



## Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson

March 24, 1936 - January 8, 2025

With great sadness the family of Phyllis Erickson announce her passing on January 8, 2025, at 88 years of age. She is survived by her sons, Randy, Michael, Brian and Steven Mitton.

She was predeceased by her father Ed Harsch; mother and stepfather Rose and John Rathgeber; brothers Harold and Leroy Harsch; adopted sister Lynn Jaquish.

With the assistance of two neighbours, Phyllis entered this world, home delivered on the farm near Carbon, Alberta on March 24, 1936. When she was 10 the family moved to a farm in the Blackie area where she lived until her passing. She was a true farm girl and had fond memories of those early years at Carbon. Even in her latter years she could recount events from there as if they happened yesterday. As a child, farm fresh eggs were a favourite and coincidentally her last breakfast at home included eggs from Carbon. Phyllis always rose early to enjoy the sunrise while having breakfast. Aside from the usual animals that would regularly pass thru, mornings would be extra special if moose or elk were spotted. She also took great pleasure in watching for songbirds and looked forward to the spring bird migration, especially the swans.

Early in life she was introduced to health care and first aid as her brother

Leroy suffered from allergies and eczema. She would help change his dressings and her mother always felt she was destined to be a nurse. Ultimately that is the path she chose and in the mid 60's began a fulfilling career nursing. Many friendships were made, fun times had, and an endless catalogue of memories were experienced at both hospitals.

Most of all, some of those friendships were so well grounded they were embraced as an extended family and the source of many treasured moments for Mom. LeeAnn Shultz; Sheri, Cory, Adam and Sarah Goodman; Mary Ellen and Brian Erdman; Pauline, Brian, Quinn, Jaycee and Cory Hawk, Jan Richardson; Blayne, Sharon, Chantal, Georgia and Emma Johnson. She always looked forward to activities with you folks and being there as your children grew.

Her neighbours, the Boudreau's, Lyle, Kathleen, Ana, Eli, Eve, Lily, John and Emily. Mom so enjoyed the visits from all the children, it really made each day special for her. We know Mom held a special place in her heart for all of you.

The family wishes to extend heartfelt appreciation and thanks to each of these people for the kindness they showed Mom over the years and in her final days. It was so comforting to know she had such caring friends.

Those closest to Phyllis will remember her for her love, devotion and loyalty, to family, friends, the land, and those who found themselves lucky enough to be in her care. She loved her life in the country, the beautiful views all around her, she understood that life is a precious gift and each day is special. She rose early to meet every day with joy and thankfulness for the life she had received.

A Celebration of Life with reception will be held on Monday, March 24, 2025, at the Heritage Inn (1104 11 Ave SE, High River, AB T1V 1P2) at 1:00 p.m. A

graveside service will be held afterward with the immediate family attending.

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

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

MAR **24**. 1:00 PM (MT)

Heritage Inn, High River  
1104 11 Ave. SE  
High River, AB (CA)

# Tribute Wall

AB

“ I only just learned of Phyllis’s passing, and wanted to acknowledge and honour the meaningful ways she helped and supported my Mom and Dad through the years. I still have vivid memories of your Grandmother, Rose, stopping in for tea. Thank you for sharing her with the wider world. I hope you can hold your memories close, and that they bring comfort.

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**Arlene Bishop** - May 17, 2025 at 11:30 AM

JB

“ The world lost a wonderful person. Your Mom was always thoughtful whether she stopped to visit or cared for us in hospital. She was a special person.



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**Judy Buchanan** - April 25, 2025 at 08:43 AM

BJ

“ Mike, Randy, Brian & Stephen,

*We were not surprised but sadden nonetheless to hear about the passing of your dear mom. I am grateful we made it out to your homestead for one last visit before she passed. She was an incredible woman who touched so many lives, and her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew her.*

*Your mom's story is one of strength, determination, and boundless love. Raising four boys as a single parent was no small feat, yet she did so with grace, courage, and a heart full of devotion. She was tough when she needed to be, kind when it mattered most, and always put her family first. Her dedication to her work as a nurse, serving others with skill and compassion, is a testament to her selflessness and character. I know my dad admired her during their time at the hospital.*

*Beyond her professional accomplishments, your mom's love for the land, the open prairie sky, and the simple, meaningful connections with family, neighbors, and friends reflected her deep and abiding spirit. She carried the values of her farm-girl upbringing into every part of her life, and those values shine brightly in you and your brothers. She gave everything she had to ensure you all were supported, loved, and cared for, no matter the challenges she faced.*

*I always felt a special connection to Phyllis. She had a way of making people feel seen, appreciated, and valued. Her warmth and kindness left an enduring impression on me, and I will always cherish the memories of her strength and humour.*

*Please know that we are holding you, your brothers, and your family in our thoughts and prayers during this incredibly challenging time. Her legacy will live on in your and your brothers the prairie family she raised and the lives she affected in the community as a care giver and friend to so many.*

