

Gillian Anne Carter

MARCH 25, 2023

Gillian Anne Carter (née Smedley)

It is with deep sorrow and much love that we mourn the passing of Gillian Anne Carter (née Smedley) at the age of 64. Gillian passed away at the Pasqua Hospital in Regina on March 25th, 2023 from complications due to leukemia.

Born in Toronto, Ontario to mother Joan Smedley (née Dashwood) and father David Smedley, Gillian will be fondly remembered by her siblings Janet Dalziel, Pamela Bresnahan, and Peter Smedley. Her husband Timothy Carter and their children Ian and Megan Carter will continue to carry Gillian with them lovingly into their lives ahead.

Gillian's passions were rooted in the natural world. Her university education, an undergraduate degree in biology, was followed by teachers college in a specialized program for outdoor and experiential education. In 1983 she volunteered with CUSO International (Canadian University Services Overseas) to teach in Gambia, West Africa, for 2 years. Here she met and married Timothy Carter, also a CUSO volunteer. Gill and Tim extended their contracts by one year, returning to Canada in 1986. Their son Ian was born in White Rock, British Columbia, shortly after their return. Megan Carter was born in Windsor, Ontario in 1991. Gillian and Tim settled in Kingsville, Ontario to raise their family. This is where Gillian spent most of her career teaching at Jack Minor Public School. Continuing her passion for outdoor education she involved her students in activities such as bird banding to



track migratory routes and tree planting. She will be fondly remembered by many of her colleagues and students.

In 2016 Gillian retired to Spy Hill, Saskatchewan to join her husband Tim on their land in the Cutarm Valley. Gillian and Tim fulfilled their interest in traveling abroad, spending portions of the winters in Spain, France, Australia and Costa Rica. Living primarily in the Cutarm during the summer months, Gillian pursued her creative projects including, gardening, sewing, weaving, writing and cooking meals to share with family and friends. She worked the land she loved. She was an active community organizer and hosted many young people whose lives she touched deeply.

A celebration of life will be held at the Spy Hill Town Hall on March 31st. Her ashes will be spread at her beloved Smedley family property on Georgian Bay, close to her mother's and father's place of rest.

In lieu of flowers please consider donations to the following: The Spy Hill Community Club (for improvements to the concession stand) Or The Georgian Bay Biosphere (www.gbbr.ca)

"Joy is not made to be a crumb" From Gillian's favourite poem "Don't Hesitate" by Mary Olive

Messages of Condolence

Megan, Ian, Tim - i am so sorry for the deep, tragic loss, Gillian was one of the smartest, kindness, most patient Teachers both of my kids (Carson and Lauren Brummell) ever had. As a parent working with here was a fabulous experience. always full of suggestions and solutions. Your memories and time spent with her will never fade, they are life long. I hope that you have some comfort from those memories and stories as the days ahead unfold and the loss becomes surreal. Sending Kingsville hugs to all of you. Love the Brummells

— **Debbie Brummell**

Our sincere condolences to Tim, Ian, Megan Carter and your family. Our kids loved Gillian as a teacher as we did too. So sorry for your loss.

In sympathy,

Joanne & Doug Plumb, Meghan, Taylor & McKenzie.

— **Joanne Plumb**

Gillian was one of the most brilliant women I knew and I admired her greatly. Her talents were huge but her love for her family was everything. I simply can't imagine that such an immense spirit is no longer with us. I remember her smile, her kindness and her warmth. I loved spending time with her and especially enjoyed her amazing culinary skills. My deepest condolences to Tim, Ian and Megan as well as all her friends and family. She is truly missed.

— **Nancy Belgue**

Tim - Thinking of you at this time and remembering CUSO days in The Gambia.

John and Miriam van der Est

Surrey, BC

— **Miriam van der Est**

To Tim Carter and family-

Michael and I just found out about Gillian's passing. We were very sorry to read about it and we pass along our condolences. We remember Tim and Gillian well from when we were in the Gambia from 1982 to 1984 with CUSO.

Warmest Regards,

Jane and Michael Rennie

— **Jane Rennie**

Tim, Ian and Megan, I was taking my grandson to boat in Kingsville. Looked up to see your home. So many wonderful memories of times we shared ... please accept my humble apologies for losing touch with all of you. I'm so sorry Gill passed on ... and I hope her passing was gentle. I also hope your lives are lived with her held gently in your hearts. Blessings always. KeriAnn, Scott and Sara Mahoney

— **KeriAnn Mahoney**

I was saddened to find this obituary on the internet. Although I do not know your family (Tim, Megan and Ian) Gill was one of my best childhood friends. We lived on the same street and went to the same schools. We both played clarinet side by side in our high school concert band. She was an excellent musician. I was privileged to visit the Smedley family cottage on Georgian Bay. What a lovely location. I will always have a soft spot for Gillian in my heart. She wrote a very special message in my yearbook when we graduated high school. I often wished we crossed paths again but we both strayed from our roots of Scarborough. My husband and I lived in BC, North Bay, Kirkland Lake, Chapleau, Timmins and Orillia. It is interesting that we both had a career in teaching elementary school and a strong connection to the outdoors.

— **Beth Copeland nee Smith**



Alternatives
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

<https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/carter-gillian-anne>

Printed on July 10, 2026