



## Elizabeth Gillian Watt (née Robinson)

November 20, 2023

ELIZABETH GILLIAN WATT (née ROBINSON) 1937 - 2023

Gill died in Southlake Hospital on November 20th after suffering two major strokes. She is survived by her husband Gavin K. and her three children: Nancy of Newmarket; Sarah and her husband Christian Cameron and daughter Beatrice of Toronto; and her son Gavin A., his wife Laura Graffi and their son Alexander of Niagara Falls. Predeceased by her parents, John R. Robinson and Elizabeth M. Robinson née Boulton and five of her six brothers Jake, Harry, Tom, Bill, Peter, her niece Marco and granddaughter Genevieve. Her younger brother Stony remains, as do 24 nieces and nephews. In recent years, she enjoyed helpful, affectionate relationships with cousin Louise Boulton; her nephew Drew Robinson, and her grandnephew Jack Cassidy.

Gill was passionate about her offspring, her wonderful mother, and her broader family. She was the organizer of decades of annual family gatherings at her home north of King City and greatly enjoyed the family farm and cottages in Waupoos, Prince Edward County.

Gill was a lifelong learner. She was educated at St Clement's as a girl, she read voraciously, listened to CBC radio incessantly, and to her quiet satisfaction, attained a B.A. in Humanities at York University in her 50s. She was immensely proud of her famous political journalist aunt, Judith Robinson.

For over thirty years, Gill meticulously sorted Judith's papers, and when done, she donated them to McMaster University, which specializes in commemorating Canadian journalism. Their archivist told Gill that Judith's collection was the best organized that he had ever seen.

She had tremendous empathy for others and cared for and visited dozens of elderly and infirm family, friends and nursing home residents, not for accolades but from a well of compassion and a sense of duty to others that was remarkable. One of her older friends was Blair Burrows who had built a unique, rammed-earth house in King Township. Gill wrote a history of that endeavour for the local archives.

Gill loved her wooded property in King and was a natural, artistic gardener, weaving wild and cultivated flowers, bushes and trees into lovely patterns. She spent countless happy hours in her several gardens, weeding, planting and cultivating, and on rainy days 'making rivers run.'

She was a determined conservationist and an almost 50-year member of Concerned Citizens of King Township, coming to serve as the organization's secretary. She was instrumental in the campaigns to Save the Oak Ridges Moraine and to block the Big Pipe. Her involvement, with an open heart and common sense, led to the making of a great many friends and the recent founding of the Ladies' Lunch Club. In short, Gill was a woman of consequence.

Her romance with Gavin K. began in Sunday school (St. John's, York Mills) at age 9, followed by several years in church groups, then a date at age 17; five years of courtship and 64 years of marriage. Gill supported Gavin in his final year of university; the highs and lows of his business career, and in all his outlandish pursuits, often becoming involved in his history projects. She is the love of his life.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to The Yonge Street Mission, Canadian Friends of Public Broadcasting or Concerned Citizens of King Township, Box 875, King City, L7B 1A3. At the request of her family and in memory of Gill, please do whatever you can to protect yourselves and others from Covid.

A Gathering of Friends will be held at King Heritage and Cultural Centre, 2920 King Road, on Friday Dec 8th between 4-6:30 PM. The Funeral Service will be conducted on Saturday, Dec 9th at 1 PM at All Saints Anglican Church, 12935 Keele Street, King City.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 8. 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

King Heritage & Cultural Centre  
2920 King Road  
King City, ON (CA)

## Funeral Service

DEC 9. 1:00 PM (ET)

All Saints Anglican Church  
12935 Keele Street  
King City, ON (CA)

# Tribute Wall

WA

“ Gill was the heartbeat for Christmas carolling every year on December 24th. We would all converge at the nursing home on Fog Road with our bells and booklets and crowd into the foyer. When we started to sing, threads of time seemed to wrap around us ... all those familiar songs binding souls of all ages together. There was a lot of laughter and we always went back to the Watt household for the "figgy pudding" and "cheer." Gill loved her sumachs and so did my mom. The land was alive to them, and eloquent. I feel so blessed to have known her - a woman of wondrous ways. - Wendy Agnew

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**Wendy Agnew** - March 04, 2024 at 04:12 PM

CL

“ Dear Gavin and family,  
Together with the staff of McMaster Archives, I'd like to express my deep condolences on Gill's recent passing. We will forever be grateful for her wonderful donation of her aunt Judith Robinson's papers and for entrusting us with preserving that incredible legacy. I was privileged to know Gill and can deeply appreciate the loss for her family and friends.  
-Christopher Long, McMaster University Archivist

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**Christopher Long** - January 04, 2024 at 12:37 PM

RD

“ Nancy and I were saddened to learn of Gill's passing. Our thoughts are with you.

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**Ron and Nancy Dale** - December 15, 2023 at 09:06 PM

JB

“ Gavin and Family, sending sincere condolence's on the recent passing of your Mother from all your comrades at the Halifax Citadel NHS. John Bates, Hal Thompson, Kevin Andrecyk & Dave Danskin.

John Bates - December 05, 2023 at 08:38 AM

KB

“ Dear Gavin, our hearts are with you and your family. Our sincerest loving condolences on the passing of Gill. Kim & Terry Bush

kim & terry bush - December 01, 2023 at 02:36 PM

SR

“ Gavin and family. Our deepest sympathies to you all on the passing of Gill. The Rose family, Waupoos

Susan Rose - December 01, 2023 at 11:35 AM

GT

“ Gavin...sincere condolences on the loss of your Mom.  
Grant Tyler, Military Curator  
Parks Canada

Grant Tyler - November 27, 2023 at 01:10 PM

EH

“ Sincerest condolences to Gavin Watt and Family on the loss .From Derek and Ellen Harrison and Family -Former Kings Rangers ,in Ottawa BAR in a previous century and Halifax Tall Ships [MMA]

Ellen A Harrison - November 27, 2023 at 12:07 PM

GW

“ 4 files added to the album elizabeth gillian watt



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**gavin k. watt** - November 27, 2023 at 10:57 AM

LD

“ Gavin, so sorry to read of your mother's passing. Please accept my sympathy. Lin - drummer, 2nd Albany County militia

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**Linda Delfs** - November 26, 2023 at 09:58 PM

GW

“ 1 file added to the album elizabeth gillian watt



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**gavin k. watt** - November 25, 2023 at 10:43 AM