

## **WOLF CREEK RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION MEMORIALS 2023 – 2024**

### **JOYCE HAGEMANN**

Joyce was born November 22, 1930 and passed away April 29, 2024 in Ponoka Alberta. She lived with her parents Elsie and Bill Bednar in numerous places around Ponoka. She boarded in Lacombe for grade 10 and 11, then home for grade 12 where she attended and graduated at Ponoka High School.

Joyce stayed in Edmonton with her Auntie Florence for teacher education. After that she taught at one room schools starting at REO School NW of Ponoka and she enjoyed that very much. While helping his Uncle Ed Nelson to farm, a young Elmer Hagemann was injured with a sprayer pump shaft that ripped up his leg. Joyce joked that it slowed him down enough for her to catch him! On November 12, 1952 Joyce and Elmer married.

### **ALLAN KOOLE**

Allan Roy Koole passed away suddenly on May 27, 2024. He was born on February 19, 1942 and grew up with his younger sister Kathy on a farm near Kipp, Alberta. He began his teaching career at Clive, Alberta, then moved to Lacombe where he taught primarily chemistry at the Lacombe Composite High School for thirty plus years. Later after he retired, he taught part time at Red Deer College.

Allan met his soulmate Bev McLean (a farm girl and teacher from Saskatchewan) on a prearranged blind date for a Christmas dance in Bashaw on December 8, 1967. Their love of dancing and zest for life fueled a two year courtship and they were married on December 20, 1969 in the Gaetz United Church in Red Deer. Allan and Bev held their wedding dance in the Lacombe Memorial Centre

### **ELDRED STAMP**

Eldred was born in Swift Current Saskatchewan on June 24, 1931 and passed away March 3, 2024. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1949 and remained with them until 1965 as a mechanic and radar technician. In 1966 he joined Canadian Marconi in Montreal as a senior trainer where he spent 10 years training individuals in North America and numerous countries around the world.

He left Marconi in 1976 and returned to Alberta, obtained a teaching degree, and taught at Ponoka Composite High School until his retirement in 1992. As well as teaching, he offered numerous courses to other teachers about computers. He spent his retirement travelling, taking beautiful pictures, and seeing family and friends. He was a proud Metis and member of the Aboriginal Veterans Society of Alberta.

## **BARBARA UHL**

The daughter of Paul and Ramona Smith was born at their Ferrybank homestead on Aug. 31, 1929 and passed away December 13, 2023. After assisting her parents on the farm and completing her schooling, Barbara Smith achieved her teaching degree, married Albert Uhl on Aug. 8, 1955 and raised their family of four on their busy beef and dairy farm. Over the years Barbara and the family would become very involved in the church, the Women's Institute, the Beef Calf Club, and their community. While Barbara was always busy with her teaching and on the farm, she also loved to make countless contributions to all sorts of projects and organizations, a sincere dedication and effort that would carry on for many decades. In 2004 at the Ponoka Centennial Celebration Barbara (Smith) Uhl was honoured as one of our longstanding pioneer women from over the first 100 years.

After supervising at the Reo Country School for one year she attended the University of Alberta and completed her studies to become a teacher. Her first two years of teaching were at the Elkhorn School where she taught 30 students from Grades one through nine. Then eight years of teaching were spent at Ferrybank, with the ninth at Hazel Hill, and then the following year Barbara was asked to teach at Mecca Glen, where she served for many years. Her students always benefitted from her enthusiastic and capable teaching.

## **KEITH JAHRAUS**

Keith Jahraus passed away suddenly on January 10th, 2023 in Lacombe, Alberta. He lived in Lacombe and taught at Lacombe Comp for over 25 years after first teaching at Endiang. He retired in 2015. Keith was a regular blood donor, and was a vocal advocate for how important donating blood could be.

## **RHODA VOLD**

Rhoda Vold, the daughter of Philip and Eva Willcox, was born on June 15, 1928 at the family homestead in the Manfred district east of Ponoka. She passed away Saturday, August 17, 2024 at Fairmont Hot Springs, British Columbia, while on a holiday with family. Fairmont was a special place for her with many cherished memories for her and five generations of her family, starting in 1965. When Rhoda supervised at the Schultz School from 1946 to 1947, she would faithfully ride her horse nine miles every day, no matter what the weather. Then in 1947-48, she enrolled at the University of Alberta to pursue her teacher training. She was excited about her first teaching job at the Reo School in 1948. Then her next venture was to accept a teaching job on the initial staff of the new Mecca Glen School from 1949 to 1951. During her teaching career, Rhoda dedicated many years to the Wood River Festival working with choirs, duets, trios and soloists. Rhoda obtained her Bachelor of Education Degree in 1984 after many hours of travel and study. She continued to teach at Mecca Glen until her retirement in 1993. Rhoda served as an active member of the Asker Ladies' Aid for 52 years as well as faithfully attending the Asker Church, where she taught and played music for Sunday school. In 2019 Rhoda moved from the farm to Legacy Place where she resided until her passing. Life's Work Well Done

## **HELEN NEUFELD**

Helen Aileen Neufeld (Barnes) was born April 24, 1926 on the family farm at Elnora. She grew up with three sisters, and two brothers. Together they shared many adventures and a lot of love. School started on horseback to Lakeview School about a mile and a half away. High school was completed in Elnora and then Helen attended University of Calgary where she received a teaching certificate. Helen taught at several one room schools, but she found it really didn't suit her well. She really enjoyed retail sales and worked in clothing and drug stores for many, many years.

## **LORI WILLIAMS**

Lori Dawn Williams passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at the age of 41 years with her family by her side. Lori was born on February 18, 1982 in Ponoka, Alberta. She grew up on the family farm West of Ponoka alongside her 3 sisters. After high school Lori followed in her mom's footsteps and became a teacher, teaching many different grades but loving kindergarten the most, just like her mom! Lori was an amazing daughter, sister and friend to many. She will be remembered for her beautiful smile and friendly personality. Lori will be forever remembered by her parents, Don & Georgia, her sisters Kari (Curt) Topham, Jacey (Ryan) Gillespie, and Shaily (Chad) Cargill.

## **RACHEL RUTZ**

After university, Rachel became an elementary school teacher. She began her teaching career in Ponoka in 1973, and transferred to Bashaw the following year, where she taught for 32 years. Rachel was instrumental in starting the Bashaw Figure Skating Club and helped found the first government funded kindergarten, that later became the Bashaw Early Learning Center.

## **VERLEA MACK**

Verlea was born October 13, 1931 and passed away December 2, 2023. Verlea moved to Ponoka, where she lived for nearly 50 years. She worked at the Ponoka Elementary School as the librarian from 1976 to 2001. She loved working with the many students that passed through the library and put her heart and soul into encouraging them to learn by reading. Never one to sit and do nothing, she volunteered in her community, including Flowers for You flower shop and working at food booths at the Ponoka Stampede, as well as many other organizations. She was an affiliate member of the Royal Canadian Legion and joined The Order of the Eastern Star, where she would also become Grand Representative for Alberta/Maine. Verlea enjoyed travelling, gardening and baking, as well as dancing and reading. She had a passion for learning new things and believed in living life to the fullest and focusing on the positive. She always put her family and others before herself and would do anything for anyone.

