



REMEMBERING
Karen Joy Hellmann

April 7, 1958 - December 11, 2023



Karen Joy Hellmann

April 7, 1958 - December 11, 2023

We sadly announce the passing of Karen Joy Hellmann, beloved wife, mother and grandmother.

Karen was predeceased by her parents, Ted and Mary Gonske; sister, Verna and brother, Norman; and her daughter, Melissa, at birth. She leaves behind the love of her life, Mike Hellmann; sons Travis Derouin and Adam Derouin; grandsons Brayden and Justin; four brothers and three sisters as well as in laws, many nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Karen was born in Dryden, ON. Her childhood years were spent in Ontario and Manitoba. She eventually moved to Vancouver Island where she lived in Nanaimo, Port Alberni and the Cowichan Valley.

Karen was a welcoming person who would greet you with not only a smile, but would make you feel like your arrival was a celebration and upon your departure, she'd affirm her love for you. Her phone calls expressed the same sentiment. As her middle name suggests, she was a joy to many.

As a young adult, Karen trained in hairdressing. Over the years she clipped and permed the locks of almost everyone she ever met. Later she directed her creative talents to sewing as a profession, where she sewed for some big companies like Tanjay. She could sew the most lovely, delicate baby clothes and the bulkiest industrial items like boat awnings and upholstery. Her favorite by far though was anything brightly colored and flouncy. These brought her joy. Jewelry didn't have to be expensive, but if it was unique, shiny and outstanding, it won a place in her collection.

She loved flowers. When she was healthy, she cultivated their small acreage with plantings suitable for different settings, from a big showy centerpiece in the sun to tiny shade-lovers in a woodland hide-a-way beneath the trees.

Above all, Karen loved her family. She eagerly awaited Mike's return from work each day and visits from her sons and grandsons. This was her nourishment.

She will be sadly missed by her immediate and extended family and close friends

