



**FRIESEN,
Martha Alma
(Dick)**

Aug. 23, 1931 - May 7, 2024

Martha Alma was born on August 23, 1931, at Lanigan, Saskatchewan to John and Helen Dick. She attended school in Lanigan. She moved to Drake with her family in the early 1940s. Mom was baptized upon confession of her faith on June 27, 1948. On October 12, 1950, Martha married George

Friesen, and they lived on the homestead farm with George's brother, David. They were blessed with three children: Shirley, Doug and Shelly.

Before Mom married, she worked at one of the three grocery stores in Drake, which was owned by Sylvester Funk. Mom enjoyed working there and even in her later years now, she talked about how much she enjoyed working there. She said that Sylvester used to compliment her on how nicely she displayed the fruits and vegetables. Mom also talked about a fellow who would come into the store and sit on a stool and eat cookies. She said, "I married that man".

When Mom lived on the farm, she became a farmer's wife and homemaker. She was such a good cook and a great baker. We looked forward to her Sunday roast chicken dinners. Extended family and friends also enjoyed Mom's cooking, and Mom had no problem putting a meal together which everyone enjoyed. Mom was also a very good seamstress. She sewed a lot of Shirley's clothes as well as her own.

During harvest time, there were many times when Mom would cook a big meal and take it to Dad, Uncle Dave and Uncle Abe out in the fields. As a kid, eating a meal out in the field with them was a novelty.

Mom had a large garden. When it was pea or corn picking time, she used to get Grandma Dick to come out to the farm to help shell peas and husk corn. Mom did a lot of canning. She made many quarts of dill pickles and in fact, one year she made over 100 quarts of dill pickles from the cucumber patch that always did well.

Mom loved flowers and enjoyed receiving them for birthdays and Mother's Day. She always had beautiful flowers growing in her garden and flower beds around the house.

In her spare time, she enjoyed embroidering, cross stitch and crocheting. We all have a piece of Mom's cross stitch, crocheted afghans, tea towels and pillowcases that she embroidered.

Mom was also a gifted singer. She sang many solos for weddings. She also sang in a trio with her sister, Margaret, and her friend, Eleanor Schmidt. Even living in the care home, she still had her singing voice, and she would sing along in the church services, and sing along with the choirs that came to perform for the home.

Mom enjoyed sports. Mom and Dad would often watch a ball or hockey game or a curling game at night on television before bed. They would also travel to many towns to watch senior hockey

or baseball games. They especially enjoyed watching and cheering Doug on when he played with the Drake Canucks and the Lockwood Braves. Even now she liked listening to Blue Jays' games, hockey and curling. Curling was Mom's favourite pastime in the winter. She and Dad curled together, and then Mom had her own ladies' team. In her younger years she enjoyed playing softball.

She looked forward to her yearly camping and fishing trips with close friends, Garth and Debbie Bloomquist. She and Dad also enjoyed playing cards with numerous friends.

Shopping was something that Mom loved to do. She loved to buy new clothes and shoes because she took pride in how she looked and dressed. A shopping trip was at the top of the list of things to do when she was visiting her daughters.

Supporting their grandchildren in their activities, whether it was playing ball, hockey, dance or graduation music recitals, was a highlight for them. The grandkids also enjoyed their time on the farm in the summer and setting their feet under Grandma's table. Grandma's chocolate cake was a big hit. Mom was thrilled to become a grandma to her five grandchildren, Andrew, Katherine, Melanie, Chantel and Evan, and great-grandma to her 10 great-grandchildren: Brooklyn, Meadow, Keira, Logan, Brenna, Emma, Brianna, Christopher, Gavin and Grace.

After dad passed away in 2011, Mom stayed on the farm until May 18th, 2013, when she then moved into a condo in Drake. On August 21st, 2015, Mom moved into Orange Memories Care Home in Rosetown.

Mom leaves to mourn her children and their families: Shirley, Melanie (Jonathan), Christopher; Doug (Angela), Andrew (Andrya) Brooklyn and Meadow; Katherine (Scott) Emma and Brianna; Shelly (Ken) Chantel (Kiel) Keira, Logan and Brenna; Evan (Danielle), Gavin and Grace. She also leaves to mourn her sister Margaret, brothers, John (Helen) and Henry, and many nieces and nephews.

Mom is predeceased by her parents, John and Helen Dick, her husband, George, brother-in-law, David, father-in-law and mother-in-law, Jacob and Katherine Friesen, as well as the Friesen siblings and their spouses; brother Abe and his wife Eva, sister Mary and her husband, Corenlus, brother-in-law Alex, sister-in-law Rose, three nephews, one niece and one nephew through marriage.

In our phone calls or visits she was always assuring us that she felt good, and that as long as she could stay healthy, that was the main thing. She also felt that she was in the right place in the Orange Memories Care Home. The workers looked after her well, and she had good meals there. We, as a family, were also grateful for this.

Mom, your mind is now clear, and you have your eyesight again. We were blessed to have such a loving, caring mom, grandma and great-grandma. We love you and will miss you.

A celebration of Martha's life was held on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at the North Star Mennonite Church in Drake, Sask.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Martha may be made to Orange Memories Care Home Activity Fund, Box 2247, Rosetown, Sask. S0L 2V0.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Shanidar Funeral Services.