



Margaret Mary Melanson

November 29, 1946 - December 10, 2021

Margaret Mary Melanson who passed away on December 10, 2021 after a brief illness. Her courage and strength in the wake of her diagnosis were awe inspiring, and she faced this challenge with the same grace and dignity with which she lived. Born on November 29, 1946, in Halifax, Margaret was a daughter of the late Joseph Alyre “Bud” and Vivian Rita (Smith) Melanson. She is survived by her loving son, Jason Alyre Forrest, of Truro; devoted brothers, David (Jeannette) and Philip (Yvonne Beverly) of Halifax; nieces, Lisa (Matthew) of Toronto; Colette (Sean) of Kentville; Danielle (Jason) of Halifax; and Giselle (Jon) of Bedford; nephew, Chris of Alberta; and grand nieces and nephews who cherished and adored her. She is also survived by her former husband, George Forrest, and the extended Forrest family. Margaret was the epitome of style and elegance. She lived a life of many blessings with a strong commitment to family. Her loving son, Jason, brought light to her life from the very beginning, and was, above all, her proudest accomplishment. One of Margaret's favorite topics of conversation was Jason’s incredible wit and creativity. They shared a special connection, and Margaret was proud that she instilled in him the values of honesty and authenticity. In 2018, Margaret and Jason embarked on a European vacation, during which she greatly benefitted from Jason's knowledge of history. Their trip was one of her top highlights, and she treasured the memories of their journey together. Margaret also hiked the Camino de Santiago in Northern Spain in 2014 with her dear friend, Sharalyn. Completing 500 miles in 35 days

was no easy feat, but brought a sense of meaning, accomplishment, and spiritual healing that remained with Margaret throughout her years. Margaret was a consummate professional who retired from the Nova Scotia Public Service Commission after 35 years as a proud and dedicated public servant. Indeed, she never really retired as she was continually “called back” to work because of her expertise and dedication in the Human Resources field. She obtained her BA from Saint Mary’s University (Certificate in Human Resource Management) in 2004, followed by a Certificate in Adult Education from St. FX. These educational accomplishments provided both Margaret and her family with great sources of pride. Margaret had countless friends whom she loved dearly. There are too many to list, but they know their importance to Margaret and the joy they brought to her life. She was thankful for each of these valued friendships. Margaret’s “Guardian Angel”, Jan, watched over her until the end. Margaret truly appreciated the selfless care, love, and support that Jan and Les provided in the final stages of her illness, and Margaret’s family will be eternally grateful. Margaret also had a very special bond with Tina Sanford and her family. At Margaret’s request, there will be no visitation. Cremation has taken place. Due to new COVID restrictions, a Mass and celebration of life will take place in the New Year. Donations in Margaret’s memory can be made to the Saint Vincent De Paul Society, the Canadian Cancer Society, or a charity of your choice. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Harbourside Crematorium: www.harboursidecremation.ca

Tribute Wall

BA

“ Jason, I am writing this note with such a heavy heart, this morning I came across the obit of your Mom "Margie". I had the privilege of working at the Public Service Commission with your mom. During my career at the Provincial Government your Mom was always a great inspiration and role model. My mom and your grandmother lived across the hall from each other at the seniors complex so I also had the privilege of knowing your grandmother. My heart is heavy, thinking of you as I know how proud of you she is.

Barbara - March 15, 2023 at 07:33 AM

PR

“ Jason
I worked with your Mum many years ago when you were just a little guy. We worked at the VG School of Nursing. I remember how knowledgeable she was about the School and how kind and patient she was to me as she taught me all I needed to know to survive. We kind of grew up together in those years. She balanced her professional life while working on being a good Mum to you. She was so proud of you.
Margie, was one of the most capable women I worked with during my years at the VG. But she was also full of fun and curiosity, interested and interesting. She has left many gifts to so many. There is much to celebrate as we all reflect on Margie this morning. My thoughts are with you.
Pam Reid

Pam Reid - April 29, 2022 at 08:12 AM

MB

“ *Dear David, (and Jeannette)*
From an old school friend, my most sincere condolences as you prepare for the funeral Mass for your dear sister, Margaret. Margie joined our St. Theresa's Saint Vincent de Paul Society a few years ago, with a sincere desire to do more for the poor. May Our dear Lord graciously bless her for such a compassionate heart.

*God Bless.
with love and prayers
Margo Burke*

Margo Burke - April 26, 2022 at 08:59 AM

JM

“ *My sincere condolences to Jason, David, Phillip and Margie's many cousins as well to her wonderful cadre of friends. We had lots of lively discussions on our Saturday walks and her animated take on a variety current issues meant she was always putting a spark in our lives. I particularly want to keep remembering what a star she was on our little St Vincent de Paul team at St Theresa's church. Each Friday as she returned the calls on our 'help line' she responded with compassion and grace.*

John Mersereau

John Mersereau - December 21, 2021 at 08:06 PM

SK

“ I was so saddened to hear of Margaret's passing. I met her many years ago and though I very seldom saw her over the years, whenever I did, she would always say something to make me feel very special which was her special gift. Of course I will always remember that beautiful smile!

