



Mrs. Janet Beatrice Marsh (nee Howard)

December 8, 2011

Janet (Jan) Marsh died peacefully on December 8, 2011 at the age of 76. She is survived by her loving husband and best friend F. James (Jim) Marsh and her wonderful girls; Caren Holtby, and husband Alan Hannebauer; Ann Holtby and granddaughter Breton Roy; Robin Marsh and granddaughter Rebecca. She will be sadly missed by her stepson Rob Marsh and wife Barbara Stoneham, and their five daughters Sophie, Nathalie, Emiline, Addie and Katie; by her stepdaughter Julia Marsh and her sons Merrick and Jake Read; by her loving sister Susan and her husband Karl Lindell and their family; and by her lifelong caring friends.

Born in Toronto in 1935, Jan grew up happily with her parents Louie and Bee Howard and younger sister Susan. She attended Forest Hill Public School and graduated from Branksome Hall. Jan and Jim began their adventures together in 1966 living first in Niagara-on-the-Lake, later in Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, and before and after for many years in Toronto.

Their ultimate adventure began when they moved aboard their Niagara 35 sailboat in the mid 90's. The Kencheri became their full-time home for more than 10 years. While docked summer and winter at the Scarborough Bluffs Marina, the Kencheri offered friends and family summer day sails and some of the most memorable Christmases 'onboard'. Ultimately, Jan and Jim lived their dream and sailed off to discover the Bahamian Abaco Islands. Returning

four years later they settled in Paisley, Ontario and participated actively in the community. Jan established Paisley's first community garden, was a regular participant of the Saugeen Trading Company and worked tirelessly to help beautify the town's historic bridges. She was grateful for the open heartedness of the new friends she made in Grey Bruce County.

Janet was a student of nature and a professional artist throughout her life. In the early years she captured the young faces of children in pastel drawings, and later created large acrylic commissioned portraiture works. Once aboard Kencheri, she retired her large canvases and perfected woodcut print making, a complicated relief printing technique inspired by Japanese woodblocks from the 18th century. Her adventures aboard Kencheri, and more recently from her country life, offered her endless inspiration for her vivid woodcuts of birds, fish, sea and landscapes.

Jan loved 'free' flowers picked along roadsides and from her magnificent gardens. She loved the birds that came to visit her birdfeeder in the early morning. She loved a good book and discussion, but most of all she loved her children and her soul mate Jim. Her family is thankful for the gifts she shared, her wry sense of humour and artistic perspective that connect us with the beauty of the world. Her work is shown at the Rebecca Gallery in Toronto, and a special woodcut retrospective is being planned for the New Year.

In Janet's honour, please consider, a donation to the World Wildlife Fund, where she proudly worked for many years.

<http://wwf.ca/donate/>

Tribute Wall

RM

“ I miss you mom. You are still the best friend I've ever had. But Rebecca comes a close second. Rebecca is doing really well and she graduated university with honours. She got a finance degree! But don't worry - she's very creative. And she still paints Easter eggs every year. She loves flowers and good conversation. Just like you. She's so smart and strong mom! And always polite. Very proper! I'm doing well too. I had the surgery and it was a success. No more pancreatic attacks! I don't think you'd have liked all that. But I missed you all the same. I was brave tho! I think about you all the time. Sometimes I think maybe you are still with me. But then maybe I'm just feeling the way it was when you were around. I hope you are at peace with dad. I imagine you guys sailing across flat water with a gentle breeze, Sinatra is playing and you are both recalling stories you've told over and over again just like it was the first time! Always with laughter. I love you mom. Forever and always. Your Robin.

Robin Marsh - May 09, 2025 at 10:22 PM

DC

“ She was a wonderful woman, and an EXCELLENT Grandmother!!! I always thing about her around this time of year!

DC - December 03, 2018 at 02:12 PM

TT

“ Jim, I just heard about your loss. It's heartbreaking news. I have such fond memories of the first time I met both of you, at the train station in North Sidney, Cape Breton after a cross country train ride (in 1976 I think). Both you and Jan welcomed me into your hearts again and again, on Ben Breagh road and in Toronto. My heart goes out to you, Annie, Caren and your whole family.

All My Love, Thomas Teuwen

Thomas Teuwen - December 27, 2011 at 08:09 PM

AB

“ Jim and Family,
I am so saddened to hear of Jan's passing. I had no idea she was ill and I feel so out of touch with my Southampton/Paisley artist community. I adored Jan - she was a true lady, and a talented one at that, and I will always treasure the artwork of hers I have in the house and remember the amazing times I spent with her in Southampton. I can still hear her laugh in my mind...and probably always will. Sincerely, Aly Boltman

Aly Boltman - December 20, 2011 at 10:28 AM

KM

“ Sincere condolences to Jim and family. Artists in Bruce and Grey counties were enriched by her contributions and her encouragement of their work. When I remember her, I think of her beautiful smile and her peaceful and accepting nature. She warmed many hearts and her memory will continue to do so. Thank you, Jan. Kristina Maus

Kristina Maus - December 16, 2011 at 10:14 AM

NG

“ *My condolences to you all . Jan was one of my aunt, Sylvia Dilworth Hurst Brown's favourites and her goddaughter. I have three lovely portraits of my children, Stephanie, Jackie and David that Jan painted about 20 years ago. Love to you all. She was a wonderful lady!*

Nancy Garrow

Nancy Garrow - December 12, 2011 at 10:22 AM

CJ

“ *My love and thoughts are with your family. I haven't seen Janet for many years, but I remember her as a beautiful lady inside and out.*

Cathy Jewett

Whistler, B.C.

Cathy Jewett - December 11, 2011 at 05:53 PM

JM

“ I would like to think that Jan and I became friends when we "roomed" together at Mount Sinai Hospital, last summer. Jan saw the humor in even the small things that went on around us, every day. She defended anyone she felt was being unjustly criticized.

Jan passionately loved her Jim and her girls. And, their Love for her Filled the room! I am happy to see that there is even more family than I knew.

I remember the Joy the white flowers gave her.

Of Jan I can truly say this: She had no fear.

God Bless You All, from the bottom of my heart.

Judith MacMillan
Duggan Avenue, Toronto

judith elizabeth anne macmillan - December 10, 2011 at 11:15 AM