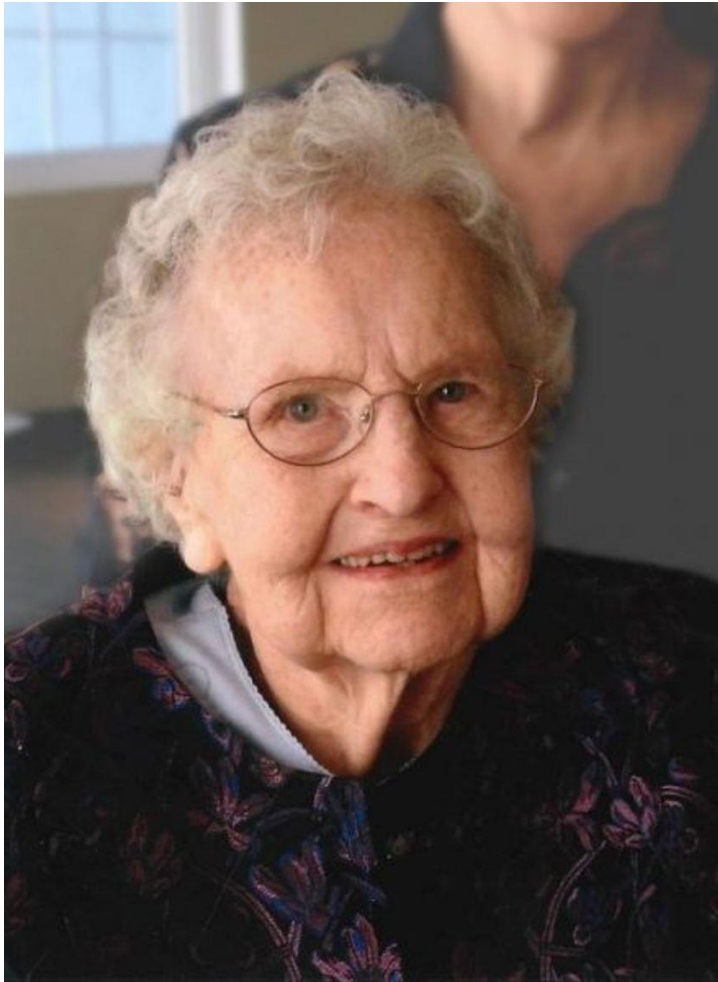


Former county councillor passes at age 91



Phyllis Stewart served three consecutive terms on county council from 1983 to 1992. Photo Courtesy of Oliver's Funeral Home

Phyllis Stewart is being remembered for her service as county councillor and other accomplishments after passing on Jan. 17 at 91-years-old.

Stewart was born in Consort, Alta. on Sept. 6, 1927, grew up in Consort and Ferintosh and later graduated from high school in New Norway, Alta. She then began her 30-year teaching career at age 19. Her first classroom was a small, one-room school in Bezanson. She also taught at 10 other schools from High Prairie to Grandview Colony.

After retiring from teaching, Stewart spent nine years serving three consecutive terms on county council from 1983 to 1992.

“I had met Phyllis a couple of times after she was no longer a councillor but she was still very engaged in the community and continued to give the councillor who replaced her information about her ward,” said Reeve Leanne Beaupre. “She was still very much civic-minded.”

The Reeve described Stewart as an “invested individual” who not only sat on council but was also a member of the Peace Wapiti Public School board along with the other councillors.

“A lot of the works that her and previous council had done led to the success of council of the day,” Beaupre added. “It laid the groundwork for a lot of the initiatives and success that presently has been achieved in the County of Grande Prairie today.”

During her period on council, Stewart was also involved in her farm in Bezanson, choir singing with the Sweet Adeline’s and helping raise grandchildren.

Stewart was predeceased by her husband Charles Bevan Stewart, parents Mabel and Fred Mattoon, sister Patsy Campbell, brother Donald Mattoon and nephew Colin Campbell.

“Phyllis could sometimes be prickly, opinionated and seemingly set in her ways,” her obituary stated. “When she took on a task, she could be like a dog with a bone. It was just her nature.”

Stewart enjoyed farming and gardening, the obituary added. She also volunteered at the South Peace Archives where she helped preserve the history of region.

She is survived by her sister Freda Tarrant; daughter Cherry (Phil) Dionne; sons: Marvin (Jean) Stewart, Shannon (Cathy) Stewart, and Creston (Connie) Stewart; grandchildren: Bobbi Jo Dionne, Darcy Stewart, David (Sarah) Stewart, Ian (Jessica) Stewart, Heather (Jesse) Stewart, Calvin (Kelsey) Stewart, Carl (Bobbi) Stewart, and Curtis Stewart; great-grandchildren: Cheyanne Loos, Zoey, Max, and Emerson Stewart.

A memorial service will be held for Stewart at Oliver’s Funeral Home in Grande Prairie at 2 p.m. this Saturday. Interment will be held at Glen Leslie Cemetery at a later date.

By: Peter Shokeir

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