

ROY & MARGARET ROBIDEAU

Mentions in [The Daily Herald-Tribune](#), Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada

PETER ROY ROBIDEAU

Peter Roy Robideau passed away at Calgary, Thursday, Feb. 1, at the age of 58. He was born in Bezanson, Alta. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

He is survived by sons Gerald of Hamilton, Ont., Russel (Helen) of Calgary, John of Calgary and Dennis of Edmonton; three grandchildren; mother and father Roy and Margaret Robideau of Bezanson; brothers Alfred of Bezanson, Leo of Washington, U.S. and Ernest of Edmonton, and sister Emilia Schultz of Demmitt, Alta.

Funeral service for the late Peter Roy Robideau will be held at Oliver Funeral Chapel, Grande Prairie, on Thursday, Feb. 8, at 2:30 p.m. with Rev. Canon E.P. Williston officiating. Interment to follow in Glen Leslie Cemetery. Funeral arrangements by Oliver Funeral Chapel, Grande Prairie.

Obituary

HARRIETTE MAE MCFADZEN

Harriette Mae McFadzen passed away Wednesday, April 23, 1980, at Grande Prairie at the age of 86. She was born in St. Cloud, Minn., and was a resident of the Peace Country since the spring of 1917.

She is survived by two sisters: Stella Nellis of Bezanson and Mable Hunter of St. Albert and brother **Roy Robideau** of Bezanson. She was predeceased by her

husband Rhuben and son William Aubrie; seven brothers: Edwin, Irving, Carl, Earl, Ernie, Alex and William; two sisters: Lillian and Thelma.

Funeral service for the late Harriette Mae McFadzen will be held from the Oliver Funeral Chapel tomorrow at 2 p.m. with Rev. Ron Newfeld officiating. Interment to follow in the Glen Leslie Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements by Oliver Funeral Chapel.

MABEL SOPHIA HUNTER

Mabel Sophia Hunter passed away at St. Albert, Alta., on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 1981, at the age of 79 years.

She was a long-time resident of the Bezanson district and had moved to St. Albert four years ago.

She is survived by one son, Bob Whalen of St. Albert; eleven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren; one sister, Mrs. Stella Nettis, and a brother, Roy Robideau, both of Bezanson. She was predeceased by her husband Nat Hunter in 1956; and

daughter Eunice Arkley in 1959; and also by her parents.

Funeral service for the late Mabel Sophia Hunter will be held at the Oliver Funeral Chapel, Grande Prairie, on Saturday, Sept. 12, 1981, at 2 p.m., with Canon E.P. Williston officiating. Interment to follow at the Glen Leslie Cemetery.

Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Funeral arrangements by Oliver Funeral Home.

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AMELIA "MOLLY" SCHULZE

Mrs. Amelia "Molly" Schulze passed away at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Grande Prairie, Alberta, on Sunday, March 5, 1989, at the age of 66.

She was born at Bezanson, Alberta, on December 18, 1922, and had been a long time resident of Grande Prairie and Demmitt, Alberta.

She is survived by her loving husband Ben of Demmitt; 3 children: Ken of Edmonton, and 2 daughters, Brenda Gebhart of Clairmont, and Sylvia (Jim) Carson of Demmitt; 8 grandchildren; her mother **Margaret Robideau** of Bezanson; 3 brothers: Alf (Yvette) Robideau of Bezanson, Leo (Edie) Robideau of Tillamook, Oregon, and Ernie (Margaret) Robideau of Edmonton; numerous nieces and nephews, and other relatives and friends.

She was predeceased by her father **Roy**, and brother Peter.

At Molly's request, there will be no formal funeral service. Cremation to take place at the Oliver Crematorium.

Memorial tributes to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Oliver Funeral Chapel & Crematorium, Grande Prairie, Alberta. Telephone 532-2929.

Alfred Ira Robideau, 70, of Bezanson

Alfred Ira Robideau, a long-time resident of Bezanson, Alberta, passed away at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital, Grande Prairie, on Tuesday, January 28, 1992, at age 70.

He is survived by his mother, **Margaret Robideau**; brothers: Leo (Edie) Robideau of Oregon, and Ernie (Margaret) Robideau of Edmonton; his sons: Butch of Grande Prairie, Eric (Theresa) of Grande Prairie, Ira (Jennifer) of Bezanson; his daughters: Carol (Bill) Warncke of Chetwynd, B.C., Karen Toutant of Grande Prairie, Judy Honey of Leduc, Lynda (Les) Nellis of Bezanson, Yvonne (Ron) Fester of Bezanson, Eunice (Charles) Doll of Grande Prairie, Alice (Pat) Dwyer of Crooked Creek, Carmen (Gary) Caswell of Taber, Darlene (Dean) Erno of Grande Prairie; his step-children: Roy (Tannis) Benson; Doloris Benson, Donna (John) Jacklin, Lyn (Jim) Gauthier, Allan (Sheryle) Benson, Larry Benson, Debbie Cardinal, Rose (Kelsey) Coney, Brenda Benson, Patti (Craig) Letendre, Tom (Michelle) Benson; as well as 62 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Alfred was predeceased by his first wife Anita; his second wife Yvette; his father **Roy**; brother Peter; and sister Amelia Schultz.

Public visitation will take place at 7:30 p.m., on Thursday, January 30, 1992, at Oliver Funeral Chapel.

