

Fran Maddia

Fran and her husband, Jack, were business owners in Fort Qu'Appelle. In the mid-50s, they built and ran Scenic Service, where they both worked hard to make the business a success. Today, the local A+W is in that location. Fran has many fond memories of working at "Scenic". She laughs about the time when a travelling salesman, who would come in once a year, wanted to pay for a 10-cent cup of coffee with a \$100 bill. Fran must have thought for a long while about how to, teasingly, respond to this, because the next year when he returned, she handed him his change in pennies, which she had ready. I would love to have been there to see his reaction at that moment! That is such a cute story, Fran!

Jack was mayor in both Fort Qu'Appelle and Indian Head, so together they enjoyed many local, district and provincial functions with these responsibilities. Fran worked at many jobs, over the years: Lebret Residential School, CIBC, Bert Fox Composite High School, Department of Indian Affairs, Fuller Ford car dealership and the Indian Head tree nursery (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration – PFRA). After she retired from PFRA, she and several ladies from Indian Head made time for many enjoyable excursions, such as the Hutterite farm and various teahouses. They also celebrated locally with progressive dinners, Christmas dinners and many other good times together. They regularly went for walks and would meet up at the Voyageur for coffee.

Fran and her sister, grew up in Plato, SK, south of Rosetown, where her parents owned the General Store. She attended the local school from Grades 1 – 8 and Grades 9 – 12 in Saskatoon. After high school, she enrolled at Success Business College. "It was hard," she tells me. "I took shorthand, bookkeeping and typing." Fran's efforts and education were soon rewarded as she was employed in the offices of Dr. Ferguson and Dr. Bouton.

Fran and Jack met on Labour Day weekend in 1950 in Moose Jaw, while they were both working on the TB X-Ray van. Jack asked her out to a movie that weekend and that was the beginning of a long-lasting love. They were engaged on Thanksgiving that same year and married on March 3, 1951. Jack passed away just three years ago, but they enjoyed 67 years together. They have three children, Donnie, Sarah and Richard, as well as five grandchildren and seven

great-grandchildren. Fran is very proud of all of them and is so happy that they all are doing well in life. Fran, your children appreciate the values and lessons that you and Jack have taught them: to treat others with dignity and respect, to have realistic expectations and set goals, to be community minded and give back to the community. “We watched our Dad and Mom work hard to provide for their family but to also pursue their interests with a passion. While humbly contributing, unexpected recognition and rewards will follow.”

Family trips were always fun, whether it was camping at Valley Centre for the summer, a road trip to Ontario, or spending Christmas in North Vancouver. “When the children were younger, the family frequently went on car rides around Fort Qu’Appelle. Towards the end of the ride, Mom would always suggest that we go for a CB. We kids figured it out, once in school, that that meant Chocolate Bar. So, we always ended up stopping at Brinkworth’s Snack Bar... for a chocolate bar or ice cream.”

Fran enjoys watching curling, Rider games and baseball games. She enjoyed doing petit point, an intricate and very fine type of needlework. A couple pieces that she’s done are hanging in her room at William Albert House. It is wonderful to see the beautiful work you’ve done, Fran! Her children have been lovingly gifted with her samples of her needlework creations. Her family tells me that Fran was a great cook, but that she loves going out for meals, too. (Don’t we all? 😊) Recently, she especially took pleasure in preparing appetizers for Happy Hour with her friends at Marion Grande, in Regina.

Fran, what a pleasure it is to get to know you and welcome you into this William Albert House family. We appreciate your kindness, thoughtfulness and lovely smile. We love you!