



Forbes Douglas Aird

November 9, 2022

1944-2022

Forbes died peacefully at home, held by his wife Kate and loving niece Heather. He was an award-winning automotive, science and technology writer, with many articles and books to his credit. Interested in everything, he had a profound need to understand, and to share what he knew with others. He was a voracious reader, right up till the end, in spite of ever worsening eyesight. You see, he figured out how to do it! He had a devastating wit; loved puns and playing with words; had great fun giving people nick-names; loved old noir movies and jazz; taught himself to cook Thai and Indian cuisine; and oh, so much more.... Cold was not to his liking.

Kate wishes to express deep gratitude to darling Forbes for sharing his life, himself, with her for 56 years. Sincere thanks also to his friends past and present, old and new, who so enriched his life over the years; to the Young Engineers who kept his brain working in retirement; and for the tender mercies of MAiD. Forbes wanted no funeral, fuss, or flowers. Cremation has occurred. He is, and will always be, missed. Terribly.

Tribute Wall

MB

“ My first recollection of Uncle Forbes was well before he became my Uncle. Whilst courting Kate he was over for lunch at the Grand parents. I'm not sure how I did it , but I managed to spray him with tomato soup. I see it as an opportunity to impress the inlaws to his temperament lol.

Also at the same house he ask to take apart my electric toy car to see how it works.I refused thinking it might break. Looking back I should have given him a go. On that note I was constructing a scale model electric car made from scratch card board cut outs and he was considerable help. We were ahead of our time !

In my tweens my sister and I would drop down to Toronto for a visit. Every wow thing TO had to offer was introduced to us. Including Forbes in Sam the Record Man buying an album of an electric violinist, which I thought was pretty kewl oustside the box stuff or iconoclast. Then there was the time we jumped the fence at Ontario place to catch a concert. I prefer to call it an iconoclast moment not not sneaking in. I did the same in my late teens...not copying Forbes the scammer...but Forbes the iconclast man !!

My last memory of Forbes is a nice fall day out on the balcony having a beer discussing the blues..Keith Moon..and F-18 fighter jets. Forbes always stimulating.

mike bell - December 31, 2022 at 03:04 PM

KA

“ December 31st, 2022. Today would have been Forbes’s 78th birthday. It seemed that everything happened at this time of year: Christmas, our anniversary (Dec. 29th), his birthday, New Year’s Eve, and New Year’s Day. I think maybe he never recovered from all of this in time to remember MY birthday (April 30th). I tried to throw him hints, but he never caught them. One time it made me so angry that he felt he had to send a dozen red roses to my office, as a peace offering. My co-workers were very impressed; so was I! And of course, I had to forgive him....

We began our life together on New Year’s Eve, 1966. We’d been seeing each other for several months (or could it have been days?). He’d invited me to his 22nd birthday party at his parents’ house and was driving me home just before midnight in his rusted-out Vauxhall Cresta (the one that horrified my Dad when he saw the leaf springs protruding through holes in the floor of the trunk). We’d stopped beside Victoria Park in London, Ontario, where cannons were booming and fireworks were exploding to ring in Canada’s centennial year. Well, what can I say? We committed! We moved in together, moved around a lot, and eventually got married. That’s when we stopped moving around so much, came to Toronto, found a walk-up flat in the Annex where we’d both always wanted to live, and stayed forever.

When we were younger (and if it wasn’t too cold), we sometimes went to see in the New Year at Toronto’s City Hall. Forbes would bring along a mickey and some smoke, and we’d hide out in a dark alley getting ready for the light show and laughing a lot. In later years we stayed home, stayed warm, and watched our traditional New Year’s movie, “No Surrender,” a very black British comedy that takes place in a part of Liverpool that you probably don’t want to know about. Then we’d break open the bubbly and count the seconds to the New Year while listening to whatever rendition of Auld Lang Syne we could find on the wireless. When the moment was upon us, we’d fall into each other’s arms, and I’d dissolve in the usual tears: for the passage of time; for the gift of more time; for my

incredible luck in finding this man to spend my life with; at my heart literally brimming with love. Then Forbes would go and change his shirt.... Happy New Year, everyone!

