

Kathleen Christensen

Joined 2008

Kathleen was born in Raleigh North Carolina, but grew up in Winnipeg, MB. She met Alan Christensen at the University of Winnipeg, a friend that became a life long partner. Despite (or maybe because of) a year long separation while she attended university in the UK in 1983, they were married in 1985, moving to Alberta when Alan got work with Corrections Canada. While Kathleen and Alan do enjoy some sense of humour, nature played the best April fools joke, twice! Neil and Ian were born two years apart on April 1, 1987 and 1999.

Museum and history have been Kathleen's life long passion and she has worked in museums in three provinces. The last brought her home to Manitoba to work at The RCA Museum in Shilo, MB in 2006. Six weeks after arriving with husband and sons still in Ontario, she was diagnosed with breast cancer after finding her lump three weeks after starting her new job. Alan returned for the surgery, but could not get a transfer closer than Winnipeg. He was able to come to Brandon for the week after each chemo treatment. Kathleen continued working throughout, they bought a house in Brandon and Ian joined Anna and Kathleen in the new home. In 2008, Alan finally received a transfer to Brandon, allowing Kathleen the time to finally start meeting people outside of work and her first choice was Waves of Hope. It has been the best thing that has happened to her since coming to Brandon. The team has given her a connection to the Brandon community, the support of fellow survivors, fitness to stay healthy and sharing in good times and fun that is the spirit of this team.