



Rita Koolen

1946 - 2026

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved mom, wife & grandmother, Rita, on Friday, September 25, 2026, at the age of 80, surrounded by the love of her family.

Rita's love, kindness and selflessness touched the lives of everyone who knew her. She was the kind of person who always put others before herself, never hesitating to lend a hand or do whatever she could for the people she loved.

Her greatest joy was her family, and her love will forever be a part of us.

Rita was the beloved wife of Tony of 58 years, and the dear mother of Ian (Amy) and Amanda (Jim). She was a cherished grandmother to Sarah (Mackenzie), Olivia (Cole), Nolan, Ava and Aliyah, who were the light of her life. On any given weekend, you could find Rita at one of many arenas watching her grandchildren playing hockey or ringette.

She will be lovingly remembered by her siblings Tony & Thyria (the late Sue), Leo & Kay, Pete & Ria, Anney & Casey, Betsy & Frank (the late John), and Arnold & Tena. She will also be missed by her in-laws Gerry & Dorothy (the late Theresa, the late Cathy), (the late) Harry & Linda, Mary & (the late Eddy), (the late) Dennis & (the late) Yvonne, (the late) Mathea & (the late) Albert, Liz & Pete, Ann Marie & (late) Tony, (the late) Louisa & Cory, John & Charlene, and Jim & Annie. Rita was also loved by her many nieces and nephews.

Rita's love was endless, her generosity knew no bounds and her family was her greatest pride. While we wish we had more time with her, we will forever cherish the memories she gave us. She will be deeply loved forever.

Family and friends are welcome to visit at Denning's of Forest on Tuesday, September 29, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home on Wednesday, September 30, at 11:00 a.m., followed by burial at Arkona Cemetery. Family and friends are invited to join the family for a reception afterward at the Forest Legion.

Our family is forever grateful to the staff at Parkwood Palliative Care Center for the exceptional care, compassion and kindness they showed mom and our family. In mom's memory, donations to the Strathroy Hospice would be greatly appreciated to help other families receive the same comfort.

Forever in our hearts.