

RUTH COOKE



RUTH ELIZABETH COOKE (Professor Ruth Grahame, MD, MSc) On Wednesday, December 19, 2012, Ruth died at the age of 87 years from breast cancer. Ruth was born in 1925 and raised in Stony Mountain and Winnipeg. She is survived by her loving husband of 63 years, Robert (Bob) Leighton Cooke, brother Gordon Grahame and four children, Mary Ellen (Toronto), Robert (Toronto, Liesel Putrycz), Andrew (Winnipeg, Pamela Woodmass) and Sheila Cooke-Witt (Hamburg Germany, Karsten Witt). She has 11 grandchildren. Ruth attended Laura Secord and Gordon Bell Schools where she developed lifelong friendships. She graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba in 1949. In the final year of Medicine, she was voted Senior Stick (Class President) by her classmates and she broke her leg on a class ski trip to La Riviere. While attending hospital rounds in a wheel chair, she caught the eye of a dashing young surgeon who returned from the war. Ruth and Bob were married in December 1949. Reflecting on her long and happy marriage, she would say we laughed a lot and had so much fun! . In the mid-1960s with the enthusiastic support of her husband, Ruth returned to university to earn a Master of Science. She then resumed her medical career in the Faculty of Medicine, Department of Anatomy where she rose to Associate Professor. An entire generation of Manitoban doctors, dentists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and dental hygienists were trained by her in Gross Anatomy, Neuro-Anatomy and Embryology. As well she supervised Masters and PhD candidates. She was Undergraduate Curriculum Coordinator for the medical school. She served on innumerable university committees, and co-authored several anatomical text books. She was voted Professor of the Year by the Class of 1974. She retired in 1988. In her personal life, Ruth loved to cook, entertain, and dance. She was an avid reader and a devoted patron of opera and Dixieland jazz. In the summertime, usually on her own, she would fearlessly ferry her four children in a small open boat to a remote cottage with neither phone nor electricity where she dealt with a cranky propane fridge, a wood stove and nosy bears in her kitchen. After retirement, Ruth continued to live life to the fullest, travelling the world with her husband, enjoying her adored grandchildren and participating in the University Women's Club and The Twenty Club. She and Bob took great pride in their children, three MDs and an MBA. A celebration of her life will be held Saturday, January 19, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 970 Wellington Crescent. Friends, neighbours and colleagues are all welcome. Her ashes will be placed in a favourite family location. In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to the University of Manitoba, School of Medical Rehabilitation. Wojcik's Funeral Chapel in care of arrangements.

