

Louise MacLean

January 17, 1927 to February 23, 2021



Louise (Best) MacLean passed away peacefully at McBride Hospital on February 23, 2021. Louise was the youngest of four sisters born to Joe and Annie Best in Duffield, Alberta. She was predeceased by her sisters and her husband, Alistair (Sandy) MacLean (1994). She is survived by her children Donald (John), Ian (Sharon) and Robert as well as three grandchildren Jayda (Dan), Ivy, and Ainsley (Daphne), and four great-grandchildren, Zosia, Beau, Sophia and John.

Louise was born on the family homestead in Duffield, Alberta and grew up in Stony Plain, Alberta where she graduated from High School. She went on to attend the University of Alberta and became a teacher. After teaching in various one room schoolhouses in central Alberta for several years Louise took a teaching assignment in Edson, Alberta where she met and married Alistair (Sandy) MacLean in 1952.

Visits to Louise's sister's family (Gwen and Harry Partridge and their daughters, Louise-Ann and Lorna) in this small mountain settlement resulted in our family moving here to join them in 1960. Louise and Sandy settled here, built a house and made Valemount their permanent home. Louise earned the title of the "First Lady of Valemount" when Sandy became the first mayor of Valemount when it was incorporated in December of 1962.

A teacher, music teacher, school librarian, receptionist at the first doctor's clinic, Mom loved people. She was an enthusiastic community volunteer and worked with like-minded community leaders to establish the

United Church, the local museum, the Golden Years Lodge, the Valemount Community Arts Council, the Pottery Club, the Leather Club and many others. She was proud of being part of the group that worked together to publish the book "Yellowhead Pass and Its People." Mom served on the first Senior Citizen's Housing Committee, delivered Meals on Wheels and served in countless organizations for the betterment of the community. In her spare time, Louise loved playing the piano for parties with their many good friends, gardening (especially flowers), berry picking, baking, sewing, knitting, hiking, bird watching, curling and exploring the pristine beauty of the Valemount area.

Louise was very social and loved to talk to people right until the end of her life. COVID limited her opportunity to visit to socially distanced conversations in the carport.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Valemount Clinic, the ambulance staff, and the McBride Hospital staff for their excellent care and comfort they provided Louise to make her final days comfortable. Because of COVID we are unable to hold any public gathering to celebrate Mom's life. Local seniors housing was a special concern of Mom's and we ask that in lieu of flowers donations in memory of Louise can be made to the Valemount Senior Citizen's Housing Committee, Attention: Valemount Cares on their website at www.vschs.ca or mailed by cheque to the Valemount Senior Citizens Housing Society, Attention Valemount Cares, Box 598, Valemount, B.C. V0E 2Z0.