



Mrs. Rita Esther Storch

June 3, 1947 - September 4, 2019

Rita Esther Storch, beloved wife of Terry Storch, passed away at home surrounded by her family, after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. She was 72.

Rita is survived by her husband of 52 years, Terry, two daughters, Janice of High River, Monica of Edmonton, two Grandsons, Ryan and Evan of High River and numerous nieces and nephews.

Rita was born June 3, 1947 in Provost, Alberta to Olav and Ellen Spilde, their only child. The small family lived on a farm in the Provost area where she attended a one-room school for several years with her Mother as teacher in some years. Even though she did not have any brothers or sisters, with many of Olson cousins close by, she never felt she was an only child.

She frequently recalled the cousins coming over for Sunday evening meals. Her fondest farm memory was the bale slide made of wooden boards that her Dad would make for her every winter. She spent countless hours climbing the bale stack and sliding with great glee down the snowy and icy slide.

The Spilde Family eventually moved into the Town of Provost where Rita attended public school. She took piano lessons for years and finally achieved her Toronto Conservatory Music degree. She continued taking music training and teaching music lessons, even after her marriage to Terry and having a family.

Rita played basketball in high school but when asked if it was because she was taller, she said no. She had to play because if she didn't there was not enough girls to make a team.

After graduating with Honours from Grade 12, she enrolled in university at Camrose Lutheran College, where she met a guy from Hanna, which was the start of the relationship. Rita and Terry were married in Provost on Aug 19, 1967, their personal Centennial project that lasted 52 years.

They both completed their education degrees at the University of Calgary.

Both Terry and Rita had teaching jobs in Calgary, together bought a house and lived in Calgary for three years. After tiring of the city they moved to Hanna, where Janice was born, and eventually to New Brigden in Eastern Alberta. They were both very involved with the community, especially the curling rink in winter and a local theatre group. Rita eventually became the Music Director of the New Brigden Players. Monica was born in Oyen during a very cold spell of prairie winter one January.

The family next moved to Huxley (North of Three Hills) for Terry's work and in the Fall of 1977 they moved to High River. High River has been their home since then.

Once in High River, Rita became involved in teaching piano lessons, worked for an accounting firm, a gift store and a stationery store at various times. She also wrote and self-published a recipe book on Bread Baking called "Bread Baking for the Skeptical", some of which are still in use in High River. She also taught bread baking classes in their home (no complaints from Terry). She did other writing and editing as well and at one point was the Editor of the National Lutheran Church magazine. Rita operated a Bed and Breakfast, named Rita's Repose, in their home for a few years. She hosted a variety of people from many different places. She took pride in her daughter's accomplishments and really enjoyed coming up with creative activities for Janice and Monica.

Rita's life-resume contains words such as daughter, wife, student, mother, writer, poet, editor, painter, curler (achieved an 8-ender), teacher, sewer, weaver, knitter, church pianist, volunteer, Library Board member, church supporter, National Park host to groups, tourist, traveller, quilter, book club member, handicraft guild member, friend and Grandma, to name but a few. Don't forget to add tolerance and understanding of Terry and his many related activities.

Rita and Terry always had a desire for travel and after Terry's retirement in 2002, their travel was no longer confined to summers and Christmas holidays and so traveled any time of the year. At last count having travelled to over 25 countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Cuba, Costa Rica, Norway and many other European countries as well.

A recent new activity was Geocaching in which Rita was the designated navigator, with GPS and maps in hand, for the Senior Seeker geo team. A year ago this past August they celebrated their 1000th find with Geo-Grandson, Evan assisting.

February, this year, Rita developed distressing symptoms which lead to a cancer diagnosis and chemotherapy, which proved to be unsuccessful. She passed away 8

months after her cancer diagnosis.

Rita and Terry are both very grateful for the well wishes, thoughts and prayers from church and community friends.

In lieu of flowers and If desired; donations in Rita's memory can be made to:

High River Hospital Foundation- www.highriverhealthfoundation.ca or to
Canadian Lutheran World Relief - www.clwr.org

A private, family funeral was held. A Community Celebration of Rita's Life was held Sunday, Sept 15, 2 – 4 PM at Sheppard Family Park Munroe Barn in High River.

