



Mrs. Debra Ann Blais

August 2, 1953 - December 24, 2020

Mrs. Debra Blais, of Blackie Alberta, passed away at Bethany Riverview Care Facility in Calgary on December 24, 2020 at the age of 67 years.

Deb is survived by husband Al, son Brant (Nicole), sister Jane Brunton, brother Michael Rahn (Sandra), nephew Steven Rahn (Andrea), niece Sara McMartin (Ian), nephew Rob Brunton (Julie) and niece Kelly Brunton.

Debra was predeceased by her parents, Leda and David Rahn as well as her brother David.

Debra was born in St Catharines, Ontario and at an early age (pre-school), her parents moved to Callander, Ontario, where they owned / operated a tourist camp along Lake Nipissing. She lived there until her grade 13 graduation. Deb was a gifted student and was always an honour student throughout her school years. As well, Debra was very athletic and in her final year of high school (grade 13), she won the all-Ontario senior girls 100 meter sprint and high jumping. Deb completed her post-secondary education in nursing (graduating top of her class) and was a registered nurse for many years. Deb had an incredible thirst for knowledge and took some additional courses at York University, in order to embark on a new career with Alpha Laval in Scarborough, Ontario. This turned into a transfer to Calgary as the marketing manager for the Calgary office, where Debra designed heat exchangers for the oil and gas industry. Alpha Laval eventually closed the Calgary operation and Debra transferred her skills to pharmaceutical sales,

until their son, Brant, was born. At that point, Debra went back into nursing on a part time basis for a couple of years, eventually becoming a stay at home mom.

Deb's passion was her animals and she was very successful in showing her horse, Shokatina, in English and Western Pleasure in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Deb always had Labrador Retrievers and was passionate about obedience training with her dogs as well as field trial competitions, winning many ribbons in both categories.

Once Debra and Al had purchased their first acreage, Deb decided to extend her love of animals to include Katahdin sheep. A move to Ontario for 6 years did not stop Deb from developing a sought after breed of sheep. Her reputation in that industry made it easy to sell the flock to local ranchers, due to the move back to the Calgary area. That move to Southern Alberta prompted a new project – alpacas. Debra had an amazing connection with these animals and grew the herd to 40 head. Of course, that did not prevent Debra and Al from experiencing some wonderful trips with their horses in Kananaskis country.

Debra will be forever loved and missed.

Due to covid, no service will be held at this time. Memorial donations in Deb's honour can be made to the Alzheimer Society of Canada.

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

Tribute Wall

JB

“ Debra, we had so many wonderful years together. We spent many hours talking about our great kids and wonderful husbands and all those crazy dogs and farm animals. They all brought us a lot of joy and sweet memories.

Over the last year I have been thinking about you a lot and you have been weighing heavy on my mind.

I bought you this Black Lab stuffie to help you through some of the long more difficult days you might have. Now you can carry a picture of it into cyberspace with you, as I was never able to deliver it.

As we know Life continues on and we go forward on into the eternities. I so believe this to be true, but I am also reminded of the story you told me after your dog Hunter died. You saw her running and playing in a field, just as happy as could be.

Run free my friend, with all your animals safe at your side. Love you lots my friend. jane murdock deleff blum



Jane Blum - January 14, 2021 at 03:38 PM

PM

“ Dear Al:
My deepest sympathy on the loss of your beautiful wife, Deb. I can't imagine what you're going through. Hopefully memories of your time together will ease the pain. I always enjoyed our dealings through work, so I know she was a lucky woman to have you as her husband.
Sincerely,
Pat Meadows, Calgary

Patricia Meadows - January 14, 2021 at 01:23 PM

DC

“ Al, cherish all the special memories of Deb. She was a special person and will be missed my Friend.
Carp and Brenda

David Carpenter - January 14, 2021 at 11:52 AM

BM

“ Al, I am so sorry for your loss my friend. Please know that I am right here should you ever need to call. Deepest condolences from our family to yours.

Brett McNaueal - January 07, 2021 at 03:06 PM

CC

My sincere condolences Alain.

