



Wendy and Graham at her University of Alberta law school graduation dinner in 1984.

In Canada

OVER THE YEARS I HAVE TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY in Europe and the USA to view collections, exhibitions, artist's studios, and see friends and colleagues. In the 1970's and 80's I was frequently in New York for openings and visiting my ex-wife's in-laws. Her father was a GP in Flatbush and her grandfather, a garment manufacturer, lived on Central Park West in a penthouse tower next to the Dakota Building. He also had a 100 acre apple farm in Marlborough N.Y. with a swimming pool, and ponds stocked with bass surrounded by willow trees where we would spend summer vacations. I painted in the barn and made the Marlborough Suite of papers prior to the 1975 'Pillar and Fan' paintings.

I MET WENDY ROLLINS IN 1979 through a good friend and her fellow linguist, Ron Smyth. Ron was a PhD student at the U of A (now Associate Professor of linguistics at the University of Toronto) who was one of Wendy's instructors in linguistics at the time. Ron and I arrived at the Power Plant, the graduate students' pub at the University of Alberta, one crowded Thursday evening. He spied the 'Flying Wedge' at a one of the only tables with a few spare chairs. The Wedge was his description of a group of his 3 top students – Pippa, Mary and Wendy – whose table we joined. It was a memorable evening and beginning of a relationship that culminated in Wendy and I being married on 13 May 1982.

Wendy's father, Bryce Rollins, a former University Professor of Economics at the University of Alberta, had taught at the University of Malaya, studied and worked throughout Asia, Africa and England, and was then working for a branch of the United Nations. He was living with Wendy's mother, Elizabeth Rollins, in Falls Church Virginia, just outside Washington D.C.



Sons Elliot age 3 and Oliver age 2, in 1985, in front of painting, *Polo One*, 1982.

Elizabeth, a former student of Painting in the 1960's at the U of A, and a gifted portrait painter, was working at Washington's Torpedo Factory artists' studios at the time. Wendy and I spent a month in Washington D.C. shortly after we were married where I had the opportunity to visit many of the Smithsonian Institution museums.

Wendy's parents moved to Victoria B.C. in 1985, shortly after Bryce's retirement. We have spent every summer in Victoria with family since that time.



Drumming, Kelly Ramsey Studio, Edmonton in 1978.



Graham Peacock's parents visit to Canada, 1972.

Following graduate school, Wendy entered the University of Alberta Law School, graduating from there in 1985. After over a decade of practice in Edmonton, as an associate and then as a partner, with one of the larger Alberta law firms, Wendy established her own boutique family law firm where she continues to practice, currently with 2 partners. In 1982, we had a son Elliot who lives in Victoria, British Columbia. Elliot attends the University of Victoria and plays rugby for James Bay. In 1984, we had our son Oliver, who graduated in 2008 from the University of Victoria with a double major in Psychology and Anthropology. And daughter Gillian, born 1991, is completing high school. She has many diverse talents, loves fashion, plays piano, and has an interest in communications.

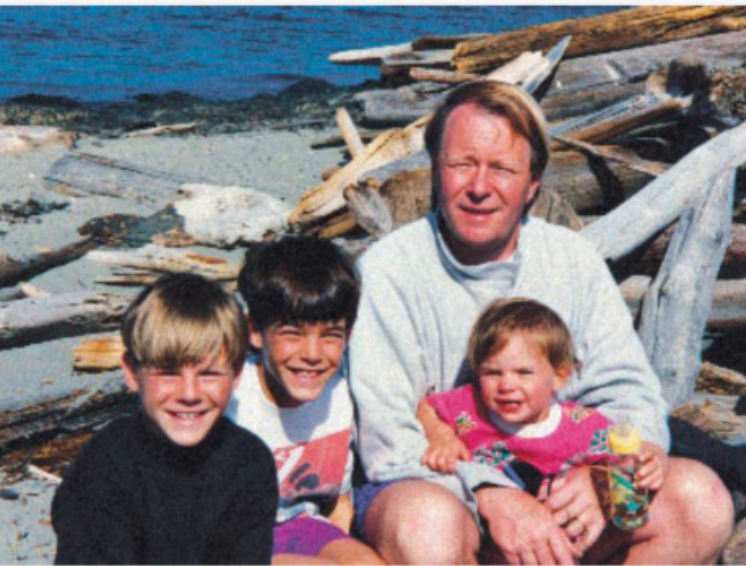
Most of my father's family in England are deceased but I still have many cousins on my mother's side. Some continue to farm in Tempsford, Bedfordshire, England, near St. Neots, where my parents are buried. They still occupy the same farm house at Cottage Farm. In the 1970's I was frequently in England to visit with my parents and I returned this last summer on my way back from teaching watercolours in Vico Equense, Italy, to visit the farm where I spent many summers.

