

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ALICE NESS

Alice was born in born in Kamionka, Poland on September 26, 1934 to Antoni and Eleonora Zytka. She had two sisters, Jane and Helen, and one brother, Walter.

The family spent the years of World War II in forced labour camps. When the war ended, Alice's father and mother realized there was nothing to go back to in Poland. In 1948, the family immigrated to Canada. Alice's uncle Stanley Zytco was their sponsor. The first years of their new life in Canada were spent in Sturgis, Saskatchewan. One of the changes that came with the move to Canada was the anglicising of her name from Alicja to Alice.

It was while working in a restaurant in Birch Hills that Alice met Joe Ness. A few weeks later she went to a dance with another fellow but before the night was over it was Joe who escorted her home. They have been nearly inseparable ever since.

Alice and Joe were married on June 23, 1954. For the first year of their marriage they lived on the Ness farm at Brancepeth. In October 1955, they decided to move to Trail, where Joe's sister Anne lived. When they reached Calgary, Joe was able to find work at the Bowness High School construction site. That was the end of the trek to BC and the beginning of a life in Alberta.

In 1956, Alice and Joe literally built their home in Bowness. Only a few services were contracted out. This house was their home for more than fifty years. Many of their neighbours became lifelong friends. The decision to take life easier saw Alice and Joe move into a condominium in Tuscany in 2013. Alice and Joe soon made friends with many of their neighbours in the complex.

Alice and Joe were blessed with six children - Eleanor, Larry, David, Brian, Douglas, and Carol. The family enjoyed many happy times together - picnics at the Calgary Zoo and Banff, holidays with their extended family, and celebrations like birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, weddings, and family reunions. There was always room at the table for more people.

One of the things Alice and Joe loved to do was to go camping. Many of their camping trips included family and friends. Alice was often seen with her camera in hand, taking pictures of the scenery, wildlife, and the family and friends who were enjoying the trip with them. Another passion of Alice's was knitting and crocheting. It was common to find her with her knitting needles or a crochet hook and the yarn of her choice. She often had a multitude of projects on the go.

It was Alice's faith and the love and support of Joe and her family and friends that sustained her after Doug, David, and Carol died. That faith was a source of strength and enabled Alice to reach out to others in their time of need.

Since her thirties Alice has had problems with her back. Multiple surgeries enabled her to carry on with her life, but she lived in constant pain. Despite this, she continued to live her life with the grace and optimism that motivated her through her entire life. Alice had a profound love of family and was a beacon of light that warmed the hearts of all whom she touched. She always saw the good in people.

Other health issues arose in the last few years, eventually requiring Alice to move first into St. Theresa Place and then into the Brentwood Care Centre. The last four months of Covid-19 restrictions were very hard for Alice. Joe had been visiting her almost every day during the three years she has been in long term care. There were also many visits from family and friends that kept Alice in touch with the people she loved.

The Covid-19 pandemic meant that during the first four months of the pandemic no one was allowed to visit in person. Alice proved it is never too late to learn new things when she started having Zoom visits with Joe and her family. Alice enjoyed a Zoom visit with Joe, Brian, Larry, Gwen, Eleanor, and her sister Helen on her and Joe's 66th wedding anniversary. It was a blessing for Alice during the last two

weeks of her life that she was able to visit with Joe and Brian in the gardens at Brentwood Care Centre.

In the last few years of her life, Alice made it clear to her family that she was ready to go meet her Lord and Saviour. She had suffered enough and hoped she would pass in her sleep into the hands of God. During the night of July 12, 2020, as she was sleeping, Alice took Jesus' hand and peacefully went to her eternal home.

Alice leaves to mourn her beloved husband Joe, her children Eleanor, Larry (Gwen), and Brian (Jackie); her grandchildren Tiffany, Colin, and Curtis; her sister Helen (Herb) Morrison; her brother-in-law Don (Marg) Weber, her sisters-in-law Anne Hebert, Kay Ness, and June Lamers; and many nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbours. She was predeceased by her children David, Douglas, and Carol; her parents Antoni and Eleonora Zytco; her sister Jane Weber, her brother Wally (Carol) Zytco, and her brothers-and sisters-in-law Arnold (Eleanor) Ness, Wally Hebert, Mable Ness, Edward Ness, Albert Ness, Lloyd Lamers, and Margaret (Mike) Turnbull. She will be missed by everyone who knew and loved her.