



Lynn Rosmary Stevenson

March 31, 1945 - February 18, 2025

It is with a heavy heart that the family and friends of Lynn Rosemary Stevenson announce her peaceful passing from complications of dementia on February 18, 2025 in Halifax. Lynn had the eye of an artist, the courage of an adventurer and the heart of one committed to helping others.

She was born March 31, 1945 in Wellington, New Zealand, the second child of Evelyn Ivy McFarlane and William Leslie Stevenson, a salesman for the Unilever advertising company. While an infant, her family relocated to Sydney, Australia. Two years after Lynn entered nursery school there, her beloved father died unexpectedly at the age of 41, and her mother moved the family back to Wellington. She attended Onslow College and 'Lindy Lou' enjoyed "tramping" in the hills around Wellington. In 1963 she enrolled in the Wellington Hospital School of Nursing. She graduated in Medical, Surgical, Paediatric and Obstetrical Nursing in May 1966 and went to work as a Staff Nurse at the Wellington Hospital, where she was regarded as "an excellent registered nurse" who was "thoughtful towards her patients" and early demonstrated "ability as a ward administrator."

In early 1967 Lynn embarked upon the first leg of what would become a life of adventure. She booked passage on the 'SS Canberra' to enroll in an outpost nursing program in Victoria, British Columbia. That Fall she traveled to Montreal to attend Expo 67, before proceeding to Norway House, in northern

Manitoba. Always interested in helping others where needed, she also worked in Habay and Gjoa Haven in the far north. For her birthday in 1971, the Education Faculty in Gjoa Haven presented her with a card signed by 75 staff members and students, reflecting the respect she had earned amongst the Inuit, and before that the Cree and Metis peoples.

After four years in the North, Lynn moved to Halifax to pursue her Bachelor of Nursing degree at Dalhousie University. Upon her 1974 graduation she worked various jobs, including V.O.N., and as head nurse of the Ear/Nose/Throat Ward at the Victoria General Hospital, eventually becoming Assistant Director of Nursing at the VG. Five years later Lynn returned to university to pursue, on a part-time basis, her Masters in Public Administration (Health Services Administration). In the process, Lynn (by now a proud Canadian citizen) headed off to work for two years at the Tawam Hospital, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. With UAE as her base, Lynn traveled extensively, and often by herself, through Kenya, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, Egypt, India, Thailand, China and Australia, collecting works of art as she went.

Upon her return to Canada in 1988, Lynn did a brief stint in Ottawa as an intern with CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) before graduating with honours from Dalhousie's new MPA (HSA) program. She then set off on another adventure. This time, under the auspices of CUSO (Canadian University Service Overseas), Lynn went to work with the Pan African Institute for Development in Buea, Cameroon (1,000 meters up Mt Cameroon), teaching the teachers. While in Buea she fell in love with and married Atangana Ndzinga, a Cameroonian prince. During these two years, she also explored Nigeria, Togo, Ghana, Swaziland, and made several trips to England. One of the great joys of her life came when she reunited with her birth daughter, Sheila Dawn, while they were both doing development work in Africa.

Lynn returned to Halifax in 1993 with Atangana and their beloved Belgian Shepherd, Dauphin. Shortly after their arrival, Atangana died. Lynn then devoted much of her time to a variety of volunteer activities with the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, the Halifax Literacy Council, and supporting causes for social justice.

In 1996 Lynn returned to New Zealand to care for her mother over the last four months of her life. Upon receipt of her modest inheritance, she purchased a house on Agricola Street and undertook a ten-year DIY renovation project. While doing so, she rented rooms to international students. Though she did less traveling in her later years, Lynn was bound and determined to complete her forays to all seven continents and made one final excursion to Antarctica via cruise ship.

Throughout the years Lynn loved the arts. She was an enthusiastic spinner, weaver, quilter, cook and photographer. She took fine art classes, made a film about Women with HIV, learned to play guitar, and loved to go to concerts, plays, galleries and dance performances.

In late 1997 Lynn noticed a change in her cognitive health. Always intuitive on the best next steps for herself, Lynn proceeded to sell her house and move into an apartment, then into assisted living in Northwood, and finally into nursing care. Through these years of decline, she found comfort at Saint George's Anglican church and experienced the tender and devoted care of her close friends.

Lynn leaves her daughter, Sheila Dawn Gill (Rudy Braun), Toronto; grandsons Aaron and Benjamin; brother Barry (Veronica Anne) Stevenson, Palmerston North, NZ; nieces Kate (Andrew) Stevenson, Burnaby, BC, and Rebecca Lynn

(Rob) Stevenson, Auckland, NZ; nephew Thomas (Charlotte) Stevenson, Dorset, England, cousin Helen (Jeff) Cox, Melbourne, Australia, and many decades-long friends and acquaintances, who have both benefited from Lynn's largesse and supported her courage and adventures throughout her eighty years. A huge thank you to the staff and volunteers at Northwood and to Johanne Gallant whose weekly music sessions afforded Lynn the chance to connect with others and with parts of herself when words alone no longer could. Donations in her memory can be made by cheque to Manna for Health, St. John's United Church, 6025 Stanley Street, Halifax, N.S. B3K 2G5 or by e-transfer to manna@stjohnsunited.com (please include your name and address to receive a tax receipt).

Tribute Wall

GL

“ Lynn was the Assistant Director of Nursing when I became Head Nurse on 2A at the VG. She helped us through a significant change in our care delivery system. Always supportive, patient, helpful with great suggestions and insight. I respected her a great deal. Her life was one well lived, indeed. May she rest in peace. Gail Logie (Retired VG Nurse)

Gail Logie - March 23, 2025 at 09:35 AM

MM

“ Condolences to Lynn’s family and friends. I met Lynn through the NSNDP where she could always be counted on for support and guidance. I benefited greatly from her support through many election campaigns and I always was so happy to have a conversation with her about many issues, especially health care. She opened my eyes to so many important things. RIP

maureen MacDonald - March 10, 2025 at 07:31 PM

JH

“ My sympathy to her family and friends. I remember Lynn when she lived in Trelissick Crescent, Ngaio, Wellington, New Zealand. I was young but Lynn was kind to us all and kind to her Mum and her Mum's friends including Marj Henley. Rest in peace. Judith Houlahan

Judy Houlahan - March 10, 2025 at 06:27 AM

KD

“ Sincere sympathies to family and friends. I worked with her at the VG in the 1980's - what a fascinating life lived.

Karen (Dauphinee) Dares - March 10, 2025 at 04:15 AM