 15, 2025 at 07:09 PM

NR

*“ Hugh's range of interests and energy were such that he was involved with many people younger than he. Aside from the many things mentioned in the obituary, I remember also that he kept bees and made honey for a while and he was the only person I ever new who dug up his tulip bulbs each year and replanted them for the next spring. There are plenty of people still walking the earth who remember him with admiration and now sadness. Best wishes to Moon-Hei and Hugh's family.*



Nancy Roberts - August 09, 2025 at 09:59 AM



*Xo*

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**Mary McKervill** - August 17, 2025 at 08:25 AM