

Clara V. MacNeil

86 years old, of Hay River, NWT passed away peacefully on June 20, 2011.

She was born to the late Adolphus and Christine Norris, March 14, 1925 in Fort McMurray, Alberta. She moved with her parents and siblings (brother Fred and sister Agnes) to Aklavik, NWT in the mid 1920's. She married the late Barney MacNeil in Aklavik on January 3, 1951. They had three children in Aklavik, Barbara, Larry and Bernie and a fourth, Michael when they moved to Inuvik in 1962. She and Barney moved to Hay River on Barney's retirement in 1989.

In Clara's teen years she had her own dog team and trapped muskrats in the Delta. An accomplished garment maker, she made many parkas, mukluks, hats and mitts. She worked in the family restaurant and later for the Hudson's Bay Company as head cook. Her resumé even included a brief stint with CHAK Radio as an announcer. A devout Catholic she was active in the church and made many friends in the parish. Her major life's work was her family and was always proud of her children and instilled in them a healthy respect for the church and good work ethics. After her own children were grown she looked after the grandchildren and when they grew up she and Barney opened up a group home and raised many more Delta children who think of her as Mom. Many people will recall her open warm house filled with the smell of her hallmark cinnamon buns.



A burial service will be held at the Inuvik cemetery on Saturday, August 20, 2011 at 3:00 pm.