



REMEMBERING
Mary Lou Vella

July 12, 1939 - January 14, 2017



It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of our beloved mother, Mary-Lou Vella, on January 14. She is joyfully gone to be with God; Domenic, the love of her life; and, in her words "Elvis."

Mary-Lou was born in St. Boniface, Manitoba, in the summer of 1939. She moved to Powell River in 1958 after meeting and falling in love with Domenic on a visit. They kept in touch via love letters for eight months until she and her mother moved to Powell River in 1959. Three short months later, Mary-Lou and our handsome dad were married in September of 1960. Less than five years later, by May of 1965, this prolific couple had four children.

When her youngest was school age, Mary-Lou became secretary at Assumption School, a position she held for 39 years. She loved her job and it showed. In the words of a recent Facebook post by a former student:

Mrs. Vella's beautiful smiles were one of the aspects that lit up Assumption School and days of the students who attended. The warmth of her heart helped to create that magical family-oriented environment that made Assumption School a beautiful place to be.

Mom was blessed with boundless energy. This manifested itself in daily five-mile walks, knitting, baking bread and desserts, winemaking and always trying new recipes at her frequent gourmet dinners. Her infectious "joie de vivre" knit our family together.

The thread that ran through Mary-Lou's life was her love of family. She was happiest when she could say, "I have all my children around me." This is exactly how she passed away.

Mary-Lou was predeceased by our dad, her husband of 47 years, and is survived by her children: Gay, Dan (Pauline), Jo, Sam and Marc (Nancy); her grandchildren: Aeryn, Braden, David and Zandra; Colin, Chris, Dehl, Leo, Victoria, Miranda and Sophia; her great-grandchildren: Kaydence, Hazel, Nya, Livia and Fynn (with another due in March!); and four of her siblings.

The family has tremendous gratitude to the following: first and foremost, Teresa Bennett, for her tireless dedication to both our mother and ourselves; to the medical community: Doctor Dohm and Doctor May; the homecare nursing staff, including Sheena and Kathleen; occupational therapist Jennifer, the home support staff; and finally to all her friends who visited, sent cards, flowers, goodies and prayers. Mom so enjoyed the time spent with each and every one of you, and we enjoyed the goodies!

Mary-Lou's funeral Mass will be held at Church of the Assumption on Saturday, January 21, at 1 pm, followed by a celebration of life at Carlson Community Club at 2:30 pm. Mom wanted a casual, blue-jean affair for her celebration of life.

Mom refused to join the CWL because, in her words, it "was for old ladies."