*With heartfelt sympathy and love,*

*Sharon, Chantal, Georgia, Emma & of course your buddy Blayne*

*Here is a lovely poem by an Irish poet named John O'Donohue*

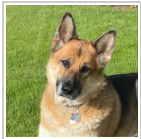
*When you lose someone you love,  
Your life becomes strange,  
The ground beneath you gets fragile,  
Your thoughts make your eyes unsure;  
And some dead echo drags your voice down  
Where words have no confidence.  
Your heart has grown heavy with loss;  
And though this loss has wounded others too,  
No one knows what has been taken from you  
When the silence of absence deepens.  
Flickers of guilt kindle regret  
For all that was left unsaid or undone.  
There are days when you wake up happy;  
Again inside the fullness of life,  
Until the moment breaks  
And you are thrown back  
Onto the black tide of loss.  
Days when you have your heart back,  
You are able to function well  
Until in the middle of work or encounter,  
Suddenly with no warning,  
You are ambushed by grief.  
It becomes hard to trust yourself.  
All you can depend on now is that  
Sorrow will remain faithful to itself.  
More than you, it knows its way  
And will find the right time  
To pull and pull the rope of grief  
Until that coiled hill of tears  
Has reduced to its last drop.  
Gradually, you will learn acquaintance  
With the invisible form of your departed;  
And, when the work of grief is done,*

*The wound of loss will heal  
And you will have learned  
To wean your eyes  
From that gap in the air  
And be able to enter the hearth  
In your soul where your loved one  
Has awaited your return  
All the time.*

*May she rest in peace.*

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**Blayne Johnson** - March 31, 2025 at 01:41 PM



“*Dear Randy, Michael, Brian and Steven,  
Our sincere sympathy to each of you. Your Mom lived her life as a  
strong, independent individual who appreciated and understood the  
beauty of nature surrounding her. So sorry for your loss.  
Grant and Sharon Cooke*

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**Sharon Cooke** - January 29, 2025 at 12:59 PM

PB

“*Phyllis had such a warm and playful spirit. I'll always remember her  
giving my wife and me yoyos as gifts—it was such a thoughtful and  
funny gesture. She'll be deeply missed.*

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**Paul Blayney** - January 25, 2025 at 12:48 AM

DM

“*Drew McCredie*

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**Drew McCredie** - January 24, 2025 at 08:09 PM

BE

“ I was sad to hear of the passing of Phyllis. She spent some time caring for my Grandmother Betty Erickson up until her death in 1977. From then on she and my Grandfather Morris Erickson were married and settled in Blackie. I have very good memories of visiting there as a child with my brother Kenneth. Phyllis was exceptionally good to us kids and we regret the circumstances that caused our families to part ways . I will cherish the memories and continue to think very fondly of her . RIP ❤️

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**Brett Erickson** - January 24, 2025 at 08:05 PM

SE

“ Susan Eamor lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson



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**Susan Eamor** - January 22, 2025 at 03:11 PM

DL

“ Dianne Liddell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson



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**Dianne Liddell** - January 18, 2025 at 02:45 PM

GL

“ Gail Lewis lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson



Gail Lewis - January 15, 2025 at 10:29 PM

RI

“ Randy And Carrie Irwin lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson



Randy and Carrie Irwin - January 15, 2025 at 03:23 PM

PM

“ Pat And Colleen Mastel lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson



Pat and Colleen Mastel - January 15, 2025 at 03:02 PM

RR

“ Roberta And Ross lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson



Roberta and Ross - January 15, 2025 at 12:10 PM

CC

“ *Cathy Couey lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson*



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**Cathy Couey** - January 15, 2025 at 10:32 AM

JR

“ *So sad to hear about your loss. Deepest condolences from the Robins family.*



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**Jim Robins** - January 14, 2025 at 08:42 PM

FR

“ *Fran Randle lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson*



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**Fran Randle** - January 13, 2025 at 10:50 PM

AR

“ *Ann Ryan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson*



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**Ann Ryan** - January 13, 2025 at 08:01 PM

LM

“ *Lloyd & Nancy MacKillop lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson*



Lloyd & Nancy MacKillop - January 13, 2025 at 06:13 PM

BW

“ *Bill And Sharon Wegener lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson*



Bill and Sharon Wegener - January 11, 2025 at 11:36 AM

MK

“ *We are so sorry for the loss of your Mom. She was a strong, kind and beautiful lady. She will be missed.*



Mike & Cathy Kendal - January 10, 2025 at 05:26 PM

 LYLE REEVES  
FUNERALS

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Lyle Reeves Funerals - January 10, 2025 at 04:44 PM

DM

“ *Debbie Merckx lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson*



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**Debbie Merckx** - January 10, 2025 at 03:46 PM

JR

“ *What a lovely picture of this kind lady. Lots of memories from working together at the hospital. Condolences to all her knew this special woman. RIP*



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**Jan Richardson** - January 10, 2025 at 02:26 PM

RW

“ *Richard Wakeford lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson*



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**richard wakeford** - January 10, 2025 at 02:21 PM

SC

“ *I have many fond memories of working with Phyllis, a very kind thoughtful lady  
RIP friend*

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**sharon campbell** - January 09, 2025 at 09:23 PM

MC

“ *MaryLou Carleton lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson*



MaryLou Carleton - January 09, 2025 at 09:05 PM

MC

*I have many fond memories of working with Phyllis I will always remember the healthy foods she brought me .She wasn't too keen on my snacks*

MaryLou Carleton - January 09, 2025 at 09:08 PM

JB

“ *Judy Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson*



Judy Buchanan - January 09, 2025 at 06:20 PM

JB

*Such a wonderful person. Rest in peace.*

Judy Buchanan - January 09, 2025 at 06:22 PM

SD

“ *Sheri D lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis Janette Erickson*



Sheri D - January 09, 2025 at 05:03 PM