Kate Aird

Kate Aird - December 31, 2022 at 11:10 AM

MA

What wonderful memories of your lives together. I'm glad you found each other too. Lots and lots of love to you both. Xoxo

Maya - December 31, 2022 at 06:28 PM

KL

too fast, time moves too fast. wonderful images, Aunt Kate,

Love you

Kai C Lubbe - January 09, 2023 at 12:37 PM

JE

*Judy and I knew you and Forbes in Toronto around 68/69. Soon after we moved to St. Peters, Richmond County, Cape Breton, we woke to find you and Forbes in a tent in our yard. Quite the surprise. Hopefully you have some memory of that
Just thinking of Forbes and the interesting people we've met along the way.*

Jim and Judy Emery

James C Emery - June 17, 2025 at 05:58 PM

BL

“Forbes was a man of the world when I met him at high school in 1960. A recent arrival from England, he had crossed the Atlantic to Canada from England and returned 3 times, crossed Canada by train 2 or 3 times. His parents finally settled in London Ontario. Forbes was a brilliant, gifted student, very inquisitive, analytical and well read. A witty young man, he could pun with the best of ‘em. Forbes, ever the iconoclast, said goodbye to institutional secondary school on the last day of grade 12. After a fast tour of the halls of G.A. Wheatley C.V.I. on a motorized mini bike, with screaming girls, cheering boys and a seriously obese Math teacher in pursuit, he exited the place at high speed in a cloud of exhaust. His pals by prior arrangement held open the doors to his freedom. Forbes never looked back.

He challenged the grade 13 depart mental exams the next year getting grades in the top percentile of Ontario students. His friends were very proud of him.

A wizard with all things mechanical particularly if they had wheels. He was consultant to us all as we tinkered with our go-carts, motor cycles, modified sedans, sports cars etc

Forbes was always into the music. I recall taking the cellophane off a fresh copy of Rubber Soul that we played on his parents HiFi for the first time. Forbes saw the Beatles at Maple Leaf Gardens on their first appearance in Canada. He was the first person in London Ont. to sport a Beatle Haircut in our world back then. He was in the vanguard of the British Invasion. I have fond memories of us sipping over priced beer at the Town Tavern in Toronto, listening to the Bill Evans Trio in the early 70,s. Or lying on the grass at Ontario Place, Bill Evans playing with the C.B.C. Orchestra, as the sun set on Lake Ontario.

Forbes was a man of discerning taste in literature, his recommendations always part of my reading list.

Holidaying with Forbes and Kate on the Caribbean made for lots of good memories. Forbes was at his best there under a palm tree, a beer or a smoke in one hand and a good read in the other, always in the shade.

As old guys, our time together was as enjoyable as ever. The

deteriorating state of the geopolitical landscape, the foibles of the information age and whatever else came to mind provided ample fodder for our rant duets, becoming two old crumudgeons in the opera box.

A visit to Kate and Forbes place has always been the high point on my many trips to and through Toronto over so many years, the curry dinners were always memorable. This past year visiting with Forbes was reassuring seeing him as he always has been, dealing with life's realities, in the same manner he always had, rationally and intelligently.

I have had the good fortune to know Forbes for most of my life. He was my oldest and best friend. He was the wittiest person I have ever met. His witticisms, puns, and anecdotes were so enjoyed. I often repeat many of them and recognize and give credit to Doctor Sport. When I remember to. Forbes and I shared a lot of laughter all of our lives together.

I will miss that. I already do.

Sent from my iPad

bob leggett - November 30, 2022 at 04:24 PM

BA

“ Kkmmm
Jnh

Barbara - November 28, 2022 at 02:07 AM

KL

“ I didn't know you well, but I appreciate what you meant to those I care about. You were a connection for those who needed it most, and the love of my favorite aunt, Kate.

