



## Joanne Baker (Laidlaw)

June 7, 2021 - June 7, 2021

Joanne Francis Baker

(1929 -2021)

On Monday, June 7, 2021, Joanne, 92, died peacefully at home with family by her side. Born in Toronto in 1929, Joanne spent her first 11 years in London, England, before returning to Canada, eventually settling in Westmount, Quebec, with her parents Ernest and Hilda Laidlaw, her brother John and infant sister Marilyn.

After graduating from MacDonald College with a BSc(Agr) in 1950, she and her late husband, Robert (Bob) Baker, operated a 250-acre dairy farm near Huntingdon, southwest of Montreal. It was there they raised their four children: Colin (Deborah), Susan (Don Waters), Jennifer (Jerry Dunlap) and Wendy (Les Christensen). Once the kids were older, Joanne taught biology and science, first at Huntingdon High School and later Chateauguay Valley Regional High School. While busy doing all this, she also obtained her teacher's certificate and continued to enrich her education.

Following Bob's death in 1976, she pursued a dream she and Bob had shared - to work overseas. Over the course of 5 years, Joanne embarked on two teaching assignments in southern Africa, first in Lesotho and then Malawi.

After extensive travels, she returned to Canada, moving to Brockville, ON. Shortly thereafter Joanne built a lovely home on Sand Lake, on the Rideau system. There she would enjoy all four seasons, tending her beautiful garden, swimming off the dock, reading, painting, canoeing and cross-country skiing. She was an avid naturalist, comfortably sharing her country home with the local wildlife, and her cats Audie and Patches. She also hosted visits with her bridge club, painting colleagues, friends and family, including her 6 grandchildren: Lindsay Baker (Andy Baldwin) - Oxford UK; Allison Baker - Ottawa; Sarah Baker - Paris, France; Erica Dunlap (Josh Aviet) - Ottawa, Rachel Dunlap - Guelph; and Shayne Gradwell - Calgary. In addition to her brother John (Marg) and sister Marilyn White (Cal), Joanne is survived by many nieces and nephews, cousins and her sister-in-law, Shirley Swiston.

At age 85, she moved to Royal Gardens in Peterborough, where she enjoyed independent living in her garden suite, and her many new friends and activities (she continued to garden and swim until recent years). In her own words, she "had a good life, full of interesting times and places". A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. The family extends warmest thanks to the many doctors, nurses and PSWs who've helped with Joanne's care in recent years, and to the many friendly, caring staff and friends at Royal Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations in Joanne's memory may be made to PRHC or a hospital foundation of your choice. She will be missed by family and friends, but she did indeed live a good life. Condolences to the family can be made through the funeral home online at [www.CommunityAlternative.ca](http://www.CommunityAlternative.ca).

# Tribute Wall

FK

“ Dear Colin, Sue, Jennifer and Wendy: Belated but very sincere condolences on the passing of your Mom on behalf of me and Knoops family. Always deeply cherished the lovely times we shared as neighbours across the woods. Take good care, Francine Knoops, Gatineau Qc.

Francine Knoops - August 01, 2021 at 08:43 PM

CL

“ My sincere condolences to all of Joanne's family and friends. I knew her as a young lady. We walked down Mount Royal on Argile street everyday to Westmount High. Many fond memories. Sending lots of love, Carman + Jim Laurie

Carman Laurie - July 15, 2021 at 02:14 PM

GB

“ Dear Colin, Susan, Jenny and Wendy, I am sorry it took so long to respond. You all have my most heartfelt sympathies. Auntie Jo was such a wonderful woman. I love the picture; it's just how I remember her. Some of my best childhood memories are from family gatherings at the farm. You are all in my heart at this time and (even though we don't talk or write often) you are in my thoughts! Love to you all, Gini

Gini Briggs - July 07, 2021 at 08:54 PM

GB

“ Dear Colin, Susan, Jenny and Wendy. I'm sorry it took me so long to get to this. My heartfelt sympathies to everyone who will miss Auntie Jo. I love the picture, it is how I remember her! While we don't see or write each other often, you are always in my mind and heart. There is so much that can be said, but just you are a part of a great circle. Love, Gini

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**Gini Briggs** - July 07, 2021 at 04:48 PM

HS

“ To honour Joanne Baker's love of Nature and the outdoors.

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**Heartfelt Sympathies** - June 21, 2021 at 10:21 AM

AM

“ Joanne was my father's first cousin on the Laidlaw side. I met Joanne with my parents many times over the years, the first in my memory being a visit to the farm in Quebec where they had a new high tech milking procedure. I will always remember Joanne's warm smile and her knowledge of family. She led a good life, one to be admired and copied. Hugs to her children, Anne Martin

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**Anne Martin** - June 21, 2021 at 10:16 AM

RR

“ I would like to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Joanne Baker. When I started teaching at Chateauguay Valley Regional High School in 1977, Mrs. Baker (I found it hard to call her Joanne) was a role model of patience and understanding for the young teachers in the science department. I was made to feel part of a supporting team and learned that teaching could and should be fun. I always thought that she showed tremendous courage and dedication to teaching to leave the security and comforts of the Chateauguay Valley to follow her dream of teaching in Africa. I was very pleased to know that she was able to lead such a fulfilling life after her teaching career. Randy Rennie

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**Randy Rennie** - June 14, 2021 at 08:13 PM

SB

“ Thank you for your kind thoughts of Mom. Indeed, there are many happy memories of a life well lived. We are very thankful for this. Warm regards, Sue Baker on behalf of the Baker Family

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**Sue Baker** - June 12, 2021 at 08:07 PM

MM

“ Our sincere condolences to all of those who were touched by Joanne\u2019s kindness and love. Although it\u2019s been many years since we enjoyed Joannes company, we will always treasure the wonderful memories of her. Joanne was a very special person! With love, Murray and Marilyn McCaig

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**Murray and Marilyn McCaig** - June 12, 2021 at 10:33 AM