

Esther Braden C.M.

August 13, 1923 - February 18, 2016



The Braden family – Bill and Esther, five kids, a dog and a cat – made the long dusty/muddy journey from small town Saskatchewan to Yellowknife in August of 1964.

The kids thrived and Dad built his dream cabin on the rocky shore of Prosperous Lake. In this welcoming gold mining town of about 4,000, Mom was attracted to a circle of strong-willed, like-minded and feisty women who were already hard at work building a better community.

As the Nahanni Chapter of the IODE they opened the town's first thrift shop late in the 1960s. For mothers and families in distress they founded the YWCA and created Alison McAteer House. Their collective concern fostered today's Avens Community for Seniors, the Yellowknife and NWT seniors societies, the Alzheimer Society, and the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association. Esther had a hand in founding, leading, and advocating for all these and more. She gave her gift of music for decades. For her selfless volunteerism, her peers and her country honoured Esther with the Order of Canada in 2006.

To our family, our mother and grandmother was our compass, our shelter, and our freedom. We are so blessed to have had her in our lives for so long. We are truly

grateful for the extraordinarily compassionate care she received at Stanton Territorial Hospital, and for the comfort and security of her neighbours and the caring staff at Avens where she lived the past 22 years.

Esther is survived by four children and eight grandchildren: daughter Sandy Dehnke (Tony and Jaime); sons Bill and wife Valery (Rae and Carmen); Max and wife Kate (Seamus and Kelda); Pat and wife Laurie (Jazzan and Elora); and daughter-in-law Lise Beaudry-Braden. She was predeceased by her husband Bill (1994), son-in-law Wayne Dehkne (2014) and eldest son George (2015).

In lieu of flowers and in Esther's volunteering spirit, please consider giving your time. Your donation to the Yellowknife Seniors, Avens Community or the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association, will make a difference too.

We invite the community to a

Celebration of Esther

**on Saturday, March 5, at the Sir John Franklin gymnasium from 2:30 to 5:00 pm.
Come around anytime. Remarks will be made around 3:00 pm.**