



Donald (Don) Gordon Manning

May 12, 1947 - January 22, 2023

It is sad news that Donald Gordon Manning of Halifax passed away on the morning of Sunday, January 22, 2023. He had a long battle with Parkinson's Disease, and the complications from that. Donald (Don) was born in Sydney, on May 12, 1947 and grew up in Whitney Pier. He was a son of the late Benjamin Manning and Minnie Abbott Manning. Don was one of eight siblings: sister, Linda MacKinnon (Sydney, NS); brother, David (Halifax, NS); two half-brothers, Stephen (Sydney, NS), and Brian (Saskatoon, SK). He was predeceased by brothers Fred, William and Chesley. Also, three step siblings, Edith La Rusic, Frank Musgrave and Kevin Musgrave. Don had many nieces and nephews as well. Don moved to Halifax in the late 1960's to attend The Nova Scotia College Of Art And Design, where he spent five years studying graphic design. Don successfully graduated from NSCAD in 1973, going on to work first for Claridge House, and then Corporate Communications. In the early 1980's he started his own design company, Don Manning Design. This business flourished, leaving the legacy of many familiar logos seen around Halifax: Perks Coffee Shops, Topsail Entertainment, and many more. In the 1990s, many small graphic design businesses folded soon after the introduction of computer equipment in the design industry. Rather than compete, Don turned to painting. Soon, he was having shows and selling his work wherever the opportunity presented. For three summers he sold his work on the fence at the Public Gardens on Spring Garden Road; after 2003, on the Halifax waterfront. In 2008 he moved indoors to the Halifax Farmers Market;

he made a pretty good living with that until his 2014 retirement. Friends have estimated that Don's total output of original artworks and prints number in the thousands and are scattered all around the world. After his retirement Don visited the Market every Saturday, seeing Market and college friends alike. Don was a self-taught guitarist who could not only play pop songs and the Beatles but he could also pick bluegrass and Mississippi John Hurt on his well-worn and treasured Guild Guitar. His love of ice cream was legendary, as were his very bad jokes. Don also had a great love of movies, especially westerns and he was a dedicated long suffering Toronto Maple Leafs fan. He was an extremely kind person who will be missed by all who knew him. Celebrations of Don's life will take place in Sydney and Halifax in early summer. Memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.harboursidecremation.ca

Tribute Wall

SF

“ I was sorry to hear of Don's passing. We were fellow students at NASCAD where we became friends. Although we lost touch for awhile, we had many great chats in recent times, which I will miss. My wife Phyllis and I send our condolences to Don's family.

Sincerely,

Stephen Foster

Stephen Foster - February 10, 2023 at 11:37 AM

GB

“ I am sorry to hear of Don passing. I knew Don for many years and would chat with him whenever I saw him in the downtown area. Don was very easy going with a good sense of humour. I have one of his Peggy Cove sketches to remember him by. My condolences to his family for their loss.

Gary Boyce - February 06, 2023 at 11:39 AM

F&

“ Someone close to us has departed. Floyd and I will miss him greatly. When we often visualize his rich palette, we warm to its vibrancy. His painting delicately captured the many colours of his personality. Always full of ideas, he was such a creative and joyful soul. So genuine and loyal in nature, he attracted many true admirers. Throughout his life, Don could easily soften a dark moment with his wit and change an acquaintance into a confidant. We send our condolences to his family and friends. Barbara

F&B - February 03, 2023 at 11:04 AM

DB

“ Don was a great guy, always it seemed in a good mood, happy and full of jokes. He would stop into Zwicker's Gallery to see the cats and get a few cookies and a cup of tea. It didn't take long before the conversation was about his beloved "Toronto Mapleleafs". He will be missed, Dave @ Zwicker's

David Boutilier - February 03, 2023 at 05:43 AM

JS

“ Don was a fellow art student and room mate also. Later, he visited me and my family in Peterborough many times and cheered the Leafs and Blue Jays (not on the same night), enjoyed the cottage, played tennis etc. In turn, a trip to Cape Breton in the RV had Don taking many photos for his watercolors which he was passionate about. Very talented designer and gifted storyteller. After we travelled to Expo in Vancouver, Don became very interested in his wardrobe and descriptions of silk shirts and the joy he felt wearing them were a dominant theme of the many phone calls we had over the years. He enjoyed his work, friends, family, music and was very insightful about life and all its blessings. Rest In Peace Don.

john scollard - February 02, 2023 at 07:46 PM

BL

“ We are very sorry for your loss.
Bert and Maurina Lewis

Bert Lewis - February 02, 2023 at 10:38 AM

WW

“ We were saddened to learn of Don's passing. We knew him when he worked at Claridge House. Over the years we would run into him. He was always the same Don. He was a gifted designer and later as a painter. My brother and I are proud to have a painting done by him of Peggy's Cove. The beacon continues to shine . Our sincere condolences to his family and friends. May he rest in peace.



Warren Weeks - February 02, 2023 at 10:18 AM

CW

“ Very saddened to hear of Don's passing. He was such a kind, soft spoken man and a true gentleman. Sending our heartfelt condolences.
Cathy and Dave Wiley

Cathy Wiley - February 02, 2023 at 09:30 AM



“ Don was a special guy. I will always remember him as super kind and funny. He was a very talented illustrator an artist and a real salt of the earth type. I'll miss sharing our fellow artist struggles and procrastination jokes. He will be missed by many a fellow friend and vendor at the waterfront farmers market in Seaport market as well as Zwicker's Gallery, where he was a regular.
My condolences to the family. God bless you all.



Mary Wilson - February 02, 2023 at 09:22 AM

AM

“ Remember Don from Sydney Academy - we were classmates - Don was a great guy and I send my condolences to family and friends



allie Macinnis - February 02, 2023 at 07:49 AM

LP

“ My condolences to Don's family and friends



Linda Prosser - February 02, 2023 at 05:38 AM