



3/18/1936 - 5/30/2014

Marilyn passed away peacefully at home with her loving family by her side on the 30th of May, 2014, of cancer, in her 79th year. Marilyn is greatly missed by husband Ron whom she married in her father's church in Flint, MI, on June 14th, 1964; daughters Kathryn (Karol) of Waterloo and Toronto, Margie (Maz) of Kitchener, and Christine (Nick) of Des Moines, IA; by grandchildren Egan, Sarah and Matt Burke; Emily and Dilara Sen; and Elizabeth and James Proctor; and by her brother Ron and sister-in-law Mary Jane Black of Athens, OH. She was predeceased by her parents, Rev. E.G. (1894-1959) and Dr. Myrtle (1901-1988) Black, and her brother Don (1928-2000).

Marilyn was born March 18th, 1936 in Flint, MI, where she obtained her public schooling. She earned a BA at Alma College, MI and an MA at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, both in English literature. She was the Director of Public Relations in the Riverview Community School System, following which she taught in Lansing Everett High School in Lansing and Ann Arbor Pioneer High School. She immigrated to Canada, settling in KW in 1966; in 1973-74, she earned a certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language at Laval University and taught English in Quebec City High School. Returning to KW, she taught ESL in Conestoga College, where she also held a number of administrative positions, culminating in Director of Continuing Education for seven years.

Marilyn was very much involved in community service in KW, including as a founding member and first president of CKWR-FM Community Radio; president of KW YWCA; Waterloo Region Social Resources Council in various capacities; president of the KW Social Planning Council; fund raising with KW United Way; as a national VP in the Experiment in International Living of Canada; and aiding in the settlement of Ugandan refugees and American war resisters during the Vietnam War. As a new Canadian herself, she was most welcoming of other new Canadians. In 1993, she was awarded a Government of Canada 125 Commemorative Medal for community service.

Amidst all of her many activities and interests, which included travel abroad, Marilyn always found time to love and support her daughters and their families in all their endeavours. Her sunny disposition and optimism have provided the heartbeat of her family.

The family expresses its sincere gratitude to Drs. Ward and Yew of the local Palliative Care team and the ParaMed nursing staff for their compassionate in-home care of Marilyn during the past number of months. We are also appreciative of the services rendered by the Community Care Access Centre through Joan McCarthy, Marilyn's case coordinator.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate her life, preferably wearing cheerful colours, at the Henry Walser Funeral Home, 507 Frederick St., Kitchener (519) 749-8467, on Saturday June 7th, from 5-8 pm. At her request, there will not be a funeral service. In lieu of flowers, she has asked that contributions be made to Mary's Place, the YWCA's emergency shelter for women in Kitchener (cards available at the funeral home). Please visit www.henrywalsers.com to view Marilyn's memorial