

SENIOR SCAPE: Mother's Day

By Christina Doyle

MOTHER She has been referred to as a map, who tries to guide and carefully monitor each step you take in your life. She has been called your first love and your biggest heartbreak.

The anchor, the rose, the hardest working person, compassionate, wise, sensitive and all knowing, a mother who gives all and doesn't always get much in return in her often thankless role.

On the outside, it sounds not like someone you would envy, while the pay is poor and working conditions are long and tiring. However, she is a highly skilled financial advisor who can juggle budgeting, run a household and can demonstrate culinary skills that are mouthwatering alongside the best chefs in the world.

I can still hear my husband saying, "nobody makes lemon meringue pie like my mom." Hah, I thought, till I tried it, and he was right, she was the best.

She would also create these little rugs around the house from scraps of blanket and clothing material. She was an amazing and talented farmer's wife. She knew the best homemade remedies for whatever ailed you and you just knew, without a moment's hesitation, that a woman who could raise five children, run a farm, and still have time to get up Sunday morning for church, was God's gift to us all.

How does one write about a mother, your mother, my mother that can completely describe her in a few sentences without sounding childish or a dreamer? How does one thank your mother for the countless hours she stayed with you while you were sick and helped you raise your children, cook dinner, clean the house and be the mountain of strength when you so needed her?

How many barrels of tears of gratitude can you fill for your dear mother?

My own mother, who suffered through war, poverty, famine and losing her own mother at the age of 17 somehow survived.

Mothers ? be proud of your laugh lines as we celebrate Mother's Day with you.

Thank you for helping me become who I am today. The fabric of a mother is so strong, that nothing can pull her away from the love she has for her family.

She has unspeakable devotion and dedication in fulfilling her duties. However, if you have a mom, may the road never be too far to visit, to call, to hug and love her.

She isn't expecting roses, candy or dinner, she just wants you. She needs to hear your voice, your loving arms around her, combing her hair, sharing a cup of tea so that the afternoons don't seem so long.

Your presence never mattered more.

And for those whose heart is breaking for their lost mother, if tears could build a stairway right up to heaven, we would bring you home again.

Her essence is in everything you do, in the springtime hearing a bubbling brook, or wrapped in winter's blanket of snow and in the last goodbye of fall...you will find her there. Just when you think you are alone, a sign occurs, a thought that seems all too familiar, a whisper, a soft breeze that gently reassures you that she is always near you, and still wants the best for you.

Yes, it's hard not to cry about your loss, your best friend, the one heart you told everything to, the strongest shoulders you could lean on, but for now be truly happy that you had a most wonderful and loving mother.

So, thank her in your prayers, and share her life with others and allow them to see and feel how precious a mother she was to you.

To all mothers past and present, we honour you, love you, and appreciate you.

Following are two activities at the Seniors' Centre where you can honour your mother:

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

The Seniors Centre will be holding a special Mother's Day luncheon on Wednesday, May 4. The menu includes lasagna.

THE EVERGREEN CHOIR'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

The ASA's Evergreen Choir will be celebrating its tenth anniversary on Saturday, May 28 at 2.30 p.m. The cost is only \$5 and children under 14 with a ticket are admitted free of charge.

For more information on the Aurora Seniors' Centre and all it has to offer, drop by 90 John West Way, visit the web site www.auroraseniors.ca, or call 905-726-4767 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.