

MARGARET HOBSON

Written by Pat Eveleigh



I first met Margaret when we joined Abreast In A Boat in 1999. There were 4 dragon boat crews in our novice year, all filled with breast cancer survivors. There were 3 other novices that year, Jo, Patricia T and Deb, and we all got to know each other very well! All 4 crews paddled out of False Creek at that time. Margaret had just finished her chemo treatment before joining and her hair was growing in, short, curly, salt & pepper and cute.

That year a crew was going to San Francisco! Although we were novices, our names were put in a hat to go! Margaret, Deb and I had our names drawn! Little did we know our adventures of travel and paddling were about to begin. That year we swamped while practicing in Barnet! I can't believe we continued on for another 22 years.

Our Australian trip was outstanding. I remember Margaret and I trying to explain to the Aussies that our steersperson was the same as their sweep. Oy Oy Oy was their cheer, Canuk Canuk Canuk we replied!

South Africa was another memorable trip. Sheila had come into her life by then and they purchased their wedding rings there. Their joke was, it was their honeymoon before the wedding. I was honoured to be on their honeymoon with them and to witness their wedding on our return.

She was always Marg to us until Sheila came into her life. Only to find out, per Sheila, she hated to be called Marg, so we quickly had to adapt to Margaret.

Margaret and Sheila threw the best parties ever in their tiny house and loved every minute. If you dropped in for a visit there was another place set for you at the table for dinner, without the blink of an eye.

Margaret had much zest for life. She lived it to the fullest. Until the end she hiked, biked, walked, swam, played pickle ball, danced and would have been in the dragon boat if she could. She also coached for many years as well as served on the Board of Abreast In A Boat. She tried to add steering the boat to her repertoire but fell in, so that ended that. She was so wanting to go on the New Zealand trip on 2022, now 2023, and had signed up for it, but it was not meant to be.

Margaret was a Paddler, Coach, Mentor and most of all our friend to us. Always there for our ups and downs. Her counselling career played a big part in that for all of us.

Margaret had many losses in her life. Two of her 3 daughters, Rhonda and Stephanie, Earl, her former husband and his wife, Carol, Sheila, her partner in life, all predeceased her. She took it all in stride and hid most of her pain. Her British stiff upper lip made it look as though all was OK. There must have been some Royal blood in her. She became the best caregiver when Sheila was diagnosed with ALS. She nursed her through her final days. I remember the three of us laughing and crying at the same time while helping Sheila. Welcome to my life Margaret would say!

Margaret, we hope you are with Sheila again and partying it up. Rest in Peace, my friend, I'm proud you were a part of my life.