The Red Barn is located at 12 Ave and 5 St. SE in High River.

All friends and community are invited to attend to celebrate Rita's life.

Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River (Craig Snodgrass)
403.652.4242.

Events

SEP **Celebration of Life Reception** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

15

Sheppard Family Park

1201 5th Street SE, High River, AB, CA, T1V 1J2

Comments



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. We have many wonderful memories of time spent with Rita. Norm and Diane Koch, Olds, Alberta



Norm and Diane Koch - October 14, 2019 at 11:08 AM



“ Gerry And Glenda Cutforth lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Gerry and Glenda Cutforth - September 23, 2019 at 10:53 PM



“ Gordon Wagner lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Gordon Wagner - September 23, 2019 at 08:40 PM



“ Dear Terry, our deepest condolences to you and your family. I have very fond memories of times with Rita at the library, during her times as board chair, as well as during many interesting book club discussions. Her journal entries regarding the books she had read over the years fascinated me, as well as the many engaging conversations. Very classy woman. Sincerely, Carol & Dave



“ Thoughts and prayers Terry and family Rita will be missed but memories never forgotten.

Brian Popowitch - September 15, 2019 at 01:24 AM



“ Terry ur thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Jim and Kathy Graham

James Edward GRAHAM - September 14, 2019 at 03:57 PM



“ Janice - so very sorry to hear of your loss. My condolences to you and your family.

Jill

Jill Henheffer - September 13, 2019 at 03:22 PM



“ Terry and family.....Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time.
We have many memories of Rita from her workdays with Gerry and her super commitment to High River and community.
God Bless and take care of yourselves.
Gerry and Barb

Gerry and Barb Coakwell - September 12, 2019 at 02:19 PM



“ Rita was a special person and our love and prayers are with you Terry and your family. Rita always made me feel like someone important to her with her thoughtfulness and kindness. Each time we talked she remembered what was happening in our lives and was so caring toward us. Her deep knowledge and passion for the mountains and history was a huge benefit to all of us on trips and I always knew that Rita would have some new tidbit of information to share with me about my favourite places and characters. I know her contributions to her community and family were tremendous as well. She will be missed.

Alanna - September 10, 2019 at 06:19 PM



“ Mr Storch and family, our deepest condolences to you all during this very difficult time. Cherish your memories and hold them close in your heart, they will help you through the touch days that lay ahead.
Sincerely Len and Pat Zebedee



Pat Zebedee - September 10, 2019 at 12:40 PM



“ Diane Porter lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Diane Porter - September 10, 2019 at 10:03 AM



“ Karyn Conradson Schwartzberger lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Karyn Conradson Schwartzberger - September 09, 2019 at 09:53 PM



“ Sharon Doll sent a virtual gift in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Sharon Doll - September 09, 2019 at 02:44 PM



“ My heartfelt condolences to Terry, Janice, Ryan, Evan and Monica. Hold her memory close to your hearts.

Sharon Doll - September 09, 2019 at 02:45 PM



“ Karen Foley lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Karen Foley - September 09, 2019 at 01:24 PM



“ Terry, Monica, Janice, Ryan & Evan, Thinking of you all and the lovely lady that Mrs. Storch was. With deepest sympathy, Cathy



Cathy Couey - September 09, 2019 at 10:53 AM



“ Our sincere prayers and condolences to the Storch family, Terry, Janice and Monica for your loss. Maureen Macleod and family.

Maureen Macleod - September 08, 2019 at 08:59 PM



“ Heather Goode lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Heather Goode - September 08, 2019 at 05:59 PM



“ our thoughts are with you Terry, Janice, Monica and your grandsons
Greg and Heather Goode

Heather Goode - September 08, 2019 at 06:00 PM



“ Vern , Lynda Coate and Family



Lynda Coate - September 08, 2019 at 05:28 PM



“ To Terry, Janice, Monica and all your family,our heartfelt sympathy for the passing of Rita. So many good memories of dinner club and church when all our kids were young. You are in our hearts and prayers.
Gary, Joan & family

Gary Cooper - September 08, 2019 at 02:24 PM



“ Dear Terry and family, so very sad to hear of the brave battle and passing of Rita. Our sincere condolences, and please know that our thoughts are with you and your family. Take Care, Chris, Kristyn and family.