Funeral service for the late Alfred Robideau will be held at St. Paul's United Church, Grande Prairie, Alberta on Friday, January 31, 1992, at 11 a.m. Cremation to follow.

Memorial donations to the Queen Elizabeth II Cancer Clinic, or the Heart Fund, would be appreciated by the family.

Arrangements are entrusted to Oliver Funeral Chapel & Crematorium, Grande Prairie. Telephone 532-2929.

Family has been everything for centenarian

ELLEN LAWRENCE
Herald-Tribune staff

If life has taught Margaret Robideau anything in her 100 years, it's been that family is all you really have.

The Bezanson-area resident will be a century old Wednesday. She's outlived two world wars, the Great Depression and sadly, even her husband and three of her children.

But the same eyes that have seen so many changes over the years also glimmer when she talks about her 163 grandchildren, great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren.

"All my family is special – all of them," Margaret said after a celebrating the occasion with about 300 relatives and friends in the Bezanson Hall Saturday. "I've been so happy (in my life). We've had our ups and downs like everybody else – we never had a nickel for months and months – but we always had ourselves."

In 1902, Margaret Beatrice Hague was born in Kirkdale, Liverpool in England – the seventh of 11 children born to Alfred John Hague, a marine engineer and Margaret Martin Hague, a midwife.

After graduating grammar school at 14, Margaret worked at a grocery store and a biscuit factory.

Located near her home was the Fifth Canadian General Hospital and right beside it, a library.

Her soon-to-be husband, Roy Robideau, was serving in the medical corps in the hospital at the time.

One day, the then 16-year-old girl was walking from the library with a girlfriend, Roy and another soldier. One of the shoe laces in her Oxfords came loose and Roy took his chance.

"He came back and said, 'Can I help you dear?' and he got on his hands and knees and tied my shoe," she smiled. "He said, 'You know, I kind of like you, can I walk



Bezanson-area resident Margaret Robideau poses with her letter of congratulations from Queen Elizabeth II sent to mark her 100th birthday, which she'll celebrate Wednesday.

Staff photo by Ellen Lawrence

with you?' I was thunderstruck."

A month later the couple was engaged and married in July, 1919.

Before he'd enlisted, Roy – who had actually been born and raised in Wisconsin – had bought a homestead in the Bezanson area in 1916. It was there during that October the newlyweds returned.

But the arrival wasn't without hardship.

"When I left England it was sunny – a beautiful day – and I just had on a light overcoat and my silk hat, my silk gloves," recalled Margaret, adding Grande Prairie

was just a street with a few buildings back then. "When we got there it was -40C and there was six feet of snow."

The trek from Grand Prairie to Bezanson was just as treacherous. Bundled up in blankets on a horse-pulled wagon filled with hay, Margaret and Roy made a 16-hour journey through ice and snow.

"It was awful, it was terrible," she remembered. "(But) oh no, I didn't want to go back home. I thought too much of Roy."

The couple worked hard for everything they had. Roy built a log cabin not too far

from the little house where Margaret now lives. She scrimped and saved all the money her parents sent from England to make the little cabin feel like home. Like many mothers of the day, Margaret gave birth to all of her five children at home without a doctor.

The family fell on hard times during the Dirty Thirties to the point where Roy travelled back to the United States to find work.

During the Second World War, the entire family served their country.

Roy volunteered with the Veteran's Guard, escorting German prisoners of war from New York to camps across Western Canada.

All of the boys – Peter, Alfred, Ernest and Leo – were in the army and daughter Amelia was married to a soldier. So it was only natural for Margaret to follow her husband.

"Wherever he was I was one train ahead or one train behind," she said.

When Roy died in 1984 at the age of 94, Margaret leaned on her family for support.

Grandchildren and great grandchildren now manage her finances, help with housework and run her errands. Apart from deafness in her left ear and weak lungs, she's never suffered a major illness.

At a time when most people would tire out, Margaret only looks forward to what may come.

"I've had a wonderful life and a hard life in a way, but I always took everything in my stride," she smiled. "My Roy and my family were always most important."

Margaret Beatrice Robideau



Margaret Beatrice Robideau

passed away on Monday, February 13, 2006 at the Grande Prairie Care Centre at the age of 103 years.

Margaret was born on June 19, 1902 in Kirkdale, Liverpool England. Mag came to Canada, after marrying Roy Robideau in 1919 and they homesteaded in Bezanson and gave birth to five children; Peter, Alfred, Amelia Molly, Leo and Ernest.

Margaret was predeceased by her husband Roy in 1984, son Peter in 1979, son Alfred in 1992 and daughter Amelia Molly in 1989, all her brothers and sisters in England, her daughter-in-law Anita in 1974 and son-in-law Ben in 1994.

Margaret is survived by her two sons Leo (Edie) of Tillimock, Oregon, Ernest of Edmonton and over 165 grandchildren to the sixth generation, also many relatives overseas and friends all over the country.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Bezanson Golden Age Centre.

Funeral service will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2006 at 11 a.m. from Christ Church Anglican (6610 Poplar Drive), Grande Prairie with Rev Ruth Adams Officiating. Interment to follow in the Glen Leslie Cemetery.

**OLIVER'S GRANDE PRAIRIE FUNERAL
CHAPEL & CREMATORIUM**