My condolences to all the family and hope that your happy memories will help to sustain you through this difficult time.

Shirley Kane

Shirley Kane - December 19, 2021 at 09:53 AM

RW

“ I was so sorry hear of the lost of such a beautiful soul. I knew her from working at the Public Service Commission. It was clear that she was very well respected for not only her professionalism and knowledge but as well for being an amazingly kind person. My heart goes out to family and friends at this time.. she has left this world but will always be around

Robert Woerl - December 18, 2021 at 07:11 PM

UF

“ Uncle Jimmy and Family purchased the Cheeseboard Gourmet Gift for the family of Margaret Mary Melanson.



Uncle Jimmy and Family - December 17, 2021 at 05:38 PM

JF

“ I am Jim Smith, Margaret's Uncle and Godfather.



I remember when she was born. A beautiful baby, who was happy and joyful. She lived that happiness and joyfulness throughout her whole life.

Dear Jason, may that joy remain with you always. David and Philip, you and your families are in our prayers, especially at this difficult time.

With deepest love, and God's blessings of comfort.

Uncle Jimmy and Family

James Smith & Family - December 17, 2021 at 04:56 PM

SN

“ So sorry over the loss of Margie. I first met her occasionally in government and later in our social club of Nordic walkers. She was always graceful with a quiet dignity. She was a fantastic walker with poles. She was a truly nice person. My sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Shingai Nyajeka

Shingai Nyajeka - December 17, 2021 at 12:09 PM

JG

“*Margie was the one to welcome me to the Public Service Commission in 2007 and set me up in the Human Resources office in Truro. She was a great source of knowledge and support. Her beautiful smile, enthusiasm and sense of adventure were a few of many blessing she brought to all. You were a wonderful lady Margie and a good friend. Rest In Peace.*

Joanne Gale - December 17, 2021 at 07:26 AM

NC

“*To the family of Margaret melanson*

I worked with Margaret at Public Service Commission during the late nineties, she was a wonderful person to work with, great sense of humour. She will be missed a great deal.

*Rest in Peace Margaret
Nancy carr*

Nancy carr - December 16, 2021 at 10:18 PM

HP

“*Friends come into our life, sometimes it's only for a short time, however the impact remains for the rest of a lifetime. So many adventures, with so many memories. Your mom was an amazing woman with the kindest heart. I am so grateful for our close friendship. Her beautiful presence will be missed. With deepest sympathy.*

Helen Parker

Helen Parker - December 16, 2021 at 08:52 PM

CC

“ *I remember Margie from committee meetings way back in the 1990s. Her wonderful smile lit up the room, and her sense of humour lightened the workday load. I was shocked and saddened to see that same beautiful smile looking out from the obituaries page this morning.*

My deepest condolences to her family and friends.

Chris Corston

Christine Corston - December 16, 2021 at 02:00 PM

CF

“ Dear Jason and Family - The enchanting face of our Margie leapt from the newspaper pages this morning, with it a flood of deep sorrow, but mercifully, joyful memory too – Oh, that incredible smile! George and I shared decades of our careers with her at the NS Public Commission before our respective retirements in 2000 and 2002. Always the consummate professional, what touches me most dearly are her wicked (sometimes quite naughty) sense of humour and kindness. The Fox-Melanson connection came full circle when our son, James, had the good fortune of meeting and working with her in more recent years when the Commission kept “calling her back”. Not surprisingly, neither he nor we had any inkling of her illness until now. Margie has never been one to dwell on such things. She cared about and for people; and, in turn, so many of us care about her. Jason, your Mom worships you, not that you don’t know that. But it was no secret to the rest of us either. I recall a get-together at your home on Mumford Road many years ago, you popped in to say hello and chat a while. The look on your Mom’s face as she listened to you was nothing short of sheer adoration. I recall thinking “How lucky are you!” That image strikes me still. And in 2016, after your Mom and I hadn’t been in touch for years, she sent George and I the most tender note when our daughter, Jennifer, died. I learned that she and Jenn had met in shared classes at SMU in 2004. She spoke of the connection she felt and conversations she had with Jenn. Her kindness brought me such comfort then, and still. Now I am thinking, “How lucky are we all to have this lovely lady in our lives!” Take care of each other and keep Margie in your hearts. You are all in ours.

Claudia and George Fox

Claudia and George Fox - December 16, 2021 at 11:12 AM

PC

“ I can't tell you how sorry we are to hear of Margaret's passing. I so fondly remember the St. Pat's reunion so many years ago when at the time Margaret was a key player in the organization of a weekend I will never forget. She is the type of person that even though you may not see "Margie" for a number of years...the very next time you do meet her and talk to her it's as if it was yesterday that we had just met. Margie will be fondly remembered forever.

*With our deepest sympathies,
Peter & Pauline Currie*

Peter W. Currie - December 16, 2021 at 10:45 AM

TM

“ So sorry to hear of Margie's death. I've know Margie for many years as we worked together. She was indeed a master of her craft. RIP Margie!

Theresa MacIsaac - December 16, 2021 at 08:55 AM