

OBITUARY



**SAWATZKY,
Ruth
December 16,
1938 - June 4,
2026**

Ruth Sawatzky passed away peacefully at the Watrous Hospital on June 4th, 2026, at the age of 87, lovingly sur-

rounded by dear friends and comforted by the prayers of her pastor.

Ruth was born on December 16, 1938 on the family farm near Guernsey, Saskatchewan. She is survived by her stepdaughter Wendy Jouan and stepson Wesley (Laurel) Sawatzky, step-grandchildren Nastassia (Bryan), Katherine, and Jared, and step-great-grandchildren Tristan and Abigail. She is also survived by brother-in-law Peter Sawatzky, sister-in-law Elaine Snider, nieces Corinne Snider (Alain Caissie) and Carla Snider, and great-nieces Anik Caissie and Elise Caissie. She will be deeply missed by her many cousins, close friends, and church community. Ruth was predeceased by her parents Elmer and Bertha Snider, brothers Boyd and Leslie Snider, and Jacob Sawatzky, her husband of 43 years.

Ruth was welcomed into the world by her Grandma Bowman, who served as the midwife at her birth. She spent her childhood in a two room farmhouse her father built and her mother lovingly filled with warmth and made into a home. Growing up on a busy farm family, Ruth carried many responsibilities, among them the daily task of milking the family's cows. Family gatherings were spent with nearby Deckert and Bowman cousins. The Deckert girls filled in as sisters to Ruth, and these relationships re-

mained strong throughout Ruth's life.

Ruth completed her early education at the one room Waterloo School before pursuing nurses' training at the Royal Alexandra Hospital School of Nursing in Edmonton, Alberta. She graduated as a Registered Nurse. Early in her nursing career, she answered a call to serve in Colombia, spending three years sharing her medical expertise, and her desire to help where she could. Upon returning to Canada, Ruth spent many years in the Surgical Department before transitioning to Long Term Care, and, in time, served as Executive Director of the Home Care District until her retirement. Her time in that role resulted in many enduring contributions to the community. Ruth treasured the many dedicated health care professionals that she had the honour of knowing and working with.

It was while working at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon that she met her future husband, Jake. Together, they built a life filled with laughter, a shared zest for discovering new places, and many memorable travels — from RV trips to the mountains and Texas, to cruises through the Caribbean, Mexico, California, Alaska, Ukraine, Hawaii and Germany to name a few. Travel also included visiting the many friends and family she and Jake had throughout Canada and beyond.

Ruth valued her friends and family. She found joy in small adventures: ice cream outings, a favourite Chinese meal, trips to the beach or Danceland, and drives through the countryside. In her later years, she particularly cherished phone calls and visits. Ruth would light up knowing you were coming, and listened with a rare attentiveness. Her visits from extended family were something she cherished, and her door was always open. She delighted in children and young people, and loved watching people grow and discover who and what they were meant to do while on this earth. Ruth also had a strong passion for reading and could easily read one or two novels a week.

Ruth's faith was integral. Ruth shared her time and generous spirit freely, supporting a variety of non-profit organizations and causes. Church was important. She was actively involved in various church communities throughout her life. Even when health precluded her from attending services, Ruth spoke of the opportunities to connect with her church family. She was proud to be known as the oldest member of her congregation.

Ruth was a strong and independent woman who transitioned from a career in health care to become an advocate and caregiver for her parents and husband in his later years. Ruth was grateful for the support she received as she faced her own health challenges, with her dear friends Cindy Mclean, Pat Shantz and Jadah Mensch by her side. Ruth often spoke of how blessed she was. She had a multitude of close friends that became such a support circle for her physically, emotionally and spiritually. The family is grateful for the compassionate care Ruth received, most especially during her final days.

Cremation has taken place. A service to celebrate Ruth's life will be held at Philadelphia Mennonite Brethren Church on Saturday, July 18, 2026 at 10 a.m. A reception and time of sharing will follow at the church.

In lieu of flowers or condolences for the family, donations can be made to Manitou Lodge Recreation/Activities Department, Winston High School Breakfast for Learning and Watrous Elementary School Breakfast Program, MCC Community Gift and Thrift in Lanigan or a charity of your choosing may be arranged through the funeral home at 306-946-3334 or at www.watrous-funeralhome.ca