



## Alice Mathilde Locke Hadley

September 9, 1944 - March 22, 2025

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The heartbroken family of Alice Hadley would like to announce her passing on March 22, 2025 at the Victoria General Hospital after a brief illness.

Born in Halifax in 1944, Alice was the middle daughter of the late Ronald and Peggy (nee Locke) Williams. She grew up on Dutch Village Road roaming the streets and woods around Rockwood with her sisters and friends, catching movies at the Hyland Theatre and enjoying milkshakes at the Armview Restaurant. Summers were spent at the Waeg, with the gang often forgoing the city tram so they could pocket the money their parents had given them for the fare to spend at the canteen.

Tragedy visited Alice early when her father passed suddenly when she was nine. To help make ends meet, her mother would often rent rooms to travelling musicians, including Tommy Makem and the Clancy Brothers and Ryan's Fancy. Whether or not her love of music developed through osmosis, it remained an important part of her life. She liked nothing more than to sing a tune whether she knew the words or not.

Upon graduation from Halifax West High School in 1963, Alice took a secretarial course at Halifax County Vocational High School (later NSCC) and started working. She worked for most of her adult life, in both the private and public sector, to help support her growing family. She joined the Maritime Life Assurance Company in the early 1980's and remained there until she retired in 2005. Alice was a proud MLAC alumna and maintained friendships with many of her co-workers until the time of her passing.

Alice and her husband Mike moved to Alton Drive in Armdale in 1972. From then until 2013 when they moved to Anchor Drive, they raised five kids in a home filled with love where everyone was welcome. And that doesn't include the five exchange students from South Korea or the many, many people who considered Alice their second mom. If those walls could talk (and thankfully they don't) they would tell stories of many parties, impromptu get-togethers and barbecues that went to the wee hours. The doors were always open and it wasn't uncommon for the entire posse of neighbourhood kids to gather, especially when they knew her cookies or legendary brown bread were in the oven. Her ability to bring people together continued up until the very end.

In the 1990's, Alice took up lawn bowling and joined the Wanderers Lawn Bowls Club spending many a night and weekend on the green playing both recreational and competitive matches. Many strong friendships grew from that small patch of grass. Provincial titles followed, and the pinnacle of her bowls career occurred in 1999 when the Hadley's won a bronze medal in mixed pairs at the Bowls Canada nationals in Winnipeg.

While Mom took great delight in her sporting achievements, she was most proud watching her children and then grandchildren grow up and excel. She never missed a game or performance whether it was in sports, theatre or on stage. In her later years, as the family grew and dispersed, and then when it became taxing for her to travel, she would watch on her iPad if the event was

streamed. She took great pride in all their exploits.

Mom loved her cats, crosswords and the CBC, settling in each morning with her coffee, newspaper and pencil at the ready with the radio on in the background. In the last few years, she took great pleasure in the days she won the family Wordle challenge. Spoiler alert: It happened all the time. She read the obituaries every day and often had a connection to the person being memorialized or their family. She seems to know everyone and as she told the kids many times growing up, “My spies are everywhere.”

Mom wasn't without her faults. From time to time her temper got the best of her and on those rare occasions, she was a world class door slammer. Sadly, this did not become a recognized Olympic sport in her lifetime, but we remain hopeful. Fortunately, the winds of anger would blow off as quickly as they materialized and everyone, rightfully contrite, would hug it out. She was world class at hugs too.

Alice believed fiercely in human equality and there was no brokering from this ideal. Mom was accepting and supportive that your religion, sexuality, race, gender or social standing might differ from hers. The test for her was whether you were a good person. She didn't have much time for “jerks.”

Alice is survived by her loving husband and soul mate of 52 years Michael. Children Alison (Terry) Baker, Douglas (Jennifer Mitton), Jennifer (Christopher) Curran, Kathryn (Andrew) Firth and Gillian (Darren) Harnum. Grandchildren Andrew and Tim (Kourtney Lappan) Baker, Ben Hadley, Miles and Charlotte Firth, and Libby and Molly Harnum. Sister Nancy (Alan) Knight, best friends Ada Smith and Jane Williams, Jenny-Kate Hadley (Ben's mom), and many beloved nieces and nephews who miss “Stinky Al” as much as we do.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by sister Mary Ann (Hugh) McGinn, granddaughter Alexandra Baker, first husband Kenneth Colley, and parents-in-law James and Gwenda Hadley, and James and Phyllis Colley. And we can't forget her cats, Mr. Murphy, Clancy, Tommy, Fergie and Rose. All crossed the rainbow bridge having exhausted each and every one of their nine lives. She shared a language with them that was incomprehensible to all other humans.

