

JFairWStudios

Jessica Fairweather, Artist & Instructor

Mission: "I want to see what happens when I continue learning, creating, teaching, and inspiring."



A Portrait of Helen Fathers and a donation to the city of White Rock.

My Why:

February 2022 hit me like a ton of bricks when my dear friend Helen Fathers passed away. I attended the funeral and was pleased that an area/path of the city would be named for Helen and, in her honour, display art.

I met Helen in 1996 when I started working at Earls at 16. You can only imagine the impression, mentoring and friendship we have endured. She is the closest thing I have ever had to a big sister.

Helen was instrumental in my approach to being an artist and always took the time to encourage and promote my work.

I am an artist, and my best pieces are usually out of sadness and dealing with my feelings. In my heart, to heal, I have to put my feelings down and create. The glass mosaic portrait of Helen is based on a picture given to me by her husband, Rob Frost.

The mosaic is 30 by 23 inches and made from glass, glue and goud on a wooden substrate. The mosaic is made to be for indoors or outdoors, handle the weather, and not fade over time. The mosaic itself is worth over \$10,000.

I want to donate the glass mosaic I created to a public space. Since the White Rock Farmers Market was her heart and soul, I thought it was appropriate to be near that area.

I think the community would like to be reminded of Helen's kind smile and the fantastic sparkle in her eyes.

Jessica Fairweather
Glass Mosaic Artist
www.JFairWStudios.com

The Creative Process



Whenever I create a portrait, I always start with the eyes. If they aren't right, then the whole design will be thrown. From there, I work on the other facial details, usually the nose, lips, and teeth. Next, I moved on to filling in the skin tones, keeping the glass tight and finding all the lights and darks that give Helen's face so much personality. It took me over two hours to find the right colours of glass for Helen's teeth. Because of that, it was highly nerve-wracking to shape them as my glass selection was limited.



Work in Progress: Now Helen has a neck, shoulders, necklace, and hair and is finishing up her shirt. After that, I moved on to the background. I want this portrait to focus on Helen, her face, and her features. I decide to return to the original image and take its lead in creating nature in the negative space. I made a slight ombre effect in line with where the light and shadow are.



"I've been working on this glass mosaic since September 2022. I'm excited to have finished laying the glass and to move on to framing and grouting."

Jan 27th 2023



It's raining/hailing/snowing out, but that doesn't stop the next step: framing.

Feb 23rd 2023



I finally got the balls to start grouting. That means I made some decisions. I can't ever move forward on my art until I decide and choose a path. Making decisions means I have to feel sure and be ready to back up my choices when I inevitably second-guess myself.

I chose to grout in 3 colours: a skin tone, a medium brown and dark grey. And once I knew what I was doing, I carried on. Sometimes, it takes me a while to be sure of what I want to do.



Helen, 1970-2022, 'the heart and soul of our community,' and a great friend and mentor to me.

After a courageous and lengthy battle, Helen peacefully passed away with her family by her side. She will be remembered by those she touched and who knew Helen throughout the community.

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White Rock councillor Fathers remembered as ‘true pillar of the community’

Longtime resident passes away ‘after lengthy illness’ city says
Nick Greenizan Feb 8, 2022 12:22 PM Feb 8, 2022 12:33 PM

Helen Fathers was in her fourth term as a White Rock councillor. (City of White Rock photo)

Longtime White Rock councillor Helen Fathers has passed away after “a lengthy illness.”

The City of White Rock made the announcement Tuesday “with very heavy hearts,” while noting her many contributions to the community.

Fathers, who was originally from Nottingham, England, was a White Rock resident for more than 30 years, and “was a passionate community advocate and a true pillar of our community,” a news release notes.

For many years, Fathers served as operations manager of the [White Rock Farmers’ Market](#), and was also the director of the B.C. Association of Farmers’ Markets. She was a four-term city councillor, having first been elected in 2008.

She continued to serve in that role until her death.

“The loss of Helen Fathers is a loss to the entire White Rock community,” said Mayor Darryl Walker.

“Helen had vision and was committed to serving our community. She was also collaborative and a truly kind and caring person. White Rock City Council has lost a wonderful asset.

“She will be incredibly missed.”

Fathers is survived by her husband, Rob; daughter, Ellie; and mother, Margaret in White Rock, and her father, Bernard, and brother, Rod, in England.

COLUMN: Helen Fathers was a champion in every sense of the word

White Rock councillor's death created 'shockwave' through community, writes Alex Browne
Alex Browne Feb 14, 2022 2:47 PM

When I think of late White Rock councillor Helen Fathers, who left us on Feb. 7, the word *champion* comes to mind.

Among other entries for it in The Cambridge English Dictionary, *champion* is listed as a "Northern English informal" adjective, meaning "excellent."

It seems apt. Helen strove for excellence in anything she set her hand to, and she would have been the first to agree she was also pretty much a 'Northern English informal' herself.

The Nottingham-born community activist was, of course, a true champion in another sense – "a person who enthusiastically supports, defends, or fights for a person, belief, right, or principle."

