

# JOAN BLAIR SULLIVAN

1926 - 2024



Joan Blair Sullivan died peacefully on February 13, 2024, in Baddeck, Nova Scotia, surrounded by family and friends. Joan spent 94 summers in Baddeck, missing summers only for World War II, her husband's illness, and the pandemic. Joan was a dual citizen of the USA and Canada.

Born on September 25, 1926 in New York City, Joan Grosvenor Blair was the daughter of Joseph Paxton

Blair and Gertrude Grosvenor Gayley. She was the oldest surviving great grandchild of Mabel and Alexander Graham Bell. She graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in 1946 with a degree in medical illustration.

Joan married Henry "Harry" Paul Sullivan in 1954. They lived in Bryn Mawr, PA, until 1967 when Harry took a job in Pittsburgh with Consolidated Natural Gas (later Dominion Energy) and they moved to Sewickley, PA. Joan was an active volunteer for years at the Watson Institute for children with special needs.

Joan was a legendary sailor on Cape Breton's Bras d'Or Lakes racing her snipe and her yacht, Laughing Gull II. She was always in and around boats as a young girl. Notably Joan handily outsailed a Canadian naval officer off a visiting frigate at age 18 in a pair of match races in 1945 after a bar bet by her uncle with the sailors.

After retirement in 1987, Joan and Harry spent 12 years cruising in the Caribbean with family, friends and cats, Delilah and Samantha.

In later years, Joan traveled the world. She enjoyed volunteering as a teacher's aide tutoring 1st graders with their reading.

Joan is survived by her sons, Graham and Paul Sullivan (Barbara), and grandsons, Conor (April) and Trajan Sullivan. She is predeceased by Harry (d. 2000) and her son, Jeremiah "Jedd" (d. 2019).

A private burial service for immediate family will be followed by a service and luncheon at the Allegheny Country Club on March 6 at 12:45pm. Joan will be laid to rest beside her husband.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hospice Society of Victoria County, PO Box 279, 30 Old Margaree Road, Baddeck, NS B0E 1B0, Canada.

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