

Alice Anne Mains

September 30th, 1931 – October 19th, 2022

A Life Well Lived

Alice often remarked on her good fortune to have lived such a long, healthy and happy life.

In 1931 she was christened Alice Anne Farrow in St. Peter's Church, which was built on treaty 8 territory, now K'at'podeeche Reserve. Her Scottish mother, Annie Brodie Carswell Dunn, and her English father, John William Farrow, met in Hay River, married, and began a northern adventure in Service, until the call to farm beckoned their return to the prairies. Her early northern memories included an airplane engine failure from Fort Resolution to Hay Camp, but pilots Wop May and Punch Dickins delivered them safely into their new life. John farmed in southern Manitoba near Darlingford for the war effort, eventually settling in Saskatchewan as a Grain buyer. At that time, country schools taught up to grade 8, therefore Alice continued her studies through correspondence, living with relatives in Elkhorn for High School.

Alice was proud of her prairie farming roots, yet dreamed of returning North. She did this after 'Normal School' or teacher training in 1949. In order to teach *Up North*, she needed two years of experience and she got off to a good start in Brocket. She spoke highly of the staff and students at St Cyprian's. Now she was well-prepared for the move north to Aklavik to teach at All Saints School.

She was known for her kindness and generosity to staff and students. There, she met Cal Mains. They became best friends and married in 1953 at RCMP depot in Regina. They lived and raised their family in the north, moving frequently as was the pattern in those days. From Alberta's Peace River region to Yukon, on to Tuktoyaktuk, Fort Churchill, Fort Smith, Yellowknife, and to Hay River in 1974. She had come full circle.

Appreciating many music genres, she reflected that "fiddle music is the happiest."

She preferred letter writing over email, keeping family, friends and relations informed and connected. We all looked forward to a letter written in Alice's beautiful script. She and Cal taught by example to respect and appreciate Nature. While family vacations included visiting relatives as well as unique landscapes, the North held a deep and sustaining passion with its beauty, people, and peace. Many happy family memories were made at their Cassidy Point cabin. Travels included England and Scotland to meet family from the 'old country,' solo trips to Gjoa Haven and Kenya via Amsterdam to visit her daughters, as well as excursions with Cal in their retirement years.

Her passion for reading, working in the library, volunteering in the Thrift Shop, her strong noble spirit, walking daily no matter the weather, her satisfaction or acceptance of what life brings, her kindness, friendship, ready smile and encouragement, are some of the ways people remember Alice and were inspired by her.

Her timely stoicism was brave and wise. She was a woman of faith and a role model for simplicity. She advocated justice for children and their families, was a devoted wife and mother, and maintained her independence. Following Cal's death in 2008, she added her own touch to the garden and the winter birds continue to find a sanctuary there.

Alice is predeceased by her husband and best friend of 55 years, Calvin Roy Mains, and by her siblings, Bella (Emil Stredulinsky), Edie (Alphonse Balzer), and Jack Farrow. Survivors are Anne Mains (Steve Mihok), Catharine Mains, and Alexander (Sandy) Mains.

We are grateful for the Palliative care given by the Hay River Hospital. The entire team from reception and cleaning staff to nursing & physician care was stellar. To them we give praise and thanks. Thank you to Rings Pharmacy for your kind support, and to her neighbours, friends, the senior society, and community who have so thoughtfully reached out.

There will be no service by her request. Arrangements by www.mckennafuneral.com

