Elizabeth Svendsen (née Westra)

Elizabeth Svendsen (née Westra), affectionately known as “Els”, passed away peacefully at home at the age of 88. Born in Bathmen, a village in the Netherlands, Els emigrated to Canada in 1957 and made Victoria her home. A truly remarkable woman, and a loving mom, Oma, and friend, Els embodied kindness, courage, and a boundless curiosity about the world.

A lifelong learner with an adventurous spirit, Els delighted in traveling to far-reaching corners of the globe, meeting new friends and hosting students from many countries. She was a trained horticulturist who cherished time in green spaces, especially the Butchart Gardens. A sporty person, Els enjoyed tennis, hiking with the Outdoor Club of Victoria, cross country skiing, and walking around Elk and Beaver Lake. Els was an avid cyclist, a sport she enjoyed into her 80’s alongside her wonderful

group of friends.

Elizabeth filled our hearts with love and will be dearly missed by her children, grandchildren, family and friends. She was a positive influence who brought joy to our lives, and was an inspiration to many.

In remembrance, please consider making a donation to the "Elizabeth Svendsen Fund" at the Victoria Foundation, a charity close to her heart.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens
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