

Soili Hovatta

November 10, 1934 – June 24, 2012

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden and unexpected passing of our beloved mother, Soili Sivia Hovatta (nee Ikonen).

Soili was born in Helsinki, Finland, and immigrated to Canada in 1966 with her husband Pentti and their two young children. From the initial landing in Port Arthur, Ontario, the family soon headed west, to find paradise in Victoria.

Predeceased by Pentti in 1974, left to mourn Soili's untimely passing are her loving children Disa (Adrian) and Harri (Julie) and feline friends Mel and Belle. Soili is also survived by her sisters Hilikka, Toini and Sirkku, and other extended family in Finland.

Mom truly embodied that elusive Finnish quality of "sisu". Hers was not always an easy lot after Pentti's death, yet she persevered and guided us through our (sometimes terrible) teens into adulthood in her own sensible, no nonsense fashion. She gave us our independence, yet could always be counted on to lend an ear and serve good advice, along with tea and cookies. After a chat with Mom, you always felt that everything would be okay.

Soili had her own flair for fashion, a quick wit and unique sense of humour and could always be counted on to say something outlandish, cracking up a family gathering. The annual jaunts to Mexico were quite an adventure. Mom would positively glow when the handsome host took her arm to escort "mama" to the table, leaving Disa in their dust.

Mom was an avid golfer (several trophies at Cedar Hill Golf Course bear witness to her skills), cut a graceful and elegant figure on the ballroom dance floor and loved kicking up her

heels at line dancing jamborees. Mom's "green thumb" is amply evident in her "cottage garden", which continues to honour her with abundant bloom.

Soili was our mother and she was also our friend. We shall miss her more than words can ever express. Mom, you will always be in our hearts and in our thoughts.

Friends and family will have the opportunity to bid farewell to Soili at a Memorial Reception on Friday, July 6, 2012, 2:00 pm, at McCall's Reception Centre, Johnson & Vancouver Streets. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory would be appreciated to the S.P.C.A. Condolences may be offered to the family below.

www.mccallbros.com.