At her request, there will be no service or wake. Instead, Alice wanted a celebration for a life well-lived. In honour of her wish, the family will be receiving visitors on Friday, April 4 from 6 to 9 pm in the Windsor Room, Juno Tower, CFB Stadacona. In keeping with her credo, everyone is welcome (unless you're jerk) and there will be plenty of parking. Come for a minute or stay the entire time. A family eulogy will be given at 7:30 pm.

As much as Alice loved flowers, particularly yellow roses, she would prefer that a donation be made to your favourite charity. She gave to many over the years, including the Neo-Natal Unit of the IWK, SPCA, Diabetes, Mental Health and Hope for Wildlife. On the off chance that any of our "brothers and sisters" in Central America who Mom sponsored through World Vision in the 1970s and 1980s are reading this, "Madre te amó hasta el final."

In this time of grief, we are comforted knowing she is no longer in pain and by the overwhelming outpouring of support we've received. Mom's favourite saying also provides comfort,

"What are we? Lucky. We're very, very lucky."

# Tribute Wall



“ Pat and I have many fond memories of Alice during our time together at Maritime Life. Our heartfelt condolences.  
Byron Corner

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**Byron Corner** - April 05, 2025 at 08:27 PM



“ My condolences to Mike and family.  
Ted Moffatt

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**Ted Moffatt** - April 05, 2025 at 02:01 PM



“ My sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to Alison and her family. I had the pleasure of working with Alison and Alice for years as part of her extended Maritime Life family. Alice was a positive, cheerful, hard working part of our team who left an impression on all that she interacted with. I was so very sorry to hear of her passing.

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**Shawna Wilson** - April 05, 2025 at 06:51 AM



“ We are very sorry to read of Alice's passing .sending sincere condolences and caring thoughts to Mike and family .

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**dorothy and Bud redmond** - April 03, 2025 at 10:19 AM



“ We are so sorry to hear of Alice's passing. We have fond memories of our lawn bowling days with Alice and Mike. Our thoughts are with you.  
Linda & Ron Briggs

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**Linda & Ron Briggs** - April 03, 2025 at 06:35 AM

DM

“ I was very sad to hear Alice had died. Alice was a lovely lady and I will miss her at the club. MIKE I very sorry for your loss of your wife.  
Dennis and Doreen Mullane

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**dennis mullane** - April 01, 2025 at 08:18 PM

SD

“ Michael and Family,

On behalf of the entire team of Anchor Living, please accept our deepest condolences on Alice's passing. Her presence is definitely going to be missed by the staff and residents of 8 Anchor Drive.

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**Susan Daniszewski** - March 31, 2025 at 03:47 PM

GS

“ So sad to read that such a bright spirit has passed on. I first met Alice in 1967 when my first husband, John Genik, and I spent many pleasurable hours at the family home, playing bridge with her mother, Peggy. Peggy was also the stand-in mother of the groom at our wedding and hosted several wedding events for us, which Alice attended and helped manage. Before I moved away from Halifax, Alice and I had many wonderful chats at the Waeg, where we both seemed to spend a lot of time. She was always so friendly and interested in my life. Such a wonderful person, and she will certainly be missed by many. My sincerest condolences to all the family.

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**Gloria Simpson** - March 31, 2025 at 12:05 PM

DM

“ So sorry to hear of cousin Alice’s passing. My remembrances of “little Alice “ was of her beaming smile and her broad laugh , something I suggest all 3 sisters had in common. A tradition for many years as a youngster visiting their house on Dutch Village for rabbit pie ( something as a 10 year I could not fully embrace ) is a cherished memory. My following her on FB and occasional meetings indicated that she was a loving wife and mother ; you are lucky to have been part of her family.

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**Derek Mathers** - March 31, 2025 at 11:30 AM

SO

“ My deepest condolences to all the family. Alice was a wonderful lady to work with at Maritime Life. She always had a big smile for everyone and was very thoughtful.