She was that pretty much until the day she died, tragically young, from complications from a lengthy battle with pancreatitis, leaving her husband Rob, daughter Ellie, mother Margaret, and her father and other relatives in England.

I first met her some 30 years ago, shortly after she arrived in Canada, when she came to the *Peace Arch News* offices as the publicist and manager for a talented group of young Peninsula musicians who had chosen the name Cozy Bones.

The group are fondly remembered as a local legend now, but I think it fair to say they never received as much publicity before – or after – Helen was associated with them. There simply was no other choice but to give them the careful listen she insisted on and they – as it turned out – deserved

It wasn't just the persistence and energy she threw into the task – Helen came armed with a twinkle in her eye, a disarming grin and an infectious laugh.

She was, in short, good company – possessed of a sharp sense of humour and a pithy turn of phrase redolent of her native isle.

I was delighted when she joined the staff of the old Johnston Road Earl's. Whenever I, along with our late friend Scott Wheeler and his coterie of theatre people, dined there, as often as not she was our server.

No booth, I recall, received more attentive service – Helen was a kindred spirit and happily indulged the floating party of 'artsy' types who routinely descended on the premises.

As people from the same corner of the world, we formed an instant bond, but I soon observed that she had the knack of ‘getting on’ with people from all backgrounds and walks of life – sports, arts, business, agriculture, you name it.

When she became an assistant to the manager of the White Rock Farmers Market I – and by extension the *PAN* – became just as Market-aware as I had been Cozy Bones-aware.

The passion and sense of ownership she invested in the project made her a logical choice to become manager herself, and she presided over the market with pride and attention to detail. She was ever-present each Sunday, stopping and personally greeting friends, acquaintances and newcomers alike.

Wherever she went, Helen seemed to know everyone, and everyone seemed to know her. And even if she were busy, I don’t ever recall seeing anyone being brushed-off or ignored by her.

Many in the community can attest to her caring, wise counsel and countless gestures of thoughtfulness. When our daughter was seeking funding for post-secondary education, for instance, it was Helen who reminded us that the Farmer’s Market had a scholarship and urged her to apply (and beamed with pride when she was later judged one of the successful applicants).

When Helen asked me what I thought about her taking a run at a council seat, I unhesitatingly encouraged her – such a people-person in office, I felt, could only be an asset to the community. I imagine there were many others she consulted, but she had a way of making each of us feel that our individual opinions were valued and would be carefully weighed.

The shock wave that was felt through the community at the news of her passing is directly attributable to the fact that most of us considered her a friend – and were treated by her as such – no matter how frequently or infrequently we were in contact.

Not that Helen suffered fools gladly. She wasn’t afraid to be blunt, or to call things as she saw them. Differences were inevitable, though, in private, some weighed heavily on her. But she, at least, seemed to take the time to listen to every viewpoint and carefully consider them.

Maybe that’s one of the reasons she consistently topped the polls in civic elections. And I believe Helen did White Rock – the citizens who voted for her, and even those who didn’t – proud.

Alex Browne is a reporter with the Peace Arch News.



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Mission Statement, “I want to see what happens when I continue learning, creating, teaching, and inspiring.”

Jessica has always had a passion for the arts. She is fascinated by contrasting colour combinations, perspectives and perceptions while playing with design, concept and message. Jessica resides in Chilliwack, B.C. Inspired by the beauty of her home province, her subjects often reflect the stunning landscapes and capture moments of the wonders surrounding her.

Jessica chooses to specialize in glass mosaics. She hand-selects glass of all densities, shimmers and patterns to create mosaics that are uniquely hers. She can make snow that glistens, the most delicate flowers, or winds and waves on a stormy day at the beach.

She has done commissions for businesses, private collectors and special occasion gifts. JFairWSudios concept is to share Jessica's passion of the arts by following her journey learning, creating, teaching and inspiring.

Studio Artist:

2009- Current

-Consistently working in her home studio, learning, practicing, and creating.

Plein Air: 1998- Current

-Over 200 plein air drawings of Jessica's surroundings and special moments

Glass Mosaic Artist: 2002- Current

-Has created over 150 glass mosaics.

Teaching Experience:

Jessica has experience teaching Sketching, Water Colour, Acrylic Paint, Mixed Media, Oil Pastel, Plein Air and Glass Mosaics.

Jessica has worked with and provided classes and workshops for the Langley Arts Council, Chilliwack Cultural Center, Chilliwack Elder Collage, Julie Annes Art & Framing, West Vancouver Art Council, the Sardis United Way and the Mosaic Artists of Canada.

Click here for: [Current Classes and Workshops](#)

Exhibitions:

Chilliwack Museum and Archives Community Art Exhibit 2020 and 2022

Belonging a Group Exhibition 2020 with the Langley Arts Council

3rd place Best in Show ArtSpacific 2021 with the Langley Arts Council

ArtSpacific 2023 with the Langley Arts Council

Observances a duo exhibit with Cosmo Campbell 2023 with the West Vancouver Art Council

Canadian Mosaic Exhibition 2023: Transitions with the Mosaic Artists of Canada

Click here for: [References, testimonials and Media](#)