Chris Hall - September 08, 2019 at 01:44 AM



“ Janice, sending my heartfelt condolences to you and your family.



Debbie Greenwood - September 07, 2019 at 11:50 PM



“ Janice & Family, we're so sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathy to everyone.

The Bews Family

Rhonda Bews - September 07, 2019 at 06:36 PM



“ Terry to you and Monica and Janice and the rest of your family know what we are thinking of you and will have prayers said in our Congregation tomorrow. Jan and I have fond memories of your wedding, and other times we spent together at extended family gatherings. We pray that you might find some peace and comfort. Don and Jan Storch

DONALD STORCH - September 07, 2019 at 04:04 PM



“ Dear Terry, Monica, Janice and family.... Our deepest sympathies to you. Rita was a wonderful lady and a gracious hostess! We always loved gathering at your home for the staff functions. Hold your memories close and may they bring you some comfort during the next days, weeks and months. Sending prayers and hugs.

Reta and Dale Pickering

Reta Pickering - September 07, 2019 at 03:56 PM



“ Dear Monica, Janice, and Terry- I am so sorry to hear about Rita and I am sad for you all. I remember Rita mostly from church, and her always being most interested in what I was up to and how I was moving through life. She always made a point to talk with whenever I was home and at a service. I always appreciated that. She will be missed by many people. God Bless you.



“ Terry, Janice, Monica - Rita was such an accomplished lady, she was an inspiration to so many. We enjoyed her time as a member of Handicraft Guild. We also went to Women Canadian Club in Calgary for a time, with good visits while driving. She helped me when I was sad and grieving.
Thank you Terry for allowing me the visit with Rita so recently. And bless you for taking such good care.



Donna Downey - September 07, 2019 at 01:32 PM



“ Terry and family, So, so sorry to hear the news of Rita's passing. Thinking of you all.
Irene

Irene Montgomery - September 07, 2019 at 01:25 PM



“ Dear Terry, Janice, Ryan and Evan, Monica and family, we are saddened to hear that Rita has passed away. She had so many interests, it was rare to not see her in the community. Darlene remembers watching her face as the Highwoodshedders performed at the Lutheran church in Okotoks last fall - lots of smiles and laughter. We are so glad we shared a meal and had a visit at the Handi-Bus dinner this past January. We are thinking of you. dj

Darlene & Jim Goodwin - September 07, 2019 at 12:17 PM



“ Our deepest condolences to you Terry and all the family. Rita was such a lovely person, accomplished at so many things.

jacqueline nelson - September 07, 2019 at 11:59 AM



“ Linda Walsh lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Linda Walsh - September 07, 2019 at 11:18 AM



“ Terry,Janice,Monica,Ryan and Evan. We were so sorry to hear of Rita's passing.I will always remember her as a kind and gracious lady.Our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this very sad time of your lives.She will be missed!

Norm and Karen Guenther - September 07, 2019 at 10:50 AM



“ Terry, Janice, Monica and families- May your family know how special ‘mom’ made the rest of us feel with her smile, hard work, and can do way of making things happen. Many swim meets, club gatherings, community functions, and her unforgettable breads,
- May she rest peacefully.



karen crawford - September 07, 2019 at 10:33 AM



“ Such a classy lady & best bread making teacher I could have had. Prayers to the family!

Brian & Jo-Anne Chipchase - September 07, 2019 at 05:41 PM



“ Sheila And Lawrence Storoschuk lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Sheila and Lawrence Storoschuk - September 07, 2019 at 10:30 AM



“ Rusty & Fran Wong lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Rusty & Fran Wong - September 07, 2019 at 10:09 AM



“ Russ & Sharon Watkins lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Russ & Sharon Watkins - September 07, 2019 at 09:55 AM



“ Sheila Macklin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Sheila Macklin - September 07, 2019 at 09:37 AM



“ Irene McCrindle Richards lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Irene McCrindle Richards - September 07, 2019 at 09:31 AM



“ Our deepest condolences.

