Helen Maxine Colwell

DECEMBER 18, 2020

Helen Maxine Colwell passed away peacefully on Friday, December 18th, 2020 at the Red Deer Regional Hospital at the age of 85. Helen was born July 11th, 1935 in the Willowdale District of Alberta and was the youngest of 7 girls.

During her youth, Helen went to the University of Alberta to become a teacher and afterwards moved with her husband William “Bill” Colwell and their two children Gayle and Jim to Sunset Prairie, BC. Helen worked at the local school and at home on the farm and spent as much time as she could gardening and tending to her beautiful flower beds. On top of gardening, Helen loved to have company, visit with neighbours, and was passionate about teaching children and helping them grow.

Helen is survived by her daughter, Gayle; grandchildren, Maxine, Bryan and Maegann; great-grandchildren, Tristan and Aiden; sibling, Mary and numerous nieces and nephews.

Helen was predeceased by her husband, Bill; her son, Jim; her sister,s Peggy, Irene, Mae, Shirley, and Doris; and her son-in-law, Jim Jaworski.
In respect to the current restrictions, when family and friends can come together safely a celebration of Helen’s life will take place in Red Deer and Helen will be laid to rest with Bill and Jim in Sunset Prairie.

Messages of Condolence

So sorry for your loss.

— Rhonda Kirtzinger

So sorry to hear of your moms passing. I have fond memories growing up of your parents
Especially her being my grade 2 teacher at Macleod school
Sending hugs to you all♥

— Tannia Nichols

On behalf of the Kirtzinger children, all of whom were blessed with the guidance and teaching from Mrs. Colwell; our neighbour and family friend, we send our heart felt condolences on her passing. May the Angels of Comfort be with you all.

— Kelli Kirtzinger

My condolences to the family. I have fond memories of Helen when we taught together out at McLeod. I was very new to the teaching profession and she always made me feel welcome in the school.

— Shanon Graham

My sincere sympathy to all family and friends. She loved life and all it had to offer. It still does not seem real that she is gone from our neighbourhood and won't be coming back. We will miss her.

— Molly Nesom

A wonderful lady & we were privileged to have met her & enjoyed the sunshine of Mexican shores with her. Rest In Peace Helen xox

— Jo & Kelly

I thought the world of that tough ol gal. She was funny, bright and interesting. It was a honor Helen. Thank you for letting me share a very small part in your journey.

— Donna

Condolences to Helen’s family. I remember meeting Helen as she was a primary teacher in my children’s school as I was completing my teacher training. I appreciated her skill and experience and the conversations we had about teaching and rural life. So sorry for your loss.

— Linda Knutsen

We were so sorry to learn of Helen’s passing. As neighbors we shared garden produce, food and so many old Red Deer memories. Her sister Doris worked for our family and Helen and I shared so many stories of Red Deer in the olden days. We will miss her so very much. Our thoughts and prayers are with all her family.
Heather Parsons, Doug Sharp

— Heather Parsons, Doug Sharp

I am sending my condolences on the passing of both Bill and Helen. I hope a little late might be considered better than not at all. I intended to contact the family a few years ago about a picture to two of the good old days when The Colewell’s attended the Cattlemen’s dances at Fort St John. They always sponsored a door prize on behalf of their Charolais cattle business.
Fondly remembered.

— Grace Pearson

Time passes. Condolences to Gayle. Still miss Jim and now your folks. Best wishes and carry the torch. Ej

— Eric Jorgensen

Alternatives
FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES

https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/colwell-helen-maxine

Printed on October 11, 2026