Random bits: That beautiful, bizarre car photo you and Kate gifted us. Our delight on discovering we both loved Zappa. The book on Structural Engineering that went completely over my 13yo head. Your disdain for the U.S. and traveling here (thank you for making it to our wedding).

Safe travels and good vibes your way.

Love, Kai

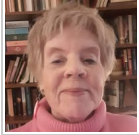
Kai C Lubbe - November 27, 2022 at 01:39 AM

MF

“ I only met Forbes once or twice many decades ago when I met my dearest friend Heather back in high school and she was living close to or with Forbes and Kate on and off in the Annex as an adolescent but I remember his uniqueness and warmth. Over the years I have heard second hand many varied and lovely stories of their relationship, experiences, closeness and the kind of man Forbes was. I send my deepest condolences to Kate, Heather and all family and friends. I know this is a great loss and he will never be forgotten by those who loved and knew him.

Maia Frumhartz

Maia Frumhartz - November 23, 2022 at 01:01 PM



“It is an incredible challenge to pin down particular memories and impressions of Forbes – there are so many and they are all so much a part of my own fabric. When Kate first introduced me to Forbes back in the late 60s, it was clear he was someone unique and special. It wasn’t long before it was also clear that he and Kate were gently and respectfully working their way towards becoming a unique and special couple – a couple who were willing to trust, respect and love each other enough to allow their “coupleness” to form and shape itself in the way that worked best for them. For me, Forbes was never simply, “my friend Kate’s husband”, he was my friend too. He was the “Vulcan” amongst us, but with wit and humour. His analytical, rational approach to problem solving and decision-making was sometimes in conflict with my own emotional and not-always-rational approach to life. He was a social being, interested in exploring a wide range of topics and ideas, yet reluctant to “suffer fools gladly.”

His love of music coincided in many respects to my own and included many occasions lying on the floor (back when getting on the floor was possible) on Kensington Ave in London, Ontario and later on Huron St in Toronto listening to Sgt. Pepper, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and Bill Evans, to name a few.

Forbes was the ultimate “Torontonionian” – specifically, “Annexian”. That was who he was and where he wanted to be, so long as it was with Kate. Despite his dislike of travel, his dislike of winter even more motivated him and Kate to spend winters in warmer climes, specifically Jost Van Dyke in the British Virgin Islands and later Bequia. Here he enjoyed the warmth and relative simplicity of island life, while avoiding both the water and the sun!

Despite the deep sadness I felt when I learned of his diagnosis, I also felt deep appreciation and even gratitude for the decision Forbes made, with Kate, to cherish their remaining time together on their terms and to have the final say as to the where, when and how, with the help of M.A.I.D. I will miss you!

Hoppy Roy - November 20, 2022 at 04:04 PM

ME

“ I first met Forbes c. 1990, when I was interviewing for an automotive journalist possessing creativity, character – and wholly incapable of the sycophancy so prevalent in the genre. Walking into the Unicorn pub, the dapper dresser with flowing hair and superb upper-lip adornment who rose to greet me was clearly not an AJAC scribe, but a complex individual who operated on completely different levels and had the air of a man slightly surprised to find himself in the late twentieth century...

Equipped with a fresh brace Beck's, we sat and talked. About almost everything; the conversation ebbed and flowed, and it was the first of a great many such meetings over the next few years, although Forbes' aversion to venturing as far north as Eglinton meant more of our custom went to the Madison, The Pauper, and the Pour House.

Forbes once described the action of a GM test vehicles' turn-signal lever being – from both the haptic and the audible perspective – as comparable to “the breaking of small animal bones.” That it was true was one thing; finding such a perfect analogy was simply classic Forbes, and I'm very proud to have been his publisher when he won Americas' most prestigious award for automotive writing.

As years passed and I got to know him better, Fothergill and Dr. Sport and other alternates crossed Forbes stage, sometimes in a leading role, other times as background reference, but always reminding me of his incredible multi-dimensional and magpie-like mind. The ever-present 3"x 5" cards in his shirt pocket, capturing ideas, clarifying a technical point with a quick sketch, or personal notes for future research. From Cotal pre-selector gearboxes to the suspension niceties of variable-rate springs, or the importance of material sciences in engineering... Forbes was on top of it; most importantly, if he didn't know the answer, he would know where to find it... and do so, quickly and efficiently.

