

*AUCOIN*

*GERARD JOSEPH*



**March 29<sup>th</sup> 1938 – September 9<sup>th</sup> 2021**

It is with heavy hearts and sadness that we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved father Gerard Joseph Aucoin, age 83, at Le Foyer Père Fiset in Chéticamp on September 9th, 2021. Born in Saint-Joseph-du-Moine on March 29th, 1938, he was the son of the late Patrick (à Joe) and Marie-Belle/Minnie (Deveau) Aucoin.

Brought up on a generational farm with his large family, the youngest of eleven siblings, Dad surrounded by a loving entourage, was taught to always be kind, good work ethics, discipline, and love for the land. Dad had such a big spirit. There was never a dull moment with his passionate personality, full of character, joie-de-vivre and his incredible sense of humour.

Mom and Dad's undying devotion to each other for sixty-one years was such an inspiration to our family. Dad married the love of his life, Therese (à Willie and Helen Rose) Doucet on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 1959. They lived through many trials and tribulations over the years, but nothing was stronger than their cherished bond of love. Dad was often working away from home and when the weekend arrived, it was such a joy to see them reunited. They worked very hard but never missed out

on going dancing every Saturday night. They had many great memories from their time spent at the old homestead in Saint-Joseph-du-Moine overlooking “le lac à Dosite” and during their retirement years, in their country haven in Grand-Étang. We can still picture them sitting at the kitchen table, enjoying just being together.

Over the years, our Dad, who was a jack-of-all-trades, worked at numerous jobs and was a very good provider. He was known as a hard worker and his family always came first. Dad was always ready to lend a helping hand.

We will always remember him labouring in large gardens and proud of the produce that he could share with family and friends. He loved the changing seasons especially the spring when he could bring us bunches of pussy willows, lilacs and buttercups. He was known as a master berry-picker and loved to bring home berries for Mom to make her delicious preserves. He loved to bring berries to those who could no longer pick for themselves.

After a short stay at La Résidence Acadienne, in 2019, Mom and Dad became residents of Le Foyer Père Fiset in Chéticamp. Although Dad missed his soul mate Therese, who passed away in 2020, he was relieved that she was gone to a better place and finally pain free.

Dad was a life-time member of Les Nouveaux Horizons (Saint-Joseph-du-Moine), LeMoine Development Association and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters Union – Local 1588. At the time Covid-19 restrictions were implemented in Le Foyer, Dad so missed going to the “le café” with the gang at La Salle des Retraités. He loved playing cards and a good game of crib. He followed the Canadian Almanac, predicted weather patterns and was rarely wrong. We trusted his judgement. When his health permitted, Dad took good care of the garden at Le Foyer and was quite proud to contribute to this task.

Dad suffered from several painful ailments, including battling throat Cancer that left him unable to swallow. At times that many would have given up, he always maintained a positive outlook and grateful attitude. He always had a joke for his caregivers and even played funny pranks on the staff at Le Foyer Père Fiset whom he grew to love and considered them to be his new family.

As a faithful Catholic, he believed that this was God’s will and often said, “It could always be worse”.

This great man will be dearly missed by his three children, Rosie (Armand) Chéticamp, N.S., Robert (Judy) Saulnierville, N.S. and Louise (Emile) Belle-Côte,

N.S. Their grand-children: Cory, Christine (Jacques), Camille (Amy Lou), Philip (Leah), Francine (Brian) and David; their great-grandchildren, Damien, Emma, Dominic, Amy and step-great grandchild, Gracen Boudreau. He leaves behind his sister Catherine Aucoin (Foyer Père Fiset – Chéticamp) and brother Philius Aucoin (Laura) of Chertsey, Quebec. Brother-in-law, Marcel Doucet (Brampton) Ontario, Brother-in-law Théobert Chiasson (Foyer Père Fiset- Chéticamp) and Brother-in-law Ronald Brown (Middleton) Nova Scotia. He will also be sadly missed by his numerous nieces and nephews, and many friends. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his late wife Therese and by siblings: Freddie, Elizabeth, Lucy May, Léo, Therese, Hermine, Celina and Stella and many other members of our extended family.

The family would like to thank those who were always ready to help Dad. The acts of kindness were much appreciated. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to the staff of Le Foyer Père Fiset for the devoted and loving care given to Dad. The compassion and kind gestures towards him and the family during his final journey among us, go beyond the call of duty and will never be forgotten. Dad was treated with such dignity to his final breath. As well, special thanks to the doctors and nurses of the Sacred Heart Community Health Centre for their care and compassion especially in the last few weeks.

We have no doubt that this gentle soul is now an angel watching over us and was welcomed to heaven with open arms, reunited with Mom and other loved ones into the eternal peace of God's kingdom where he is finally free of pain and suffering.

Dad, you were a very special father, grandfather and great-grandfather who will forever be in our hearts. A branch from our family tree is gone, but never forgotten. Your legend lives on in all of us.

Cremation has taken place. A funeral mass will be celebrated in St. Joseph's Church, Saint-Joseph-du-Moine on Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. There will be no visitation due to ongoing pandemic restrictions. Everyone is welcome to join us for the mass. Burial in St. Joseph's Parish Cemetery. Funeral is under the direction of Sunset Funeral Co-operative Ltd. Condolences can be sent to: [www.sunsetfuneralco-op.com](http://www.sunsetfuneralco-op.com). Memorial donations can be made to Le Foyer Père Fiset, St. Joseph's Parish (Cemetery fund) or the Cheticamp Palliative Care Society.



