



## Mrs. Lillie Crotenko

January 24, 1918 - December 20, 2018

Quietly, with dignity and grace, Lillie (Gulak) Crotenko passed away on December 20, 2018 at the age of almost 101 years at Seasons Retirement Community, High River, Alberta.

Lillie was predeceased by her husband, Peter Crotenko, in 1992 & son-in-law, Brock Craik in 2015. She was a loving daughter, wife, mother, Nanny and Grandmama. She leaves behind a family who are grateful for the love she shared and who miss her dearly; Daughters Glori (Walt) Bardua and Sheri (Jim Derkatch); grandchildren Brad (Barbara); Darrell; Erin (Vicki); Jon (Nikki); Ashley (Derek); great grand-sons, Ben & Brock; very special nephews and nieces; & her dearest friend, Jim Nutzhorn.

Lil's sparkling personality and energy touched the lives of the many friends she held dear in Canora, Moose Jaw & High River. She will be remembered for her love and amazing spirit.

Lillie was the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal (2012) in recognition of her contributions to Canada. She was a dedicated volunteer and served on the executives of organizations, such as Canadian Red Cross, Saskatchewan Arts & Multicultural, Parkland College, Hospital Auxiliary, Library Board, United Church Presbytery, Canadian Cancer Society, United

Appeal, Beta Sigma Phi Director, Women's Missionary Society, UCW and more. Lillie volunteered hundreds of hours teaching English to new Canadians. They would come to study in her home learning to speak, count and read. She was recognized by the Province of Saskatchewan for her continuous community involvement. Lillie was enthusiastic, busy and lived life to the fullest to her last day.

Funeral and interment will take place at a later date at Canora, Saskatchewan. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Lil's name can be directed to the Canadian Red Cross.

From Proverbs 31: 25 - 29

Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
And she smiles at the future.  
She opens her mouth in wisdom,  
And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
She looks well to the ways of her household,  
And does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children rise up and bless her;  
Her husband also, and he praises her, saying:  
Many daughters have done nobly  
But you excel them all.

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

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ Sheri, Jim and family. Our deepest condolences on the passing of your Mom. Losing a Mom at any age is a tough loss.

*Denise and Merv Bunnell*

---

**Denise & Merv Bunnell** - January 22, 2019 at 06:18 PM

BB

“ Sheri, Ashley & Jon; I was so saddened to read of Lil's passing. She was wonderfully kind to Mom (Esther) in the last months of Mom's time at the Bentley. I always enjoyed visiting with her whenever I saw her. Lil's positive and happy view of life and living is an example for all of us to follow. I know you will all miss her dearly, but remember - "as long as you hold her memory close to you, she will never be gone".

*Take Care - Brenda Brodie*

---

**Brenda Lee Brodie** - January 22, 2019 at 06:17 PM

JZ

“ Sherri, Gloriann & Families;

*It was only a few days before December 20 that Lillie and I had a wonderful chat on the phone as we have done in the past so many times. We shared so many beautiful memories and looked forward to visits this summer. So sad to hear of her passing. Rest in Peace dear friend.*

*Jean Zarazun*

---

**Jean Zarazun** - January 22, 2019 at 06:15 PM

LF

“ Sherri & family, so sorry to hear your Mom passed away, you will miss her very much. My sympathy goes out to you & your loved ones.  
*Liz Franks.*

---

**Liz Franks** - January 22, 2019 at 06:13 PM

JL

“ Our deepest sympathy to Sheri and her family. Lil was a very special friend to Dad and all of us. We will miss her so very much and she will always be in our hearts.  
*Jim Nutzhorn, Janet & Gord Lucki*

---

**Janet Lucki** - January 22, 2019 at 06:12 PM

DB

“ My deepest sympathy to all of Lil's family, she was part of our Bentley Family for many years and we miss her deeply.

*Denise Buekert*

---

**Denise Buekert** - January 22, 2019 at 06:10 PM

MS

“ We will never forget this beautiful, truly outstanding lady who was loved by all who knew her. Her family and her friends were always so near and dear to her. She was an inspiration to her loving family and her treasured friends. May her beautiful soul rest in peace to which she so richly deserves.

