



Fraser Sutherland

March 28, 2021

FRASER SUTHERLAND Poet. At Toronto March 28, 2021. Born Pictou N. S. December 5, 1946. Son of the late Russell and Mary (MacHardy) Sutherland. Predeceased by his son, Malcolm (2009) and wife Alison (2018). Survived by his brother William Sutherland, brother-in-law Robert Armour, and sisters-in-law Pauline Strunk, Rosemary Armour, and Liza Vandermeer, and nephews and nieces Martin and Nora Strunk, Becca and Joe Domovitch, and Nel, Molly, and Adriaan Vandermeer. After graduating in journalism from Carleton University in 1969 Fraser had a rich career as a writer, editor, lexicographer, and poet. He lived for periods in Montreal, British Columbia, Scotland, Portugal, and China. His numerous books of poetry include *Strange Ironies*, Fiddlehead Poetry Books, 1972, *Jonestown*, McClelland & Stewart, 1996, and *Bad Habits*, Mosaic Press, 2019. A wonderfully loyal friend, he will be missed by a multitude from Guangzhou to Sarajevo. Donations in Fraser's memory may be made to PEN Canada, in support of the Writers in Exile Program, pencanada.ca, or Community Living Toronto, in support of the Supported Independent Living Program, communitylivingtoronto.ca. Family and friends will gather to remember him later in the year.

Tribute Wall

“ Faruk Myrtaj
Albanian Writer, Toronto



I met Fraser after my albanian writer Andrea Hila, 2003, at Pen Club.

He was and is forever our best friend in this new unknown ground, where the literature was his great inspiration for us and our challenge.

I translated and published in Albanian magazine and newspapers some of his poems -include his special poem "Malcolm, 11, Almost Home", and one or two of his short stories.

Fraser Sutherland

*In the first page of the book "The Philosophy Of As If" we read:
"I would like a different body, a different mind, a different life,
Is that too much to ask?"*

*In Albanian: Në faqen e parë të librit "Filosofia Sikur...", lexojmë:
"Do të dëshiroja një mendje tjetër, një trup tjetër dhe një tjetër jetë.
Mos është ca si shumë kjo që kërkoj?"*

Malcolm, 11, Almost Home

Malcolm, 11, Pothuaj Në Shtëpi (in Albanian)

*Përtej portës së pasme së shtëpisë
diku në oborrin aty mbajti këmbët,
a thua ngrirë në borë,
duke sfiduar të ftohtët
si një dhelpër majë kodre,
a si një qen gjahu në përgjim,
Në qendër të qetësisë
Së një tjetër bote.
Ç'vallë nuhat në të ftohtin e skajshëm?
Ç'zëra vijnë prej së largu?*

*Joshja e viktimës? Troku i thundrave të kuajve të parajsës?
Përgjues mbeti,
Për minuta të tëra.
Çfardo t'i jetë endë aty rrotull,
çfardo t'i jetë shfaqur atë ditë.
Ai iu dha, u dorëzua...
Por atë ditë u kthye çapërdë për drekën,
duke lënë për më vonë ç'ka do të ndodhte.*

Faruk Myrtaj - April 16, 2021 at 11:03 PM

AN

“ I met Fraser at Pen in 2003 and we have been friends every since. A memory I didn't share with him was when I translated (not published) the poem he wrote for his son, Malcolm, in Albanian language. It took me a long time to find the right words to express that sense of elegance and hidden pain spread like the snow in a just few verses. He will be greatly missed!

Andrea Hila

Andrea - April 15, 2021 at 12:45 PM

MK

“ The style of Innocence from Mt.kelly623@gmail.com

Please inform me of memorial

M.T. Kelly - April 05, 2021 at 02:36 PM

VL

“ Dear Fraser also had a friend in Nis, Serbia, who will always remember his tact and kindness, hospitality he offered together with Alison, and dinners with Malcolm. My consolation is that they are now together. Forever, with love, Vesna Lopicic.

Vesna Lopicic - April 03, 2021 at 04:26 PM

EB

“*Fraser was soft-spoken, yet had a hearty laugh when it was deserved. He was a towering wordsmith who mentioned his work, sometimes showed it, but never bragged. He'd pat the chair next to him on Tuesday pub nights and make his friends feel welcomed and appreciated. I have many memories of his back yard, from lively summer parties to quiet lunches with his family, the tragic loss of whom he bore with characteristic fortitude and stoicism. He was a great cook, particularly of wild mushroom soup and the seafood of his east coast childhood. He will be greatly missed and remembered with immense fondness.*

Elizabeth Bricknell - April 02, 2021 at 04:59 PM

MP

Well said, Liz. Mitzi and John. I have a can of treacle for him. He swore I would never find treacle here but I did and was saving it for him to use in some wonderful dish.

Mitzi Pepall - April 03, 2021 at 06:14 PM

EL

Thank you, Mitzi - that's lovely, and twiggged another memory of when I told him how to make dulce de leche in the microwave. You and John should make a sticky toffee pud with it in his honour, he'd like that (imho), or when a proper memorial can be held for him. Treacle, unlike us, lasts forever...

Elizabeth - April 05, 2021 at 05:41 AM



“*Fraser was a wonderful poet and friend. To me, that's the highest praise you can give. I miss him!*

Lee Parpart - April 01, 2021 at 04:55 PM

MK

“ Fraser ‘s dedication to literature, founder of Northern Journey

M.T. Kelly - April 01, 2021 at 12:45 AM

BK

“ I was a friend, a neighbour and occasionally a publisher of Fraser's work. Whenever I saw him in the neighbourhood, I would hesitate before greeting him, because it was sometimes obvious, even from a distance, that he was not just out walking, he was working away at something, rolling it over and over in his mind. I am sorry to think these sightings no longer possible. His work, however, will endure.

Bernard Kelly

Bernard Kelly - March 31, 2021 at 08:15 PM

BC

I met Fraser through my son Colin. We travelled to Linares, Mexico twice, and also to Sarajevo. We spent a lot of time together in Toronto, and became very good friends.
What a man, he will be missed.

Bernard (Barney) Carberry - April 03, 2021 at 03:03 PM

DD

Fraser spoke to me more than once of how much he appreciated your kindnesses to him. I'm glad you saw him at Christmas, Barney. For both of you.

Donna Dunlop - April 04, 2021 at 08:01 PM

DM

“ *Fraser was such a great bookman. He will be missed. Condolences to his family.*

Don McLeod



Don McLeod - March 31, 2021 at 06:39 PM