

It is with sadness that I share the news with the Haiku Canada community of the passing of Muriel Ford on June 10. Her nephew, Bill Anderson, kindly notified us.

Her first haiku was published in Modern Haiku, and the editor wrote to her that it was the first time the magazine had published a “first” haiku.

switching on the lamp
recording another dream
the moth re-appears

Muriel’s first collection “At Any Time” (Éditions des petits nuages, 2016) included her poetry as well as several of her drawings and paintings – for she was accomplished as a visual artist, as well as a poet.

in the piazza
rain – and a symphony
of unseen doves

Muriel was fierce in her support of Haiku Canada, and worked with Marianne Bluger to create its constitution that still guides the organization today. In recognition of her substantial contributions to haiku in the early years, she was included in the recent book: Moonflowers: Pioneering Women Haiku Poets in Canada (Terry Ann Carter, catkin press, 2020).

transforming it –
crabapple blossoms
in the small strip mall

She was also a staunch supporter and friend to many in Haiku Canada, and showed this through her dedication to mail correspondence – and, more recently, the occasional phone call. Here’s what she wrote to me in 2015: What a fascinating group of people have been attracted to Haiku Canada.

She sent me this poem a few years ago, and I share it here as a tribute and blessing.

those stones
formed by water
now sing with it

~ Philomene Kocher