*God Bless you Sweet Lady*

*Mary & Wally Sotski*

---

**Mary & Wally Sotski** - January 22, 2019 at 06:09 PM

TJ

“ Sheri and family - my sincere condolences on the passing of your mom /grandma. I remember the few times I met her and how lovely and friendly she was and full of fun. May your memories help you through this sad time. Terry Jago

---

**Terry Jago** - January 20, 2019 at 06:24 PM

SR

“ Sheri, Ashley Jon & Family

*Sincere Thoughts on the passing of Lillie. A very special lady always a smile-kind words-and of course her nails were always done. A life well lived.*

*Thinking of Sheri and your family in the loss of your Mom, Grandma.  
Hugs*

*Sheila Riley*

---

**Sheila Riley** - January 17, 2019 at 10:46 AM

CT

“ Dear Sheri and Family,  
Our sincere condolences to you and your family - we will be thinking of you at this difficult time.  
Sincerely,  
Charlie and Cheryl Templeton

---

**Cheryl Templeton** - January 17, 2019 at 08:38 AM

CS

“ Sheri & family,  
So sorry to read about the passing of your mom & grandma; what a special lady she must have been. A life well lived. Thinking of you all at this sad time.

*Jan & Carolyn Swanson, Moose Jaw*

---

**Carolyn Swanson** - January 16, 2019 at 03:11 PM

SL

“ Our deepest condolences Sheri and Ashley and all the family!

*Yogi Weber and Stacey Landin*

---

**stacey landin** - January 15, 2019 at 08:47 PM

GK

“ Sheri, I was so sad to read of your Mom's passing. She was such a warm and caring person and such a wonderful friend to my Mom (Eileen), at the Bentley. She will be missed and how lucky to have had a Mom, Grandma, and Great Grandma for all this time.

*Sincere sympathy from Gail Karst*

---

**Gail Karst** - January 12, 2019 at 12:35 PM

HF

“ We are so very sorry to hear of Lil's passing. May friends and family give you comfort during this very difficult time. She will be fondly remembered by everyone that had the pleasure of knowing her.

*Henry and Anne Wyonzek and family*

---

**Henry and Anne Wyonzek and Family** - January 07, 2019 at 10:44 PM

JB

“ I met your mom in January 2014 when my mom, Kay Owens, then 99, moved to the Bentley. The ladies at your mom's table invited my mom to join them since one of their group had just moved away. My mom had a good year there then passed away the following January. I remember how friendly your mom was, how beautifully she dressed, and that her jewelry matched every outfit. She looked so much younger than her years! How did these women not only survive but continue to thrive for 100+ years? We're still taking about it in our family, and you likely will too. Sincere condolences on the loss of your mom. Jolyn Brin, Regina.

---

**Jolyn Brin** - January 05, 2019 at 10:17 PM

TC

“ Sheri & family, my sincere regret about the loss of your Mom. Please feel free to use an extra bedroom that I have here in Canora when you have Lillie's interment. Love & Hugs Theresa Chabun 306-563-6424

---

**Theresa Chabun** - January 04, 2019 at 05:59 PM

GC

“ Sheri and family, so sorry to hear about your mom. My sincere sympathies, Gail Carline.

---

**Gail Carline** - January 04, 2019 at 02:19 PM

MD

“ It is with Great Sorrow that our Dearest Aunt Lil has now entered into her Eternal Home.

We will Miss her Infectious Smile, her Bubbly Personality, her Most Loving, Caring and Kind Heart, that she so Shared with us...

For several Years, I Personally was Part of the Loving Aunt Lil, Family Household while I attended Canora High School. Those Formative Years, with Glori and Sherri as my Cousin Sisters, was the Greatest Foundation that I could have received.

I am Grateful that I was Placed by God, into her Life, as her Loving Guidance, has served me for a Lifetime.

Her Spirit Lives on, in all of us!!

We will Cherish your Love forever...

Myron & Diane

---

Myron & Diane - January 04, 2019 at 12:35 PM

AW

“ Sheri and family,

So sad to hear about Lil ( my tooth fairy!). I believe she finally revealed herself to me when I was getting married. It was wonderful growing up and having such a beautiful person in my life, I have such fond memories of her and will cherish them always.

My heart goes out to you all, she will truly be missed.

