



**ALLIN,  
Rita M.  
(nee Balogh)  
Oct. 18, 1955 -  
Dec. 17, 2023**

In loving memory of our wife, mom, grandma, and great-grandma Rita Magdolene Allin, who gained angel wings on December 17, 2023. Rita was surrounded by her family and passed away peacefully.

Our mother Rita was one of the kindest people to ever walk this earth and we were blessed to have her as the head of our family. Rita's love and kindness was bestowed upon her family and extended to every towns person or stranger she ever met. There wasn't a day where Rita didn't proudly talk about her family at work, or her coworkers and the folks she visited in town at home. Rita was smart and hard-working with the motto "just do it, then it's done". Rita had a great heart and wanted success for everyone. Rita wanted people to take care of themselves and others, to be good, and to live in peace. Rita loved to care for others, especially the "littles and the elderly", she asserted that "old people and young people want the same things; good food, someone to talk to, someone to be there for them, and someone to hold their hand". Good food was Rita's greatest pride, everything that came from her kitchens was made with care. Everything that came from her kitchens tasted amazing. And, there was nothing better than one of her fresh baked hot out of the oven buns.

Rita was born on October 18, 1955, in Saskatoon, Sask. at St. Paul's Hospital. Her mother took the train to Saskatoon two weeks before her due date to ensure she was at the hospital in time. Rita grew up on her parent's farm, which is just one mile north of the Allin family farm. Early in her life Rita learned to cook on a wood stove, there wasn't power at her farm until 1963. When the power was brought in, she said it was good for many things, but her mother had to learn how to cook on the electric stove, and unfortunately soon after, the honeybees left the attic. Rita loved telling stories about growing up on the farm in the bush, stories of how the farm provided them with all their food and needs, stories including how proud she was of her parents or how much fun she had with her siblings and cousins.

Rita started school in Plunkett, Sask. and attended school there until her family moved to Watrous, Sask. in 1967, during grade 7. Rita completed school in Watrous with her favourite subject being Home Economics. She said she did as much or more teaching than learning in that class, with her teacher often telling classmates to ask Rita. She enjoyed curling and badminton during this time. After high school, Rita went on to complete a nutrition course through the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology.

During high school when Rita was in grade 10, she met her brother's best friend Ivan. Rita and Ivan's first date was on November 26, 1970, they attended Romeo and Juliet at the Watrous theatre. Ivan asked for Rita's hand in marriage during December of the year she was in grade 12. Rita had two goals in high school; marry Ivan and attend cooking school, she accomplished both. They were married on June 23, 1973. Rita and Ivan went on to have four children, Dawn Rae, Fawne Ivy, Anthony Ivan, and Ambrose Merle. With Ivan, Rita lived the rest of her life on the farm north of Little Manitou Lake. At the farm she enjoyed growing a garden large enough to feed the entire family with beautiful flower beds intertwined throughout it and around the yard. Together they created a welcom-

ing environment for one and all, the farm, a great place to be when there is growing up to be done. Rita loved it there. Ivan and Rita celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends at the farm during the summer of 2023.

Rita said she was "blessed with early grandchildren" the first two arriving when she was 37 years old, followed by seven more. Evan, Kyle, Cody, Kiara, Shelby, Sawyer, Griffin, Nina, and Tucker; each of them assigned a number, each of them a true blessing. Rita also experienced the joy of great-grandchildren Lorraine, Scarlett and Isla blessed her life. Every family member has been gifted a quilt sewn by Rita, and to her family's surprise she left behind a box of quilts for great-grandchildren yet to arrive. Rita was a very proud wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who gave her all to her family.

Rita had a career she loved, she got to cook, care for others, and work with great people. Rita started out in the health region at the Manitou Lodge as an Activity Recreation Director. It wasn't long after that she took a job at the Watrous Hospital as the Head Cook. Rita loved to provide a home-cooked from scratch type meal for residents. Rita enjoyed creating the "good food", but enjoyed delivering the meals to residents and the conversations that took place at these times even more. Rita shared when working at the hospital she had a goal for herself to "make one unhappy resident happy everyday". Rita enjoyed this work so much that after retiring she got hired back on as a casual employee so she could continue to cook and care for people. Rita worked at the hospital for as long as she could, her last shift mere weeks before her passing. Along with her career at the hospital, Rita and her best friend started "Down off the Farm Catering" a tremendously successful catering business. They catered together with friends and family to groups of 20 to 30 people mainly, but also catered to larger events, the largest being a home-cooked meal for 1,100 people. Fresh baked buns and stuffed chicken breasts were a staple in the 10 years she catered. Along with her career Rita was also a proud farm wife from the day she married on. She drove grain truck, drove tractor, worked with, and cared for the animals especially the family rough collies, and managed any other farm task thrown her way. Somehow while working at the hospital, catering and on farm duties she ensured there would be three meals a day at the farm. These meals were always homegrown and were always phenomenal.

Rita was predeceased by her son Anthony Allin, her sister Faye Marta, her brother David Balogh, her parents Ambrose and Elizabeth Balogh, her father and mother-in-law Merle and Shirley Allin and her son-in-law Dean Stacey.

Rita is survived by her husband Ivan Allin; children Dawn Stacey (Kris), Fawne Inkster, Ambrose Allin (Lindsay), daughter-in-law Juanita Allin (Anthony); grandchildren Evan (Kiana), Kyle, Cody, Kiara (Jaise), Shelby, Sawyer, Griffin, Nina, Tucker; great-grandchildren Lorraine and Scarlett Inkster, Isla and Baby Currie. She is also survived by her sister Jean Hibbert (Garth), uncles and aunts, cousins, in-laws, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life is being planned for June 23, 2024. It will take place at the Allin farm north of Little Manitou Lake.

Memorial donations directed to Manitou Lodge Activity Department would be appreciated.

To leave online condolences, tributes or to make a donation, please visit <https://fotheringham-mcdougall.com/>

  
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