Son Ethan age 6 in the Artist's Kelly Ramsey Studio, Edmonton in 1981.





Elliot and Oliver, 1989.



Sidney Spit, Vancouver Island, BC with Elliot, Oliver 9 and Gillian.

During the 1990's I was showing with the NNP in Germany and France and visiting with my dealer Gerald Piltzer in New York, Paris, St Tropez and the Bahamas where he had homes. I also showed with Dambier Masset in Paris and visited Belgium extensively, for several years in the late 1990's. Marcel Paquet, a Belgium philosopher, was negotiating a touring retrospective of my work. He also invited to me to design the sets and choreography for a ballet in collaboration with French dancer and choreographer Daniel Lamel whom I met with in Belgium and France several times to discuss the work. Both projects were to be funded by the Walloon Parliament Ministry of Culture for which Marcel worked periodically on artistic projects. When the government changed, Marcel lost his contacts and the funding for the projects was dropped.

IN EDMONTON I MADE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF GRZEGORZ NOWAK the Maestro of the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra. His response on seeing my paintings lead to a rapport between us that brought about a collaboration. In June 2001, I traveled with him to Poland for a performance of Mieczyslaw Karłowicz's *Returning Waves* with the National Philharmonic in Warsaw. I held a small exhibition of collages and was invited by the Canadian Ambassador to advise him in acquiring paintings for the new Canadian Embassy in Warsaw. Canadian Foreign Affairs subsequently retained me as an advisor.

I also worked with Grzegorz on a CD of *Bedrich Smetana Ma Vlast (My Country)* performed on 29 and 30 October 1999 with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, sponsored by the Edmonton Czech Society and the Worth Institute at the U of A. I executed the artwork for the CD, which has the painting *Slapska Dam*, titled after one of the dams in Prague. This painting is one of two of my works acquired for the permanent collection of the National Gallery in Prague.

On June 8th 2002, at one of Grzegorz's final concerts in Edmonton he invited me to project images of my paintings to Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No 1 "Titan"* performed by the Edmonton Symphony at The Winspear Concert Hall.

I have always had an interest in music and continue to play drums periodically with a group known as 'The Devine Harmony Fun Club' which plays some Saturday nights at the lower bar of the U of A Faculty Club. I still play the old set of wooden white pearl Premier drums which I acquired in London from a jazz drummer in the early 1960s.

FOR THE PAST 28 YEARS my wife Wendy and I have traveled to Victoria during the holidays. For some of those years I painted seascape watercolours, sailed and owned a small powerboat and fished with my two young sons. I enjoy sailing and fishing and most water sports but my powerboat was stolen and I outgrew the small sailboat. Since then I have renovated three houses, one in Edmonton and two in Victoria B.C. where my sons and my wife's extended family live. On the Edmonton renovation I had the pleasure of working with architect friend John Patsula in remodeling a 1950s bungalow I had bought in 1970. In my teens I had thought of becoming an architect and these renovation projects have fulfilled my continuing interest in architecture. My joy of gardening has me continuing to landscape my homes in Edmonton and in Victoria where gardening is a delight.

I enjoy both solitude and socializing but do not do well doing nothing.

Even when I am on vacation I am usually, actively entertaining myself, working on a project and or painting watercolours. I have a small but close circle of friends and lead a relatively private life except when teaching and engaging in the community.

I have served as the President of the Alberta Society of Artists in the 1970s. I was a founding member of both the New New Painters, 1991 and the Edmonton Contemporary Artists' Society in 1992 and have been its President for the past two years.

Recently I have been closely involved with the University of Alberta's Faculty Club where as Renovations Chair I have overseen the remodeling work and I am currently Vice President of the Club. For several years now as a Knight of the chivalric order, the Knights Hospitaller, Order of St John of Jerusalem, I have worked with my peers to raise funds for charities that focus on providing for the poor and indigent in Edmonton.

I STILL ENJOY TEACHING AND AFTER 41 YEARS I am able to be refreshed by looking at students work. I like advising them and expounding upon the principles of painting continues to deepen my understanding. As I am nearing the end of my teaching career and I began writing for this book I found myself reflecting on how I have developed as a teacher. Some of what I eventually wrote became a chapter on 'the teaching of painting'. In the end, I could not expand the book to include these writings but I plan to release this material in another book in the near future. Most of all, following this book, I wish to return to painting.

Graham Peacock
October 16, 2008



In front of Grandma's house, with sailboat on Bazan Bay, Sidney, Vancouver Island, BC, with Elliot 11, Wendy, Gillian 2 and Oliver, 1994.



Wendy and Graham exiting Arrow Passage, the Johnston Strait in British Columbia, Canada, in August 2008



At a formal event in 2000.