



Mrs. Shirley Edra Evans

September 12, 1929 - September 8, 2025

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved mom, Shirley Evans (Best), on September 8, 2025, at the Oilfields General Hospital in Diamond Valley, Alberta—just a few days shy of her 96th birthday.

Shirley was born on September 12, 1929, in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba, to Lorna and Gilbert (“Buzz”) Best. After graduating high school, she completed a secretarial certificate in Dauphin, Manitoba, and worked until she was old enough to enroll in nursing school at the age of 19. She graduated from the Metropolitan School of Nursing in Kitchener, Ontario, in 1951.

Shirley began her nursing career in Ontario and Manitoba before accepting a position at the Crippled Children’s Hospital (now the Alberta Children’s Hospital) in Calgary. It was there she discovered her true passion as a scrub nurse in the operating room, a role she later continued at the Calgary General Hospital.

After moving to Calgary her love of horseback riding led her to board her horse, Ginger, in the Red Deer Lake area. It was through friends in that community that she was invited to a local dance—where she met the love of her life, Jack Evans. They married in November 1956 and started their life together on a farm just north of the Evans family homestead, where Mom became a farmer’s wife. Driving grain trucks, checking cattle and growing the most amazing garden. This is where their four children: Lorna, Margaret, John

(Theresa), and Joan were born. In 1967, the family moved back to the Evans family farm, where they spent many more joyful years surrounded by close friends and neighbors in the Red Deer Lake and DeWinton areas.

After Jack's passing in 2000 and the eventual sale of the farm, Shirley moved to Black Diamond in 2009. There, she found a new and vibrant community of friends. We often joked that she had a more active social life than the rest of us!

Shirley cherished her grandchildren: Allison, Amy, Daniel (Marnei), Chelsea, Ethan, Sienna, Ben, Emily, Owen, Cora-Lynn, and Keaton. She also had the joy of welcoming eight great-grandchildren: Aden, Esperanza, Damien, Zoe, Kaia, Joshua, Aubrey, and Oliver—each visit from them brought her great happiness.

Shirley is survived by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, as well as her loving brother, Warren Best, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Our family extends heartfelt thanks to the staff at Oilfields General Hospital and the Diamond Valley Home Care Team for their exceptional care and compassion. We are truly grateful to each and every one of you.

In keeping with Shirley's wishes, there will be no formal service. What she loved most was sitting down with friends and family for a cup of coffee and conversation. To honour her memory, we invite all who knew her to join us. Come and share a cup of coffee or tea, enjoy a sweet treat, and celebrate Shirley's life through stories, laughter, and togetherness—just as she would have wanted.

A Final Coffee with Shirley will be held at the Griffith Center, 122 Government Rd S, Diamond Valley, AB on Tuesday, September 16th from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

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

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Reception

SEP **16.** 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (MT)

Griffiths Centre
122 Government Road
Diamond Valley, AB T0L 0H0 (CA)

Tribute Wall

BB

“ *May your cherished memories of your mother, grandmother and great grandmother bring you comfort during this time of sorrow. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

Brent, Kate and Ben Bamford

Brent Bamford - September 16, 2025 at 01:30 PM

IS

“ *Such a wonderful lady! Think of you all!*

Ian , Julie, Jada , Angus Sandilands

Ian Sandilands - September 15, 2025 at 07:39 PM

SL

“ *Our sincere sympathy to the Evans family on the loss of their dear Mother, Grandmother and Great Grandmother. We will miss her cheerful phone calls at Christmas keeping us up to date on the family news.*

*Love to you all,
The Hunt Family Cousins*

Sharon Lashmar - September 13, 2025 at 03:16 PM

ES

“ *So sorry to hear of Shirleys passing. She was a lovely and generous lady. We always enjoyed our visits. She will be so missed by family and friends. Ernie and Irene Smith*

Ernie and Irene Smith - September 11, 2025 at 07:59 PM

PA

“ *Very sorry for your loss. My deepest condolences to John and family.*

Paul & Jasmine

Paul Abrams - September 10, 2025 at 12:18 PM

CN

“ *Sincere sympathy to all of the Evan's Family.*
🌻 *Cyril & Bev Norrie*



Cyril and Bev Norrie - September 09, 2025 at 10:11 PM

RH

“ *Going down the back road to visit Margaret for a sleepover or play date was always an experience for me. From slipping in a wet cow pie to running after the chicken heading to the freezer was now a great memory. I loved Jack and Shirley and you guys. Watching Star Trek with the family was the best. You guys had the best childhood and wonderful parents. Please remember the love and share a funny memories with each other.*

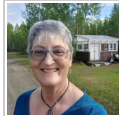
Ruth Hansford - September 09, 2025 at 07:12 PM

SS

Being told that I was going to get worms if I ate a raw potatoe, was part of farm life this 'City Slicker' had to learn. The excitement of an electrical storm causing the party line wall phone to catch fire. Being wrapped in a blanket and riding in the back of a truck after slipping into water at the bottom of the turkey pen. The wonders of rolling cigarettes on a machine, blowing smoke rings which I had never seen before. Having A&W root beer at the picnic spot by the creek on a summer afternoon. The excitement of going to the farm and a warm hello when we got there. All the best memories, brought to us by Mr and Mrs Evans (Jack and Shirley).

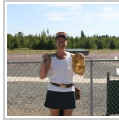
Sam Stephenson

Sam Stephenson - September 09, 2025 at 09:05 PM



I just remember always being comfortable at their home. She was very kind. I'm sorry for your loss.

Lelah Bruce - September 09, 2025 at 10:16 PM



Going to "the farm" was the best thing in the world! Driving the tractor with Jack, milking cows, feeding chickens, going for picnics and swimming at the creek. We were always welcomed and enveloped into the family.

Lisa Cunningham - September 10, 2025 at 03:04 PM