Carmen Chenier - January 11, 2021 at 11:31 AM

JE

“ Ooh Deb, when I am walking on the floor, I miss you elegantly walking either in sweet by and by with AI, either holding your black dog. Who doesn't miss your contagious smile, matching with your red shirt of Calgary Flames, with your well-done hair braids? I do miss the guitar played for you with grace by AI, and your grateful reception to it. Deb, your sweet memories will stay in our hearts. I believe you are resting in the Creator's endless love and in his indescribable peace.
Jean, the Chaplain



Jean - January 07, 2021 at 02:22 PM

BB

“ Words are not enough. I am reaching out to you AI with love and Prayers. One day we will sit together and you can tell me stories and we can sing some songs together again my friend. Brian

Brian Bennett - January 07, 2021 at 09:23 AM

AB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



AI Blais - January 02, 2021 at 07:56 PM

SB

“ AI; thank you so much for sharing Debra with us at Bethany. Debra had an amazing smile and a gentle spirit. I loved watching her enjoy music and walking and being free; but most of all I loved watching the love that you both had for each other. You both lit up when you saw each other and always had a twinkle in your eye when you were together. Hugs to you AI during this difficult time; know you are in my thoughts.

Stephanie Bitango

Stephanie Bitango - January 01, 2021 at 02:52 AM

BP

“ Hello AI: Having only met you through "Group Support", just over a year ago, I was saddened to learn of Deb's passing. A shock to all, to say the least. Having never met Deb, I feel as though I knew her though our conversations since we met. I hope it helps you to know that others as well as me, are with you in thought and sympathy. All the very best my new friend.

Sincerely, Bill Pallister

Bill Pallister - December 30, 2020 at 01:19 PM

BB

“ I love you Mom. I'm so proud and grateful to be your Son. I believe your energy will always guide me towards the right thing. you always encouraged me to follow my heart, to never back down in life, you led by example, your courage showed me to stand up for what is right in this world and that its never acceptable to give up on your dreams even if it might get you in trouble.

You shared with me your great personal strength, taught me to show compassion for all living things. protect those who cant protect themselves. (this was evident in your tremendous love for, and varied collection of animal companions.) :-) You are still the most intelligent person I have ever met, and probably always will be. I miss your smile and wit, but good things don't always stay put, life is constantly changing, I guess its important to stay ahead of the curb, I bet that was your plan all along.

the last two years have tested us. I cant imagine how you must have felt day after day. nothing can prepare us for these moments. that being said blessings sometimes mask themselves in tragedy.

I trust you are in a better place now, you deserve peace and although I am very sad, I also feel a remarkable sense of comfort Knowing you no longer suffer a slow version of goodbye.

Mother your great memory will never fade as you will live on and will always be apart of the man I have become.

Thank you, but never goodbye.

your Son Forever

Brant Blais.



Brant Alain Blais - December 29, 2020 at 12:26 PM

MJ

“ *Dear Alan and family,
i am so shocked and saddened to hear of Debra's passing! It was my privilege and honour to know Debra while she resided at Bethany Riverview! She was such a lovely lady, inside and out! I loved her brilliant smile and her giggle at something that struck her as being funny; she brought so much joy to all who knew her. She often walked with my Gordon, sometimes holding onto his hand or his walker - probably taking care of him. Such a sweetheart! So many happy memories; she will be greatly missed! You and your family are certainly in my prayers during this sad time. Blessings to you and yours.
Hugs,
Marilee Jasper (Gordon's wife)*

marilee jasper - December 28, 2020 at 05:41 PM

DK

“ *Oh Alan I am so terribly, terribly saddened to hear of Debra's passing.*

I will remember those "girl moments" we so often shared followed by her lovely engaging smile.

She loved you dearly, as evident in her loving gaze at you as you strolled the hallways of Riverview hand in hand.

Sing a song & play a tune for Deb, she will love it.

Take Care My Friend;

Deb Ketcheson (Bryan's wife)

Deb Ketcheson - December 28, 2020 at 02:52 PM



To our dear friend Al , although I only met Deb once when we visited you & Deb at your farm in Alberta I have fond memories of our visit & beautiful photos of you both & your alpacas . Sending you love & prayers . Beautiful tribute from your son he was loved & he loved Deb .



Jen Vachon - January 01, 2021 at 09:36 PM



I am so saddened to hear of your wife's passing Al. Your son's tribute to her was so heartfelt. My thoughts

and prayers are with you and your family. ❤️🙏

Mary Ellen Bobby (Simmons) - January 05, 2021 at 10:56 PM



Al, I never met Deb, but I can see from her smile why you loved her so much. Your devotion and dedication to her over the years was something inspiring to see, and I don't doubt she knew how lucky she was to have you as her life companion.

Leslie Alexander - January 07, 2021 at 09:01 PM