Cross, Ruby Viola

September 30, 2018





Ruby Viola Cross (Baragar)

Ruby Viola Cross (Baragar) passed away peacefully at Extendicare in Moose Jaw on Monday, October 1, 2018 with her family at her side. She was 96 years old.

She was born on October 12, 1921 on the family homestead in the

Rural Municipality of Mankota in the district of Reliance, southwest Saskatchewan.

She is predeceased by her husband Walter Irvin Cross, her parents, Elizabeth (Best) and Bidwell Baragar, and siblings Joseph, Robert, Wes, Sarah, Irene, Edna, Gordon, Albert, Elsie, and Don.

She is lovingly remembered and deeply missed by her sister Anne and brother Kel; three children**: Nora** Will (Gordon), **Millie** Wright (Bill), and **David** Cross (Mary); eight grandchildren: Joanne Will (Andy), Janice Hayden (Brent), Janelle Baerg (Larry), James Will, Glenon Wright, Jerilee Wright, Damon Cross (Ivana), Logan Cross (Jenna); and ten great-grandchildren.

Eighth of 13 children, her jovial and close-knit family survived the drought and dust of the Great Depression. Strength and survival became enduring themes for Ruby Viola Baragar, who, on July 11, 1946 married Walter Cross. They moved to Toronto where Walter found work with the provincial government, and where her sister Sarah also lived. In Toronto her children Nora Jean, David William and Millicent Viola were born. But, at age 29, she was so ill and emaciated after the birth of her second child that she was advised to make arrangements for her children’s care upon her impending death. Then, an eleventh-hour biopsy and diagnosis of Celiac Disease at Toronto General Hospital saved her life. With dietary changes she regained her health and strength.

Toronto is also where Ruby took her first cake decorating lesson, and it was quickly evident just how adept she was at the culinary arts. In March of 1956, along with their Wiener dog Buddy, Ruby, Walter and their young family moved back to Saskatchewan. They settled at her husband’s father’s farm between Aneroid and Ponteix. There Walter worked on the farm, and Ruby kept an enormous garden, chickens, and livestock, producing and preserving the food that sustained the family year-round.

Five years later, when Ruby’s father-in-law retired and sold the farm, she and Walter moved to Moose Jaw. There Ruby, who was a talented seamstress from a young age, worked at the Moose Jaw Union Hospital, and later at St. Anthony’s Home of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Vincent de Paul for the aged and the

poor, from which she retired at age 65 in 1986.

At age 50 she learned to drive, and bought her first car, a burnt-orange Ford Maverick coupe. Throughout her working years in Moose Jaw and much of her retirement, she continued her professional cake decorating on evenings and weekends, delighting untold numbers with her holiday, birthday and elaborate wedding cakes.

She made incredible Halloween costumes for her grandchildren, as well as holiday cakes and chocolates for them to share with their school classmates. Her Christmas fruit cakes, elegantly and elaborately decorated – one for each household in her family – were eagerly anticipated every festive season. In doing this, she carried on a 100-year tradition started by her parents, and today it is continued by her granddaughter Janice.

When her husband Walter was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in the 1980s, Ruby lovingly cared for him until his death in 1995. In 2011, at age 89, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Once again, she recovered.

Over the years, Ruby said that in 1950 she had dreamed of an angel at her bedside at Toronto General Hospital, who told her then that she had work to do and her time on earth was not yet finished. That angel has now returned to take her home. It is difficult to imagine a woman stronger, more resilient, more joyful, more loving – or more missed and loved.

A Memorial Service and Celebration of Her Life will be held Saturday, October 6 at 9:30 AM at Moose Jaw Funeral Home, 268 Mulberry Lane, Moose Jaw, SK. with Pastor Walter Engel officiating. Interment will take place at Sunset Cemetery. Those wishing to make a donation in Ruby's name may do so to the Moose Jaw and District Food Bank 305 Fairford St. W Moose Jaw, SK S6H 1V8 , The Canadian Cancer Society 1910 McIntyre St Regina, SK S4P 2R3 or a charity of their choice.