Andrea ( Marchinko) Wirtz

---

Andrea Wirtz - January 04, 2019 at 10:44 AM

CO

“ Sheri, Jim, Jon, Nikki, Ashley, Derek:

*Our hearts are with you. We know how important family is to you and how much you treasured Lil throughout her long, happy, and impressive life.*

*Wilson and Carole Olive*

*<https://s3.amazonaws.com/storage.lifetributes.com/Candles/new/candle10.png>*



---

**Carole Olive** - January 02, 2019 at 07:02 PM

LO

“ Sheri and family,

*Barrie and I are so very sorry to learn of the loss of your beloved mom. We never had the chance to meet her, but I know we would have loved to know her! Both you and Jim talked of her often with a lot of love and affection. She was obviously a wonderfully loving woman and quite a character. Our hearts are with you!*

---

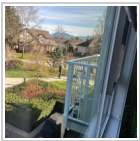
**Linda & Barrie Onofrychuk** - December 31, 2018 at 10:03 PM

DP

“ We are saddened by the news of Lils passing. So many memories of her time across the street from our house. Everything from craft classes to bake sessions Perot making her and I sharing the expertise of making apple strudel to many ladies . Taught Knitting classes Crotchet classes etc. and always so many laughs. She sponsored me to become a Beta Sigma Phi member. Learning was an ongoing mission for her and she was too happy to share her Knowledge. Can still see her challenging my son Ken to race her to the end of the block. He beat her but I still hear her say Ken your olympic material! A very classy lady and a smile that would brighten a room. Rest easy my friend. I still pass on her favorite line Del don't run any faster than you're angel can fly! Memory eternal

---

**Del Palagian** - December 31, 2018 at 01:06 PM



“ I had the great fortune to meet Nanny in September of 2017 while in Moose Jaw to introduce myself to Sheri and commiserate on the upcoming nuptials of our children. Nanny was so kind and welcoming and made a point of telling me how much she thought of her granddaughter-to-be. We discovered our individual roles related to the provincial health care setting were different but that we shared a common goal of “making a difference”. She proudly displayed her awards, certificates of recognition and crafts she made. She entertained while regaling times living in rural Sask, the special place at the lake that so many enjoyed, and the many activities she contributed to while living at The Bentley. I was struck by her perennial beauty, kindness, interest in others and the ease with which she accepted a newcomer. While I only had an opportunity to meet her once, she made a huge impact. Her legacy lives on in the many memories her family have shared with our family. I'm sure she's welcoming others to heaven and busy ensuring everyone's transition is going well! I am blessed to have met Nanny. - Lori Hutchison Hunter, Regina, SK

---

**Lori Hutchison Hunter** - December 30, 2018 at 06:30 PM

PK

“ To all of Lil’s family: I am sorry to hear of Lil’s passing. I grew up across the street from Lil, and knowing her for the next 40 years was both a privilege and a gift. I have many wonderful memories of time spent with her that I hold in a special place in my heart. She always treated me with love and kindness and always made me feel special. She was indeed a light in my life and I know that to be true of all of the lives she touched in her lifetime. God bless! 💖



---

**Patty Kolodziejski** - December 30, 2018 at 11:36 AM

IN

“ Your mother was a beautiful lady I knew during my employment at the Canora Unit Office. She was a busy and caring community worker. Many years later while visiting my family in Canora and walked through the museum at the station, I bought one of her crafts - a small "sack" of "Saskatchewan wheat" tied with a neat ribbon. It brought back wonderful memories. I think we both belonged to Beta Sigma Phi. We lived near Aldersyde for 51 years and now live in Okotoks and often visit friends in High River.

We share in your grief as we also are grieving....On December 17th our dear Granddaughter, Jesara Nichol passed away suddenly at the Lethbridge Hospital at the age of 24, from complications with pneumonia. She is the only child of our son Earle and Nancy Nichol in Calgary. I am sure the souls of your dear mother and our Jesara are at peace even as we mourn their loss.

Isabelle (Kowalchuk) Nichol.

---

**Isabelle Nichol** - December 28, 2018 at 11:56 AM

MS

“ *Michelle Smith lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Lillie Crotenko*



---

**Michelle Smith** - December 22, 2018 at 12:43 PM

MS

*Lillie was one of the sweetest, amazing ladies I have ever met. My heart breaks from this terrible loss. The earth lost a great soul.*

---

**Michelle Smith** - December 22, 2018 at 12:45 PM