

Gerredina “Dina” Van Klaveren

Dina was an only child born in Rotterdam, Netherlands on September 16, 1924. She married her husband Arnold in 1942; together they endured the many hardships of WWII while living in Holland.

After her mother died, she and Arnold immigrated to Canada with their 3 children in March 1958, settling in Victoria, where they had their fourth child just 5 months later.

Both she and her husband were hard workers, meeting many challenges with strength and resilience while raising their family in a new country.

Dina's Dutch heritage bloomed in her beautiful garden, which many people walked by to admire. She grew vegetables, fruit trees, roses, perennials, and of course, bulbs! She also loved to knit, crochet, hook rugs, do needlepoint, petit point, and sewed many of the clothes she wore. Her hands were never idle! In the kitchen, she was a marvelous baker, and frequently made her famous Dutch cookies, as well as bread, apple pie, boterkoek, and a fabulous lemon meringue pie.

Dina and her husband developed a mutual love for choral singing and sang with the Victoria Choral Society for 30 years. Dina served as the choir's "social convener" for several years, organizing annual social events which were always a hit ! They also sang with St. Patrick's church choir, contributing their joy and love of music to that choir for many years.

After Dina's husband died in 1987, she continued to pursue her love of singing with community choirs, and also did some travelling to Fiji, Australia, Hawaii, Alaska, Europe, and the Holy Land.

She moved in to Luther Court in 2015, quickly establishing

herself as a valued member of their choir. She made many friends at Luther Court with her warm and witty personality. She never tired of trying to teach people how to pronounce difficult Dutch words, and enjoyed making people laugh. She loved to give (and get) hugs and was known to offer comfort to others when they struggled.

Dina lost her eldest son, Adrie (Australia) in June 2016, her son-in-law Bill in April 2022, and her eldest daughter Marrie in December 2022. She is survived by her son Arnold, her daughter Maudie, 3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

She will be deeply missed and forever loved.

Funeral mass will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 12:10 pm at St. Patrick's Parish, 2060 Haultain Street, Victoria, BC.

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Gardens

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