



Brooke Forbes

legacy fund

Brooke Forbes



BROOKE FORBES was an amazing person. She was generous, passionate, and lots of fun. She was dedicated to her four children and a good friend to scores of people across North American.

“She made sure we told stories about people on the wrong side of the power equation.” George Jamieson, CBC Producer

Brooke was born in Toronto in 1940 and she died there in 2006. In between, she lived in London, Montreal and Vancouver and worked for more than two decades as a Radio Producer with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. As a Producer, she sought to educate and entertain listeners about the need for social change. She loved a good story and was always looking for ways to give voice to those seeking equality. She also had an encyclopedic knowledge of music and got great joy out of listening to Saturday Afternoon at the Opera.

“I felt blessed to start the day off at work seeing Brooke across the room ... Not many people could say they feel so changed by just her presence but that was the power of Brooke, her listening ear, her smile and always her amusing adventures.” Lisa Ayusa, CBC Producer.



Brooke Forbes (on the right) working on the CBC Radio Morning Show in Vancouver, 1982.

“Brooke asked the unasked questions; she saw the unseen facet, that glimmer of context that filled in the picture, or – sometimes – opened up a whole new level of inquiry.” Ted Blades, CBC Host

Brooke believed in the power of radio to change lives. She created and ran a Radio Camp for minority youth for six years. Each year, she searched Toronto high schools for students who had potential and brought the lucky ones to the CBC for a week to learn how to produce radio. Her Radio Camps were the inspiration for the Brooke Forbes Legacy Fund. For her significant contributions to CBC Radio, including the Radio Camps, Brooke was awarded posthumously, CBC Radio’s Peer Award.

“Long before it became a corporate catch phrase, Brooke understood the importance of diversity. She knew that we had to better represent the range of cultures and identities among our various communities – and to reflect those different values and histories on air.” Jim Handman, CBC Producer.

To learn more about Brooke, you can read the [Obituary](#) that was published in the Globe and Mail. You can also listen to two of Brooke’s stories that were broadcast across the country on CBC Radio in 1994 ([story 1](#), [story 2](#)).

“I doubt that I would ever have succeeded to whatever degree I have without having had her gentle hand at the small of my back guiding me along.” Dick Miller, CBC Producer.