

Kathleen Bettie McIsaac

A very bright light has just gone out. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, Kathleen Bettie McIsaac on January 15th, 2020, at the age of 72. She died peacefully, in the care of family, friends and medical staff at the Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, BC, following a courageous journey with cancer.

She is survived by her much-loved children, sons Peter, Jeremy and Ben (Paola), and daughter Jessica; by her seven cherished grandsons, Ethan, Callum, Lucas, Finlay, Gabriel, Luke and Noah; and by her beloved sisters Anne, Pauline (Bob), Susan and brother John (Veronique). She will be missed by her dear friends Catharine and Sandy, her nephews and nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces, and friends and colleagues on Thetis and Vancouver Island, across Canada and around the world.

Kathleen was born on November 26th, 1947, in Glenapp, Scotland, and lived in Edinburgh until immigrating to Vancouver in 1957. She met Brian White while attending UVIC and, after studying nursing at BCIT and practicing in London, Ontario, she had their first son, Peter (1971). She had their second son, Jeremy (1974), in Dawson Creek, BC, followed by Ben (1978) and daughter, Jessica (1979) after settling in Nanaimo, BC, where they operated a small family farm and Brian practiced medicine.

Kathleen modeled courage and academic excellence for her children when she returned to school, completing a B.A. Sociology and Law degree (LL.B) at UVic. She was an early adopter of alternative dispute resolution and served on a number of administrative justice tribunals. In 2003, her passion for elder care led her to establish Senior

Transitions, a professional service supporting seniors to navigate their life transitions. Kathleen was also honoured to serve with the Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat, overseeing safe and respectful hearings with survivors across Canada and in the US. She was profoundly moved by this work and spoke with awe of the strength and grace she witnessed.

Kathleen brought a rare light to the world. She was committed to caring for others and, whether at her kitchen table or in her hearing room, she afforded those whose lives she touched the gift of truly feeling seen. She was devoted to her family and friends, providing refuge to her children as they moved through their own life transitions. She was a guide to many, providing inspiration and comfort, poetic insight and grounded wisdom. She was good, patient, and kind. She had a quick wit and a raucous laugh, and she liked to have fun (is it happy hour yet?).

She had a precious bond with her sisters, with whom she enjoyed many adventures, including to Scotland, England, France, Mexico and Hawaii. She loved the water, happiest at the beach with her grandsons, or in her kayak, out camping with friends. She also enjoyed solitude; she was a visionary, and liked to ponder.

In her 60's, Kathleen realized her long held vision of building a place nestled in nature for her kids, grandkids, sisters and friends to go, to rest and recharge. Her beautiful home and garden on Thetis Island, at the end of a long driveway lined with daffodils, was truly a special place. Healing and restorative. Peaceful, and safe.

Kathleen delighted in God and in what He provided for her. Her faith was her strength, her spirit her gift, her sweet soul a beauty unparalleled. She will be sorely missed.

"He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you

shall take refuge...." Psalm 91:4

A Celebration of Life will be held in the Sequoia Centre at McCall Gardens, 4665 Falaise Drive, Victoria, at 2:00pm on Saturday, February 8, 2020, with the Reverend Rob Szo officiating.

The family wish to thank the doctors and nurses who cared for Kathleen over the last year, especially Dr. Yee, Hospice's Palliative Response Team and the nurses and doctors of the Lung Health Unit on the 8th Floor at Jubilee Hospital.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Kathleen's memory to the BC Cancer Foundation <https://bccancerfoundation.com/> or Victoria Hospice <https://victoriahospice.org/>.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Garden

www.mccallgardens.com