



Jack MacQuarrie

January 10, 2021

Jack MacQuarrie

During a very brief period of palliative care and shortly after celebrating his 95th birthday, Jack passed away on Jan. 10, 2021 at Markham Stouffville Hospital. He will be dearly missed by his son Drew and his loving spouse of 35 years, Joan Andrews.

His service in the Royal Canadian Navy, which began during WWII, was one of the most meaningful times in Jack's life. He had originally joined the Army, but when they refused to allow him to go overseas at age 18, he enlisted in the Navy, which wouldn't hold him back.

A true Renaissance man and longtime resident of Toronto, Jack's education, versatility and wide range of interests led him to thrive in various professional fields - electrical engineer and diver in the Royal Canadian Navy, aviation radio equipment and computer marketing rep, college and high school educator, musician, computer software trainer and technical writer/journalist. He was a ham radio operator, sailor, avid photographer and had a passion for both visual and performing arts. For many years he played trumpet, trombone, euphonium and/or tuba in various military, community and swing bands. For 15 years he was emcee for the Toronto Parks and Recreation summer music program. He founded and directed the University of Toronto Alumni Band and played in the Toronto Argonauts Band - thrilled to be paid to watch professional football games at a time when marching bands were still hired for half-time shows!

Prior to COVID-19 restrictions, Jack was still playing regularly as a 25+ year member in The Newmarket Citizen's Band, Resa's Pieces Concert Band and Swing Machine, a Toronto based big band. He was a charter member of the Uxbridge Community Summer Concert Band and played there until last summer.

Both before and after moving to the Uxbridge area, Jack served as a board member of various organizations, including the Canadian Band Association, the Naval Club of Toronto and the Uxbridge Scott Historical Society. As a veteran of WWII, he was highly

respected and acknowledged, along with his military family at the very active Uxbridge Legion. His gift for story-telling and sharing jokes will be remembered by many friends, former colleagues and band-mates.

A celebration of life will be held at a future date, when it is possible to gather together and create live music once again.

If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 170, 109 Franklin St., Uxbridge, ON L9P 1J5 <http://www.uxbridgelegion.ca> or The Naval Club of Toronto, 1910 Gerrard St. East, Toronto, ON M4L 2C1 <http://www.navalcluboftoronto.com>.

Comments



“ Dear Joan,
Condolences on Jack's passing.
I will remember him as a gentleman and authoritative voice in the band community. We first met in the Governor General's Horse Guards band in the early 70s. I remember that he MC'd many of our band concerts at that time. He would introduce pieces with interesting information about them, showing his knowledge and love of the music. We crossed paths many times over the years. I was always grateful for Jack getting me involved with the Gilbert and Sullivan productions of the St. Anne's Music and Drama Society. I always looked forward to his columns in the Wholenote magazine.

Stephen Sandrin - February 08, 2021 at 10:49 AM



“ I knew Jack through his wonderful Bandstand column in Wholenote magazine: his love of the music and people, his insights into what made bands work well, and his lovely way of showing up with his tuba on band-visits (because how could you write about what was going on if you hadn't been part of the music-making yourself?) made the column a must-read each month. He will be missed. My condolences to his family.

Katherine Carleton - January 31, 2021 at 05:11 PM



“ On behalf of the Hart House Underwater Club at the University of Toronto, I would like to extend all of our deepest condolences. We were so saddened to hear of Jack's passing.

Jack is remembered fondly by all of his diving friends at UofT. Jack was our first scuba instructor, one of our founding members -- and is fondly remembered as one of the cornerstones that had the vision to bring together a new scuba diving club for the UofT community, back in 1962. Jack's work, along with those who participated in that first class, has led to a nearly-60-year legacy that continues today -- and, starting with Jack's first course, has now trained thousands of students, and left a lasting legacy of friendships, of divers and of dive safety. Jack will be missed, and remembered, as his legacy continues to live on at UofT.

Thank you, Jack... and Joan and Drew: you are both in our thoughts. We are so very sorry for your loss.

Sincerely,
Courtney Gibson, President,
Hart House Underwater Club,
University of Toronto.

Courtney Gibson - January 28, 2021 at 11:25 PM



“ Lawry and I were very sorry to hear of Jack's passing. He was a passionate musician who's work in the field supported bands in Canada. It was always good to talk about band music with Jack.
Joan and Lawry Sax,
Thornhill Community Band
Richmond Hill Concert Band

Joan Sax - January 27, 2021 at 02:59 PM



“ Dear Joan and family,

We are so sorry for his loss. Please accept our condolences. We will keep you all in our prayers.

Scott and Joyce Bell

Scott Bell - January 26, 2021 at 08:45 PM



“ My condolences to you Joan and to Jack's son. What an amazingly full and rewarding life Jack had. How wonderful that you met and had 35 years together.
Maureen

Maureen McRae - January 26, 2021 at 03:25 PM



“ Dear Joan,
So sorry to hear of Jack's passing. He sounds like a remarkable man. Thinking about you with sympathy and friendship,
Jane and Tom Gorman

Jane Gorman - January 26, 2021 at 03:00 PM



“ My deepest condolences to you and the rest of the family, dear Joan. I remember fondly that evening the four of us went out for dinner after a performance. Jack told us how you two met. Such a wonderful memory of an amazing guy. Much love,
Deirdre

Deirdre - January 26, 2021 at 07:18 AM



“ Dear Joan,
Our deepest condolences during this very difficult time. Our thoughts of comfort are with you. 'Thank you Jack for the heartwarming article you wrote about Dad. It's a treasured memory.'
The Canonico Family.

Carla A. Canonico - January 24, 2021 at 05:32 PM



“ Sorry to hear of Jacks passing...

My Father John MacQuarrie of Fergus, had mentioned him on more than one occasion.

Andrew MacQuarrie
Toronto

andrew macQuarrie - January 24, 2021 at 08:11 AM



“ Dear Joan,

My condolences on Jack's passing.
He had many talents and many accomplishments. I have happy memories of our time together at HMCS YORK and later when he was at Massey College at University of Toronto.

Bob and Barbara Langford

Robert Langford - January 24, 2021 at 07:05 AM



“ Dear Joan, thinking of you with Love,
Nora and Susanna Francis

Nora Francis - January 23, 2021 at 07:39 PM



“ Drew and Joan

I'm so sorry to hear of Jack's passing. I still remember him well when he worked at Pru. He was quite the character.

Elaine Kirk

Elaine Kirk - January 23, 2021 at 01:24 PM



“ Jack & Jenny,

Our condolences Joan, we both remember Jack playing in St Anne's orchestra for Gilbert & Sullivan performances in the 1980,s. We will also miss his entertaining monthly articles in Whole Note magazine, he had an in depth knowledge of the fortunes of military and volunteer bands past and present. We were both on the Monthly Dinner Committee of the Toronto Naval Club and introduced Salads to the menu,(some opposition to this) and also a selection of pies and ice cream he as a culinary advisor and I as a novice cook. Happy Days.

Jack & Jenny Suttaby - January 24, 2021 at 11:45 AM