The constant in Force's life was Kate; their mutual love and devotion was obvious. Over the years, from Huron St. through the triplex to Spadina Rd, Kate made a home where Forbes could flourish, where they would care and cook for each other, where they were comfortable and calm. Forbes knew Kate was special, and

that he was fortunate to have found her to share with... for 56 years. I've always felt privileged that I was able to count Forbes as a collaborator and as a friend for as long as I did, and for the many, many hours we spent together. He helped me clarify my thinking on a number of Big Issues, and was one of my most trusted 'sounding boards' whenever I required an insightful, but dispassionate, opinion... Forbes was a fine example of what a gentleman should be. I am also quietly grateful that he was able to book his exit on his terms and schedule... we had discussed this option at length, and were in agreement about the importance of having the choice. But I still cried.

Malcolm Elston - November 19, 2022 at 01:34 PM

DD

“*Honestly, Forbes had an original and delightful view on absolutely anything you could come up with. He also had a deep sense of fairness, making him instinctively upset at fake compassion and cushy platitudes. I knew him professionally, but esteemed him personally as he handled a taxing job at Innis College. He deeply loved you, Kate, and I know that you will miss him deeply, as will many others. R.I.P.*



Dennis Duffy - November 19, 2022 at 08:58 AM

MA

“ I count myself supremely lucky to have had the good fortune to call Forbes my uncle. We had a rare and profound unspoken connection which I took great pleasure in and I will remember with great fondness our times together. Our countless conversations and meals together have made me a better human. Forbes so enriched the lives of those fortunate enough to know him. He was one of the most interesting and unique people I've ever known. He will be greatly missed.

Cheers to you, Forbes. I raise a glass to you wherever you are. I'll see you when I see you.

*Love always,
Maya*

Maya - November 18, 2022 at 08:01 PM

CE

“*Kate and Forbes have faced life's major challenges with breathtaking love and resourcefulness and courage.*

Forbes and I were almost twins - he was born one day ahead of me!.....He had a special energy about him, and a wonderfully creative way with words. I have long ago taken the liberty of adopting some of his expressions - e.g. , "VIA Rail does not have enough locomotives to drag me to.....(somewhere he definitely did not want to go!)" And his account of the raccoon digging up the turf in the back yard continues to delight! I am sure that Forbes has left hundreds of these little nuggets for others to enjoy!

Forbes certainly brightened his corner of the world - he will be dearly missed. And Kate, you will find the strength to go ahead, with all those memories, as well as family and friends, coming along with you.

Hugs!!!!

Constance A Easto - November 14, 2022 at 11:14 AM

IL

“*3 files added to the album FROM IRMA AND HEINER*



Irma Lubbe - November 12, 2022 at 06:21 PM

IL

“ *What a lovely tribute you've written for Forbes, Snooks! He truly was a unique individual who had so many varied interests. I recall our wise friend Mary from UWO, who said something along these lines to you: "Stay with him and you'll never be bored!" How true. Good old Wops had an intelligent explanation for everything! We know you'll be comforted by the wonderful years you shared with him.*

*Much love,
Heiner and Irma/Rogie*

Irma Lubbe - November 12, 2022 at 06:07 PM

LA

*Sadly, I never had the chance to meet Forbes.
According to your memories, he was a warm-hearted and funny man.*

Feel comforted and hugged.

*Heartfelt condolences
Lars*

Lars - November 19, 2022 at 04:06 PM

CM

“ *Unfortunately, I can only count the times I spent in my life with Forbes on one hand, but what was always clear to me was his wit, his intellect and the incredible relationship he had with Kate. I am grateful to know that Heather was able to be with Kate and Forbes during the last days of his life and know that her presence would have been great comfort to both. Russell and I are holding you in our hearts, with love, Carolyn*

Carolyn Maule-Braun - November 11, 2022 at 09:12 PM