





Baatje "Bea" Totte

August 7, 1923 - August 15, 2021

Baatje (Bea) Hiske Haringa was born August 7, 1923 in Heeg, Province of Freisland, The Netherlands. Mom was predeceased by our father, Joe (Chef) in March of 2000.

Mom was a very strong and some say stubborn woman. These qualities helped her survive and overcome many challenges in her life. She would often tell us how she left home at the age of 14 to go work for a farm family. This is where she tells us she met the love of her life, Joe, delivering bread to the farm. Papa began courting mom much to the chagrin of the farmer's wife as mom left the farm to begin her life with Papa. They married and together survived the Occupation of The Netherlands during the war. That

experience along with the depression prompted them to immigrate to Canada. So, with two children in tow and only the cash in their pockets and a few pieces of furniture they began what she described as a great adventure travelling by ship across the Atlantic arriving in Halifax July 1, 1952.

So began their long and prosperous life together in Canada. They spoke no English but that did not hold them back. They learned the language and worked hard to make a life for their growing family. First settling in Shoal Lake and then Hamiota working for other bakers. In 1956 they decided to move to St Lazare where they successfully owned and operated Fort Ellice Bakery. But in 1973 there would be one more move – to The Pas where they built Gateway Bakery which they ran as a family business. Mom played a very important role in all these ventures. She took great pride in the cleanliness of the bakery for which her knees later paid a price. Her donuts were the absolute best!

Mom and Papa enjoyed travelling returning a few times to Europe to visit and then later in their retirement wintering in Penticton BC.

In her retirement years Mom had the time to become involved with The Pas Golden Agers serving for a time as president. She was also involved with the Legion Ladies Auxiliary and was made a life-time member.

Mom loved playing cribbage and was very good at it as her sons can attest to. She represented The Pas Legion many times in cribbage competition. It was only in the last few weeks of her life that she was not able to play. She loved animals, especially cats. Mikey was her last cat and she loved him dearly and was great company for her.

Mom often marveled and would say that from the two of them it all started and how right she was! The family increased from 4 arriving in Halifax to 68 and counting. She was very proud of that.

Mom will be dearly missed but we know she is at peace and with Papa.