

MAUREEN WINONA (SILLS) JOHNSON



MAUREEN WINONA (SILLS) JOHNSON 1936 - 2018 Here's what happened during the hyphen. Born in Brandon to Jack and Florence Sills. Lived in Neepawa, Virden, Kenton, Ethiopia, Houston and Winnipeg. I say goodbye to my daughters, Kathy Melnyk (Allan), Colleen Rogala (Jim) and Karen; my grandson Ben Rogala (Jen), my granddaughter Kayla Rogala, my niece Dayna Weiten and family, and nephew David Cochrane and family. I am looking forward to seeing my sister, Margaret Cochrane, again and other family and friends I miss dearly. I have been a telephone operator, a secretary, a wife, mother and grandmother, a cook, a maid, a baby and dog sitter, a chauffeur, a seamstress, a designer, a carpenter, a lumberjack, a gardener, an artist, a photographer, a bird watcher, an animal lover and a traveller. Next time I will become an architect. Looking back, the years have been pretty good to me. They have been full of family, friends, fun, art, music, nature and travel. Being a mother and grandmother has been the best part of my life, and brought me much joy. I love that each of my daughters has her own special talents and unique personality, despite my efforts to mould them. Becoming a real artist was a big surprise. My time with the Winnipeg Sketch Club and Medea Gallery were wonderful and kept me inspired. Thankfully my artwork connected with a lot of people, which was personally very rewarding. Financially - not so much. Working at the University of Manitoba for 16 years brought new challenges (computers arrived) and new friends. My travels have taken me Canada coast to coast, throughout the US, to Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, Mexico and Cuba. So many good times, so many memories, so many photos. I truly value all the great friends I met along the way, especially those who saw me through some tough times and who today are still my BFF's. They know who they are. No service please, but I will now be residing in St. Vital Cemetery in a penthouse suite. At last - a room with a view. Do come to visit and chat. Many thanks to all who have participated in my journey. See you later. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Maureen's memory to the Winnipeg Humane Society, 45 Hurst Way, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 0R3.