

Gail Colleen Higgs Memorial Award

Gail Colleen Higgs was born in Sarnia, Ontario, May 23, 1943, the only child to survive infancy, of Hugh and Lucille Johnstone. She was raised in Quebec, in the French language and only later in life tackled English, becoming perfectly bilingual.

She gave birth to a wonderful daughter, Colleen Laura Rohl, in 1962, in Montreal.

Gail had asthma and other ailments, which forced her to move to Calgary in 1973 to try a different climate. This was moderately successful but she was to have many health issues to face, which she did, with courage and humour.

She applied herself to perfecting her English and was so successful that people couldn't tell that her mother tongue was French!! At the same time, she became Executive Assistant to the President of a large oil pipeline company, and later she was in charge of all benefit plans administration for a large coal producer.

Prophetically, Brian and Gail met very briefly on the day of his divorce, and did not see each other for another half year, when they literally bumped into each other in a Calgary office tower. They soon fell in love and married in 1976 and were very devoted to each other throughout their 27 years together.

Because her career included a lot of work in customer service and executive administrative support, Gail co-founded, and was invaluable in the startup and operation of Cascadia Instrumentation Inc., in Maple Ridge BC, in July 2000. She provided customer support, bookkeeping, and managed the office.

She maintained a keen interest in the arts and assisted with many local projects. She was a very beautiful woman, who took excellent care of her self and was a clothing model in a number of Maple Ridge fashion shows.

In spite of her hard work at being healthy, and her disciplined life style, she had a sudden heart attack April 6th and passed away April 7 2004, at the age of 60. To honour her memory, we have established,

The Cascadia Instrumentation Inc., Gail Higgs Memorial Award