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**Susan Oickle** - March 31, 2025 at 07:51 AM



“ Very sorry to receive the news of Alice’s passing. We were best friends during our teenage years and throughout high school. She was a thoughtful ,kind caring person with a positive outlook on life. I had the privilege to teach her three daughters. My deepest condolences to Mike and family as well as Nancy. I am sorry to miss the celebration of life due to being out off province. Marcia Street Meagher

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**Marcia Meagher** - March 30, 2025 at 05:48 PM

LT

“ I received an email from first friend, Chris Donahoe saying, " We lost Alice this week." Deepest condolences to the Hadley family, Nancy and family and so many others who are mourning and celebrating her life. Alice was an unforgettable and wonderful friend from childhood and adored by my whole family.  
*Lois ( Loie ) Thompson/ Cannell*

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**Lois Thompson** - March 30, 2025 at 10:04 AM

BB

“ Alice was a valued member of the Maritime Life team. More importantly her positive and pleasant disposition set the standard for colleagues and companions. May she rest in well-deserved peace.

*Bill Black*

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**Bill Black** - March 29, 2025 at 06:57 PM

CD

“ My memories of Alice go way back to early childhood and early teens. The Hyland Theater and the Armview were cornerstones along with the Waeg. Close friends Brenda Campbell (Smith) (deceased) and Loie Cannell (Thompson) often made up our little cohort wandering the Rockwood neighborhood looking for trouble. We were free range kids and for the most part we were unthethered. Alice was a big part of my youth and I send my condolences to her family and friends.

*Chris Donahoe*

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**Chris Donahoe** - March 29, 2025 at 01:44 PM

SF

*when you told me that Alice had passed it was loosing one of the older sisters in the rockwood family. remember back to the rockwood reunion of 1990. it was indeed a special family. i always remember her laughter.*  
*susan(oleary) farrell*

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**susan oleary farrell** - April 04, 2025 at 10:18 PM

MM

“ *My condolences on Alice's passing. I spent many an hour in the Hadley house as a teenager and she was always very kind to me. I remember her with fondness. Thinking of you all, xo.*  
*Mark MacPhee*

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**Mark MacPhee** - March 29, 2025 at 12:19 PM

BM

“ *Our deepest condolences to Mike and family and also sister Nancy and family in Alice's passing. A remarkable lady who accomplished so much. She was a wonderful lady always friendly and smiling and wanting to know about our family. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her. With respect.*

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**Bob and Marsha Mann** - March 29, 2025 at 11:49 AM

MW

“ *So very sorry to hear this news. We knew Alice through her days at St. James, and she was always so full of life and sparkle. Condolences to the whole family.*

*Rob and Mary Anne White*

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**Mary Anne White** - March 29, 2025 at 10:54 AM

EC

“ So very saddened and shocked to read of Alice’s passing. A wonderful lady who will be dearly missed. Condolences to Cousin Mike and the Family. David and Eleanor Copus

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**Eleanir and David Copus** - March 29, 2025 at 09:16 AM

RC

“ Very sad to hear of Alice's passing. You usually heard her laughter before you saw her. Lovely person.

*Roberta Collier*

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**Roberta Collier** - March 29, 2025 at 08:58 AM

SM

“ I was very fortunate to have attended many "impromptu" gatherings at the Hadley household. We were always welcome and there were always stories. Alice will be missed by so many. Hugs to you all.

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**Stephanie Morrison** - March 28, 2025 at 10:31 AM

EM

“ Alice was a wonderful lady. She was full of life and full of fun. You have shared some great memories—I also loved her hilarious stage performances from the Maritime Life theatre group. She will be missed. My sympathy and prayers to the Hadley Family.

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**Erin McDonah** - March 27, 2025 at 09:42 PM

DM

“ *Such a beautifully written tribute and accurate description of Alice. I learned to love the CBC because Alice always had it on in the van going to and from work at Maritime Life. It was one of my first memories when I heard of her passing...that and her laughter. Great memories. She will be missed.*

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**Diane Flynn Macdonald** - March 27, 2025 at 06:15 PM

NB

“ *Alice's personality was well personified in her obituary, well done. I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to not only meet Alice but to even entertain her in our home. Any room lit up when she would smile and then her propensity for laughter and fun would then fill it with warmth. My sincerest condolences from the Averys and Bells in Larry's River.*

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**Nicole Bell** - March 27, 2025 at 05:02 PM