



Hemauer Funeral Home, The Pas, Manitoba

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Our gentle and kind hearted mother Barbara was born in Barrier, Saskatchewan on January 10, 1931. Her parents are the late Carrie Buck (nee Young) and Alfred Buck.

At Barrier, they built their own home with logs and mud. They lived off the land with periodic trips to The Pas for essential supplies. Our mom's strong and loving upbringing became important to her endurance when she went out on her own.

At the age of 18 years, our mom left Barrier for the big lights of The Pas after her dad tried to arrange marry her to a fellow from Cumberland House SK. Our mom had no formal education and as such took on labourer type work to survive including dishwasher, cleaning homes and nurses aide at the St. Anthony's Hospital. Mom was grateful to Christie and Joe Jebb, and granny Annie Jebb for taking her in and providing support in her new life.

Although our mom could not read and write English, her knowledge in being able to read syllabics became one of her greatest strengths. Our mom had great faith in Kisa Munito and reading the bible in syllabics brought her comfort and solace.

Our mom met and married Lazarus "Trapper" Constant in 1962. Together they raised nine children: Arnold, Alex, Primrose, Pauline, Solomon, Beverly, Patrick, Wally and Amelia. Throughout their married years, our mom and dad welcomed other children that needed a home be it short term or long term. Our mom used to say "my granny told me to help children that had no parents".

As youngsters, if we wanted a little bit of spending money, we had to accompany our mother to various labourer jobs and work alongside her. At an early age, we learned strong work ethic.

Our mom became involved in the Willing Workers Church of Messiah shortly after she married our dad. This resulted in life long friendships with the women of Opaskwayak. Together these ladies continuously fundraised for Christmas gifts and candy for the children, church supplies, hymn books and even the church steeple. This was volunteerism at its finest! Their main source of fundraising was their baking and cooking at community events such as Trappers Festival. Mom was an active member up to 2017 when she finally stepped down due to lack of active members.

Our mom had an entrepreneur spirit and was one of the first women to have a store on the reserve. Her small confectionary had candy, bread and pastries. At the trapline, she would sell canned goods to the various trapping families. The confectionary lasted a few years. For the annual Indian Days, our parents built a small travel trailer that they used to cook and sell traditional meals. The fact that our mom did not have a formal education did not stop her. She had an adventurous soul and tried different things.

Our mom was self-taught. She would not wait for anyone to do things for her. She was handy with the hammer and built what she needed. Mom loved the garage sales! When she didn't have a ride, she would walk to them! Growing flowers was another past time that our mom enjoyed. Every year her yard was full of flowers.

As a grandma, she took care of her grandchildren on a daily basis through her cooking. Everyday she made a pot of soup and the grandchildren and their friends would come to eat for lunch. These home made nutritious

meals were served for many years without fail. Grandma enjoyed attending the various birthday parties and BBQs that her grandchildren invited her to. Grandma's many gifts – cooking, beading, sewing and living off the land were passed down to many of her grandchildren.

Our mom became a Council of Elder for Opaskwayak Cree Nation Chief and Council in 1996 when Councilman late Gordon Lathlin Jr. approached her with this request. Our mom remained steadfast and devoted to this role for 27 years. She especially enjoyed participating in the student graduations and celebrations.

Most significantly our mom had great faith in Kisa Munito. This faith kept her going through her many losses and challenges. It was important for her to attend wakes and funerals of community members to show her support to families. Our role model will be greatly missed but we honour the love, the strength, the kindness and humbleness she has emulated through her life work and brought to our families and our community.

Kisa Munito came for our mom, grandma, chapman, auntie, godmother, friend, Willing Worker on Friday, June 23, 2023.

Our mom is survived by daughters Bev, Primrose, Pauline, Amelia; son Wally; daughter in law Carolyn; grandchildren and their families Marcel (Hayley), Brittany, Derek (Paige), Zac, Anthony, Ashley, Jennifer T, Joe Samantha, Stephanie, Arthur, Rod, Helen, Kitchikan, Charlotte, Chris (Tara), Andrea (Chris), Jen (Gene), JD, Morris, Jackie, Abby, Kailie, numerous chapans, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Meeting her on the other side are parents Carrie and Alfred Buck, sisters Christie, Sarah, brothers Alfred, Walter; husband Lazarus 'Trapper', sons Arnold, Alex, Solomon, and Patrick; sons in law Derek, Gus, David, daughter in law Edna; grandsons Kelvin, Michael, and many others relatives and friends too numerous to mention.



WAKE SERVICE

Wednesday June 28, 2023 7:00 PM

Thursday June 29, 2023 11:00 AM

Church of The Messiah,
Opaskwayak, MB

FUNERAL SERVICE

Friday June 30, 2023 11:00 AM

Church of The Messiah,
Opaskwayak, MB

INTERMENT

St. Michael & All Angels Cemetery
Opaskwayak, MB

