

Mary Jones

Mary Jones was born February 23, 1923 in Poland.

Her adventurous parents named her Marie Antoinette Kowalczyk. Dad Andrew trekked to Smokey Lake, Alberta and Maria and the young family followed when Mary was three. She had very good memories of growing up on the farm near Smokey Lake. Her completion of Grade 12 gave her the freedom to move to Edmonton in 1941; there she was offered a job by Harry Peffer. The catch was the job was in Aklavik, Northwest Territories. She flew from Edmonton to Aklavik, which took two days and numerous stops. There, she fell in love, not just with the people and the land, but with a young man who shared her love of adventure and her commitment to community and family. David Jones asked her to marry him and there began another adventure, indeed. In 1943, she left Aklavik to join Dave in Calgary. She gave birth to her first born in Calgary waiting for Dave to be deployed. Thank goodness the war ended and he didn't have to go: as a gunner, his odds weren't very good.

As it was, they moved back to Aklavik in 1946, and little Howie prayed for a little brother to play with; he got five little sisters, Terry, Patricia, Ruth, Janet and Lynda were all born in Aklavik. They moved to Inuvik in 1959 after the completion of the house they had started the year before. Her job with Pacific Western Airlines moved with her. There were numerous interests and Mary was for many years involved in curling, baseball, theatre and local politics.

She loved playing cards, especially bridge, and when she was mobile, she loved to gather as many kids as possible and going camping and picnicing. When retirement came in 1974, Dave and Mary left their beloved North to move south.

Over the past few years, her memory failed her, but her character was still strong and we all had a few laughs over favourite stories. She will be remembered as an honest person with a true love of family and a sense of community. The death of her youngest daughter, Lynda, scarred her badly, but she really did find satisfaction with the comings and goings of her family. New grandchildren and great-grandchildren brought joy to her life. Many, many people will have memories of a beautiful woman who truly cared for others and was generous and fair-minded. Now she is at peace. She left her body on the afternoon of October 23. Her whole family was with her in spirit and Pat and Janet held her, while Ken remained strong back-up. She didn't suffer any pain, she simply stopped breathing. Her body has been cremated and the family will have a celebration of her life in the new year. In true Mary Jones fashion, instead of sending flowers, please make a donation to the charity of your choice. If you would like to send condolences, please address to Dave Jones, #602, 7408-139 Ave., NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5C 3H7.

The staff at Millennium Pavilion were so very nice to her, always, and the staff at Dickensfield are to be commended for the work they do every day to make people know they are being cared for and are safe.