Arrangements are entrusted to Moose Jaw Funeral Home, 268 Mulberry Lane. Michelle Surtees Funeral Director 306-693-4550

1.



Carol Straub on October 4, 2018 at 7:31 am

Our condolences to you and your family, Janice. Your grandma sounds like a wonderful lady. Our thoughts are with you. Carol and Lorne

Reply

2.



Ron Rumble on October 5, 2018 at 1:14 am

My condolences to the Cross family. Treasure your memories.

Reply

3.



Carol Toth on October 5, 2018 at 3:07 am

My condolences to you and your family Nora on the recent passing of your mother. You were all so lucky to have had her in your lives for so many years. What precious memories you all must have.
Carol Toth nee Braaten

Reply

4.



Donna mcsherry on October 5, 2018 at 4:52 am

Dear David and Family
1 also worked @ ST A ‘S and saw your mom almost daily.She reminded me of a Nun who worked there also,whom I swore was straight from heaven!Her name was Sister Fidelis and she was adored by everyone .They could have been sisters.Your mom always had a good word to say about everyone.She was gentle,kind, and just all around sweet!I also took care of your Dad Walter at Providence.Place asnd possibly St A’S,but can’t remember if he was there or not.Also a very nice man. You we’re blessed David to have such great parents.I went to Palliser so you may recognize my name as I also ran into you many years ago.So in closing,I’m very sorry for your lost,she was a great lady and may all of your beautiful memories help you and your family through the hard times that come as you grieve for your Mom. Sincerely,Donna McSherry.

Reply

5.



Chris Wadham on October 5, 2018 at 7:17 am

To the Family
Ruby was a wonderful lady we hit it off from the start , I worked at St. Anthony’s with her for many years in House Keeping she was my Partner we spent a lot of time together. She made my wedding Cake 40 years ago on the 14th of this month. She made my kids christening cakes, we had tea she would read the leaves to us girls, she was truly a wonderful lady, she loved her grandkids and would always tell us stories, she cared for Walter , and after I

moved away we emailed and chatted on the phone. So to her family you have wonderful memories of a lovely lady keep those close to your heart ..

Chris Wadham

Reply

6.



Dave Griffith on October 7, 2018 at 1:11 am

Joanne with the assistance of Janelle was able to provide an on-line link to observe Saturday's service on Vancouver Island.
'Uncle' Dave and 'Aunt' Millie gave beautiful eulogies that brought tears to me at times of a wonderful lady. She brought joy and love to us.

The cakes were the best ever!
Joanne did an article on the 100 year tradition of creating them and their significance in a magazine article (QUENCH).
here's a link to the article:
http://quench.me/food/very-happy-holidays/.
This article echoes Dave's chosen word 'resiliency' that was the essence of her soul.

On behalf of Nanny Griffith, 'Aunt' Cathy, 'Uncle' Bernie, myself Dave Griffith and Joanne's sisters Jane & Janessa and brother Dean, we all dearly love and miss Grandma Ruby.

Reply

7.



Bill Henry on October 7, 2018 at 9:14 am

Sincere condolences on Ruby’s passing
She was a member of our congregation and was missed when she had to go to live at Chez-Nous.
We visited her there several times and we regaled with stories of her early life.
Bill & Joy Henry

Reply

8.



Doug Measner on October 7, 2018 at 1:18 pm

Dave, Millie, Nora, so sorry to hear of your loss. I saw your mom in Extendicare recently while visiting Barb’s dad there. I always liked your mother and definitely remember her cakes.

Doug and Barb Measner

Reply

9.



Tanya Stearns on November 30, 2018 at 4:34 pm

I have told the story of the beautiful sugar cubes…I miss them to this day. I am glad Ruby lived on, condolences to all of you. I’m looking for Dave if anyone knows how to find him?

Tanya Stearns

Reply