



JOSEPHINE THERESE IRLBACHER (Nee: Woods)

March 19, 1937 – November 12, 2021

It is with immense sadness that the family of Josephine (Josie) Irlbacher announce her passing on November 12, 2021, at the age of 84. She passed peacefully with her daughters by her side.

Josephine will be lovingly remembered by her daughters Sieglinde, Karoline (Daniel), Geraldine (Peter), and Stephanie (Andrew), and grandchildren: Cynthia, Nicholas, Michael, Everett, Simon, and Grace, as well as numerous relatives in Scotland, Ireland, the United States and Germany. She will be dearly missed by her many friends across Canada, the United States and Europe.

Josephine was predeceased by her husband Georg and her parents Mary and Michael Woods.

Born in Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, Scotland, Josie was the second of ten children. She trained as a Registered Nurse and Midwife at the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow, Scotland, honing her skills in and around Glasgow, West Berlin, and finally Canada. She arrived by ship to Toronto, Ontario in 1965 and shortly after met her husband Georg. They lived in Ontario for 15 years and grew their family of 4 girls prior to moving to Inuvik, Northwest Territories. Josie worked as a Registered Nurse at the Inuvik Regional Hospital for 20 years where she took on many roles throughout her time there, touching thousands of lives.

Her time in Inuvik was exceptional to her. She held fond memories of her time in Inuvik maintaining many friendships that carried her for the rest of her life. In 2000, Josie moved to Edmonton, Alberta to be closer to her daughters where she continued her career at the Boyle McCauley Health Center for 10 years prior to retiring from the Nursing Profession in 2014. She dedicated over 50 years of her life to her chosen field of nursing driven by an extraordinary work ethic and a calling to care not only for, but about, others. For mom, doing all the good you can in all the places you can, was an adage by which she lived her life.

Josie led an active life in retirement sharing time with friends and volunteering in the Catholic church. She was an active member of the Catholic Women's League for over 40 years in Inuvik and Edmonton and involved in the St. George's Choir and St. Thomas More Parish Choir. She was an art enthusiast, often attending the Opera, ballet, and live theatre.

A Mass to honour Josie's life was held on November 23, 2021, in Edmonton. Due to Covid restrictions, it was by invitation only.

Memorial donations can be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Edmonton, Alberta,

<https://www.ssvpedmonton.ca/contact>

