



## Ms. Mary Alexandra Boswell

October 13, 2015

Died peacefully at her apartment in Toronto on October 13, 2015, two weeks shy of her 80th birthday.

Survived by son Hugh McGugan (Melanie Ellison) and daughter Louise McGugan (James Azola) and loving grand children Zoe Ikeda, Camilla McGugan and Mark McGugan.

Born in London, England, daughter of Richard Jago Lucas and Vera Dorethy Lucas (Chapman) and sister of John Lucas (Diana).

After her short marriage to Alan McGugan, Mary found herself a single mum with 2 young children in 1950's Kingston, Ontario.

Mary persevered through the 1960' & 1970's raising her kids while establishing her career in administrative management at Queen's University and later Western University, Departments of Medicine.

From hockey & figure skating practices, to family ski trips and the multitude of other family activities, Mary always had the knack of just "being there" whenever her kids were seeking, or in need of, guidance.

Mary lived her retirement out of her Toronto apartment and travelled extensively to the farthest corners of the globe from Ellesmere Island to Antarctica, Madagascar to the Galapagos Islands, and many places in between.

Mary was an avid birder making the trip to Point Pelee to see the spring and fall migrations most years. Mary also loved going to the opera and felt great satisfaction in seeing Toronto's new opera house completed in 2006.

Mary was to say the least a strong and independent woman who loved her family beyond measure, and she will be missed by all who knew her.

Cremation has already taken place and the family plans a celebration of life in the Ottawa area in the coming months.

# Tribute Wall

OS

“ *I worked for Mary in Internal Medicine in the 1980s. She was an exacting but fair boss. I was sorry when I lost track of her in the 90s. She talked about her children and was very generous with her time. I'm sorry to hear of her passing.*  
*Sincerely,*  
*olga sauer (London)*

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**Olga Sauer** - December 03, 2015 at 12:17 PM

JM

“ *We came to know Mary Boswell very well, when she worked as Chief Administrative Officer in the Department of Medicine at Western for nearly 20 years. She moved to Western from Queens with Leslie Valberg, when he became Chair of Medicine and then served with me in the same capacity. Mary proved to be a highly focused, exceptionally well - organized person. She played an important role in bringing doctors and secretaries into the era of computers and electronic communication. When a new system for determining remuneration was established in the Department of Medicine, she worked very hard to see that people understood and worked within it – she tried to ensure that people played by the rules. At retirement Mary moved to Toronto where she could follow some of her outside interests including opera. We were delighted whenever she called on us when passing through London on her way to Pelee Island to engage in her other favorite pursuit of birdwatching. She also became a world traveler. She managed a very busy life while serving as a single Mom, and we admired her very much for this.*  
*Jack and Sue McDonald*

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**john mcdonald** - October 28, 2015 at 10:22 AM

LG

“ *We have very fond memories of Mary when you all were in Kingston. Mary was an amazing woman who, as a single mother of small children, was always pleasant, very efficient and modelled to many of us how to manage work, kids and friends. We spent many hours with her at the Valbergs in both Kingston and London always enjoying her company. Our best to you all*  
*Lucille and Aubrey Groll*

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**lucille groll** - October 25, 2015 at 08:57 AM

SE

*I met Mary through the Brodie Club. She impressed me deeply as a woman who was passionate about nature and she worked to preserve it through working with bird banding organizations for example. She was always ready for a struggle.*

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**Sandra Eadie** - October 28, 2015 at 10:08 AM