



Norma Jean Gilchrist-Dobson



Norma Jean Gilchrist-Dobson, 79, of Upper Dyke, Kings County, formerly of Halifax, passed away Wednesday, September 19, 2007 in the Valley Regional Hospital, Kentville.

We remember our mother as an extraordinary grandmother, lining up to get multiple copies of the latest Harry Potter for her grandchildren, making her famous Hello Dolly Squares and for being a remarkably accomplished woman.

Norma Jean Gilchrist was born on the Alberta prairies in 1928 and educated in a one-room school. She moved on to a nursing career in Calgary and Vancouver before settling in Riverview, New Brunswick as a newlywed in 1951. She would say her biggest achievement was her four children. We were the lucky recipients of her selfless devotion, her unwavering support and interest in all we did.

However, we remember with pride her many other achievements, her 15-year involvement in the Guiding movement, her service on the boards of the Moncton Regional Library and School of Nursing, her post-children academic record, first an Honours BA in English from Mount Allison and subsequent Masters degrees in Library Service and Theology, the latter obtained while she was working full-time as a librarian at the Atlantic School of Theology. Her belief in and support of the United Church began in Castor, Alberta, continued in Riverview and then for the past 20 years at St. Andrews United in Halifax. Her only vice was her over-fondness of acquiring books for herself – and her grandchildren – preferably hardcover and signed by the author at a reading, and purchased from Frog Hollow or Woozles.

She was pre-deceased by her parents, Don and Lela (Greenwalt) Gilchrist and her brother, Don. She will be missed by her sister, Gayle, Calgary and brother, Garry (Ellie) Victoria, British Columbia; her children, Debby Dobson (Ed Hall), Upper Dyke; Becky Dobson (Jeffrey Smith), Halifax; Melanie Dobson (Graeme Roker), Halifax; Kim Dobson (Ramona Kraemer), Georgetown, Ontario; nine grandchildren Karen, Esther, Alex, Christopher, Sarah, Emily, Adam, Patrick and Zac; great-grandson, Natseze and the many others she mothered over the years but especially John Sutcliffe and Evelyn Sutton and her honorary grandchildren, James and Ellen.

Cremation has taken place under the direction of the White Family Funeral Home, Kentville and there will be no visitation by family request. A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. Monday, October 1, 2007 in St. Andrews United Church, corner of Robie and Coburg, Halifax, with a reception to follow in the church hall. Donations in memory may be made to the charity of your choice. On-line inquiries and condolences may be directed to www.whitefamilyfuneralhome.com. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the White Family Funeral Home, Kentville.