

Helga Dauer Pattison, RIP

February 18, 1937 ~ November 15, 2022 (age 85)

Helga was born and grew up in Germany. After working for six years in Switzerland, she immigrated to Canada in 1966 at the age of 24. She worked for a while in the Alberta national parks, then moved to Calgary so she could stay near the mountains she loved so much. And speaking of love, she married Bob Pattison in 1977. They remained together till her passing on November 15, 2022—an example of many happy marriages between people who met in the Rocky Mountain Ramblers.

Helga joined the Ramblers around 1970. The picture is of her on top of Mount Temple in 1971.



She remained an enthusiastic Rambler for decades until health issues finally forced her to slow down. She was a formidable hiker, climber, and backpacker. She was also a top-notch

skier, both cross-country and downhill, and built many a snow cave on backcountry winter trips. She and Bob also took up canoeing, fishing, and mountain biking, and they always had a van tricked out for camping, to launch themselves deeper into the wild.

No one who knew Helga in the outdoors will ever forget her. She was such a strong presence on the trail, yet always good-natured and encouraging others to reach the goal. On backcountry evenings, she and Bob would get out their harmonicas, and their music would make people forget how tired they were.

Helga was also a talented photographer. She took many pictures on Ramblers' trips, but she would also go out by herself to photograph topics as varied as elk in rutting season, races at the 1988 Winter Olympics, and the grain elevators that used to dot Alberta's countryside but are now an endangered species. She had her own darkroom in the days before digital photography, and she sold many of her pictures in the photographic marketplace.

Last but certainly not least, Helga was a kind person who looked after friends in need of help. She spent endless hours keeping up with people as they grew older, calling them on the phone and visiting them in person. And not just here in Calgary. She and Bob would often drive out to British Columbia to visit old friends who had developed medical problems in retirement. Probably no one except Bob knows how much time Helga spent caring for other people.

We already miss you, Helga, and we will always remember you. You were one of a kind.