

## **IRIS TOUGAS**

IRIS REECE TOUGAS Peacefully, on April 13 2015, Iris Ann Reece Tougas passed away at the age of 64. Iris was predeceased by her parents, Ernie and Emma Cornelssen, and by her former husbands, Phil Reece and Laurie Tougas. She is survived by her children, David (Kathy) and Sarah (Kyle), grandchildren Evelia and Sadie, siblings Paula (Jack), Max (Denise) and Catherine (Declan), several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and many cherished friends. Iris was born and raised in Stettler, Alberta. It was while growing up on the farm that Iris learned the importance of hard work and loyalty, two values she demonstrated her entire life. She earned a Bachelor of Arts (English) from the University of Alberta in 1971. It was at university that she met Phil, and they married in Winnipeg in 1970. They raised their two children in St. Vital, and spent the years taking family trips and hosting pool parties at their home. Iris and Phil separated in 1994, and remained friends until Phil's passing in 2010. In 1995 Iris met Laurie Tougas and they married in 2004. They enjoyed many happy years together, including lots of good times at their cottage in Gimli. They maintained a close, loving friendship after parting ways in 2007. Iris began her career in the Admissions department at the University of Manitoba in 1977. She worked as an Admissions Officer before developing the successful department of Student Recruitment, for which she travelled extensively around the world. She later returned to the Admissions department and served as Director of Admissions until her retirement in 2013. Iris spent her short retirement pursuing her interests, including photography, travelling, yoga and bridge. She led a full, active life and was looking forward to many summers at the cottage with her family. Iris was a devoted mom, granny, wife, sister, aunt and friend. She will be dearly missed by all who loved her, most especially her beloved children and grand-daughters. Iris was a generous, funny, brilliant woman who was full of life and courage up to the end. She leaves behind a legacy of love, compassion and joy. We will miss you, Mom. Cremation has taken place. Funeral service will be held Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Road United Church, 613 St. Mary's Road.