



## Ms. Joan Marilyn Marshall (née James)

January 30, 2016

November 11, 1936 – January 30, 2016

We are saddened to announce the passing of our mother who died peacefully at East York General Hospital Palliative Care after suffering complications from a stroke at the age of 79.

Marilyn was born in Toronto, married her high-school sweetheart and spent the first stage of her life as a stay-at-home mom and community volunteer. When her kids were older the second stage of her life began- that of a professional fundraiser. Marilyn began her career with the Heart & Stroke Foundation and went on to become Director of Development at the Canadian Cancer Society and The Arthritis Society before semi-retirement and consulting. Marilyn's commitment to the profession and mentorship will be long remembered. Retirement brought Marilyn to the third stage of her life where she took the time to indulge in her love of travel and eventually 'grandmother-hood', which may have been her favourite role of all.

Throughout her life she was a champion to her children, a singer and dancer (in spirit), fiercely intelligent and a devoted friend.

Marilyn leaves behind her son Andrew (Sarah Dewar), her daughter Lesley, grand-daughter Hannah and niece Carolyn Knightley (Gerry). She also leaves behind a wonderful group of life-long friends, some of whom were with her from the beginning and some that she was fortunate to discover along the way but all whom were a cherished and important part of her life.

At Marilyn's request cremation has already taken place, memorial donations

can be made to the charity of your choice.

Special thanks to the staff at Chester Village and EYGH for their care and support.

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ I was saddened when I received the news that Marilyn had passed away.

*Like many before me and after me, Marilyn was my mentor. No one had a bigger impact on my adult life than her, both professionally and personally.*

*I was 26 with no fundraising experience when a volunteer position at the Canadian Cancer Society Provincial Office lead to a permanent position on Marilyn's team. I couldn't have been more grateful. It was a dream come true.*

*She taught me what it was to be a good fundraiser. How to be ethical and passionate about the charities I worked for and to always give a hundred and ten percent. In my career there were times when I would stop and think "what would Marilyn have done". Her incredible wisdom and knowledge never failed me.*

*As others have said she would correct us and say "I am not your Mother" but remembering the roll she played in our lives it certainly felt mother like. Marilyn "the Mama", I will always remember you and the impact you had on my life. Thank you!*

*God bless to Lesley, Andy and their families in this difficult time.*

*Marilyn Chute*

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**Marilyn Chute** - February 07, 2016 at 04:53 PM

LC

“Marilyn hired me to work as part of her team at the Canadian Cancer Society-Ontario Division. She was always positive and encouraging, and gave me the space I needed to grow in my role and career. Forever supportive. She was a great mentor. And - she was fun with a great smile!

*Sending strength to her family and friends.*

*Linda Clemow*

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**Linda Clemow** - February 05, 2016 at 05:54 PM

RT

“Marilyn touched the lives of so many people in an encouraging and positive manner and I am deeply honoured to have been one of them and mentored by her while at the Arthritis Society. Her sage advice and wisdom was shared with me for many years afterwards. Her spirit and memory will always be cherished.

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**Richard Thompson** - February 05, 2016 at 02:03 PM

SM

“ I was so saddened to learn of the passing of my cousin Marilyn. The last time I saw or spoke to her was at my dad's funeral in 1990. At that time she was fundraising for the Heart & Stroke Foundation but was excited about moving on to her new career with the Canadian Cancer Society.

Unfortunately, we lost touch but I have many memories of younger days. My family lived down the street from Marilyn and her parents (Phil & Nellie - my dad's sister - James) on MacKay Avenue in Toronto. It was tradition on New Year's Eve that at midnight we would march up the street to Marilyn's house for bacon and egg sandwiches prepared by her dad.

My cousin Carol and I were flower girls at Marilyn's wedding. I believe we were around 7 years old. I still have the locket that she gave me on that special day.

I always remember Marilyn being a strong independent woman. You always knew where you stood, there was no mincing of words, but at the same time she was loving and caring as evidenced in the service she provided for the charity's she championed. They were luck to have her fighting for their cause.

My sincerest condolences and deepest sympathy go out to her family.

Susan McHaney (nee Sharples)

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Susan McHaney - February 04, 2016 at 01:41 PM

JH

“ How sorry I am to learn of my cousin Marilyn's passing. I saw Marilyn at my fathers funeral over 25 years ago. Both she and my cousin Carol attended. Life's path took us in different directions and unfortunately I have not seen either of them since. We lived down the street from Marilyn and her parents Phil and Nellie James on MacKay Ave. in Toronto. Their memories are chiseled in my mind. My Aunt Nellie , (my fathers sister) and my Uncle Phil were real treasures to me and my family. Although I personally do not have many memories of Marilyn due to our age differences, my older sister and brothers certainly do. I do remember Marilyn having such a passion for her work with The Canadian Cancer Society and later with The Arthritis Society. Both were very lucky to have such a fighter in their corner. I am glad to hear that Marilyn spent her later years doing what she loved most, travelling and spending time with her friends and family. My condolences and deepest sympathy goes out to you all.

*Jennifer Howe (nee Sharples)*

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**Jennifer Howe** - February 03, 2016 at 03:36 PM

DC

“ I woke up this morning to the sad news that one of my career mentors was now resting in peace. Marilyn took an inexperienced 30 year old under her wing and taught her about fundraising and most importantly, life! "The Mama" as we called her (and she would quickly correct and say..."I am not your mother") put us straight...in her own wonderful way.....sometimes nurturing like a Mom and other times boldly....to get our attention.....it all worked and was uniquely Marilyn.

She taught us about the ethical way to raise money and to care for the charity for which you were involved. She was the trailblazer and we can all be grateful to her for leading the way in the sector.

To Andy and Lesley, thanks for sharing her with us through all of those many years. Many blessings to you and your family.

*Deb Comuzzi*

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**Deb Comuzzi** - February 03, 2016 at 12:56 PM

MC

“ *She wasn't my boss, she was more.*

*Marilyn was my coach, mentor, teacher, counsel and along with other Canadian Cancer Society staff at the time, got me into this great profession. Best of all, she was my friend.*

*Many referred to Marilyn as "not the Mama" - she was loved and adored for her passion for causes close to her heart, her convicted spirit and truthful opinions.*

*I saw her in the past year and through her eyes and smile to me, I new her time here was coming near and it was likely the last time we'd share a hug.*

*Lesley and Andy, thank you for bringing me into the family and sharing such a wonderful person so openly with so many people you mom has touched over the years.*

*Remembering the great times, as with Marilyn, there were only great times.*

*You are in paradise now Marilyn, God bless you and your family.*

*Mark*

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**Mark Climie-Elliott** - February 03, 2016 at 09:17 AM

SL

“ *What sad news to learn of Marilyn's death. She was always by far the most alive person I ever worked with. I knew her as an employee first, a colleague next, my daughter's boss then, and always, friend. Best memory: her assembling a team every noon hour at HSFO to do the Cryptic Crossword together. I haven't been able to do one myself ever since...needed her on the team!*

*She made a major difference in lives she never knew through her ongoing commitment to charitable organizations.*

*A parent to be so proud of. A freind to miss.*

*Suzanne Lawson*

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**Suzanne Lawson** - February 03, 2016 at 08:01 AM

AFTERCARE  
CREMATION & BURIAL SERVICE  
MEMBERSHIP & SERVICE CENTER

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Aftercare Cremation & Burial Service** - February 01, 2016 at 05:37 PM