

# Matthew (Matt) Benyk

September 2, 1919 – March 17, 2011

Family and friends sadly announce the passing of Matthew (Matt) Benyk in Yellowknife on March 17, 2011.

Matt is survived by his children Pearl, Nick, Wendy, Ruth and Wayne, plus his daughters- and sons-in- law, six grandchildren, five siblings and their spouses and children. He was pre-deceased by his wife Mary, his parents and step-father, three siblings and four nephews.

Matt was the eldest of Nicholas and Maria Benyk's nine children, born on the family farm near Rorketon, Manitoba. He had to quit school early when his father died in 1934, and he had to help his mother run the farm and raise his younger siblings. Later he also did winter commercial fishing and other work to keep the farm afloat and the family supported. In 1947 he moved to Flin Flon in northern Manitoba. Here he met his future wife Mary Humberstone. They moved further north to South Indian Lake not long after their marriage and Matt started

commercial fishing there. In 1953 the small family (Pearl and Nick were born by then) moved to Cold Lake (Sherridon) on the shore of Lake Kississing. Here Matt fished for a mink rancher until he and Mary opened Bayview General Store (which Nick still runs). Matt and Mary's three younger children were born in these early years. In 1960 Matt began mink ranching and commercial fishing again, catching fish for sale and for mink food, while Mary ran the store. Matt continued with fishing and mink ranching until the early 1970s when the mink market failed and he went back to storekeeping. He did this until 2001, when Mary's health required that they move to Flin Flon.

After Mary's death in late 2005, Matt continued to live in Flin Flon for two years then moved to northern BC to live with his daughter Wendy. He later moved to Yellowknife to live with Pearl. In November, 2010 he moved into the Aven Dementia Centre, where he enjoyed the various

activities and the friendly staff. Sadly, his time there ended too soon. In mid January he fell and broke his hip. Following an operation to fix the hip he developed pneumonia and died in Stanton Territorial Hospital in mid-March. Throughout his long life, Matt was always a hard worker, doing whatever needed doing, including much hard physical labour. This kept him healthy and strong well into his old age. Another thing which never left him was his sense of humour and his friendly way of chatting with everyone, especially the caregivers at the Avens Cottages.

Matt's funeral service was held in Flin Flon on April 16, after which he was buried in East Hillside Cemetery beside his wife Mary. They are now together again in the town where they first met and lived when they were newly married. Donations in Matt's memory may be made to YACCS, which runs the Avens Cottages, or to the Canadian Cancer Society.