Gerri and Al Polanchek

Gerri Polanchek - September 07, 2019 at 08:32 AM



“ My deepest condolences, to Terry, Janice & Monica & families. Rita will always be remembered for her wonderful & energetic spirit, which she inspired with her “give it all” enthusiasm, for everything she did for her family, friends & community. All the very best to everyone, Bert Montgomery

Bert Montgomery - September 07, 2019 at 08:06 AM



“ Donna Swanston lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Donna Swanston - September 07, 2019 at 03:59 AM



“ My deepest condolences to Terry and the family. Rita was such a lovely person.



Anna-Marie (Aune) Plante - September 07, 2019 at 02:06 AM



“ Toni Groeneveld lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Toni Groeneveld - September 07, 2019 at 01:43 AM



“ Marcia Ayrey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Rita Esther Storch



Marcia Ayrey - September 07, 2019 at 12:13 AM



“ Thinking of you and your family.

Terina Cybulski - September 07, 2019 at 12:07 AM



“ So sorry for your loss Mr. Storch and family. Rita was always a pleasure to visit with.

Tracey Wilson - September 07, 2019 at 12:03 AM



“ My deepest condolences to your whole family. She will be missed dearly. You are all in my prayers.



Janice Danyluk - September 06, 2019 at 11:06 PM



“ Our condolences to the family. I hope sharing happy memories provide some comfort to you all.

Andrew and Rachel Moore - September 06, 2019 at 11:06 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss Mr.Storch and family.

Lesley Ewing - September 06, 2019 at 10:59 PM



“ My sincere wishes are with you all at this difficult time. May many happy memories sustain you at this time.

Connie Jewell - September 06, 2019 at 10:03 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss. Rita was a lovely lady.

Judy and Harvie Nielsen - September 06, 2019 at 05:11 PM



“ Terry and girls,
So sorry to hear this news. I loved our quick visits with Rita, her love of Vimi and quick wit with Terry made us laugh always. She will be missed, but know that our lives were better for her.

charlotte and Jeremy - September 06, 2019 at 10:01 PM



“ Terry and family
Our deepest condolences, Rita was always such a kind woman and we all had lots of laughs back in the swim club days. Our thoughts will be with you

Ev & Val

Ev Doherty - September 07, 2019 at 09:40 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear of Ritas passing. Please know that you are all in my thoughts at this difficult time.

Cheryl Suitor-Fox

Cheryl Suitor-Fox - September 07, 2019 at 12:12 PM



“ Terry and Family,
My condolences to each of you in the passing of Rita.
Evelyn Craig

Evelyn Craig - September 08, 2019 at 11:56 PM



“ Terry, please know you are in our deepest and warmest thoughts! So sorry to hear if Rita's passing.

Wayne & Linda Hampton

wayne Hampton - September 09, 2019 at 08:32 AM



“ Terry, Janice, Monica and Family:

I am fondly remembering the years of my friendship with Rita which started way back at Coakwell Moore in the early 90's. Our weekly lunch dates at her house combined with strolls to enjoy the flower gardens of High River endured for many years and she was a gracious host and kind friend. During those years I especially enjoyed receiving the email travelogues of Rita's travels with Terry and we also enjoyed many concerts together, starting with the Beneath the Arch series in Turner Valley. In memory of Rita's great enjoyment of the music Penny and I used to make, singing and harmonizing with our guitars, after Monica stopped by the store the other day to give me the sad news I picked up my guitar whenever the store was empty and sang a few of Rita's favourites. My thoughts are with you and Rita.

Vanessa Weiss

Vanessa Weiss - September 15, 2019 at 03:31 PM



“ I'd like to share a poem Rita wrote on the occasion of one of my numerous birthdays. Don't worry, it's short.

For Carla

There was a fine gal so petite
Who strolled stylishly up the main street
With a puppy named Giles
Who brought plenty of smiles
As he occupied the buggy's best seat.

Thanks, Rita, for being Rita.

carla schmidt - September 15, 2019 at 05:18 PM



“ Terry, Janice, Monica and Family, Please accept our sincere sympathy on the loss of Rita. We are thinking of you. Hugs to you all. Ross & Roberta Hazen and Family

Roberta & Ross - September 16, 2019 at 09:52 PM