



Anna Everdina deVries

July 12, 1960 - December 29, 2022

Anna de Vries, 62, of Halifax, passed away on Thursday, December 29, 2022, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Just after a beautiful sunrise illuminated her hospital room, she slipped away quietly in her sleep, with her husband of 38 years, Karl Dilcher, by her side.

Anna was the loving mother and mother-in-law of Anton and Maike Dilcher (née Fröhner) of Braunschweig, Germany, and Eric and Klaudia Dilcher (née Gołos) of Warsaw, Poland, and she was the loving "Nana" of Ida and Tolek. She will be sorely missed also by her family in Eastern Ontario: her mother Titia De Vries (née van der Veen), sister Kathryn Vedder (née De Vries) with husband Fred, and brother Duncan De Vries with his wife Karin (née Reusser). She was predeceased in 2020 by her father William De Vries.

She also leaves many uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews and nieces in Canada and the Netherlands, and she will be missed by many friends and by Karl's relatives in Germany, including her brother- and sister-in-law Hartmut Dilcher and Karin Jarms. Anna was particularly close to her late mother-in-law in Germany.

Anna was born on July 12, 1960, in Bridgewater, NS, but a few weeks later her parents moved with her to Ottawa. She then spent most of her childhood and youth in Eastern Ontario. Two important periods for Anna during that time

were three years in Ghana as a school child, and one year in Australia in her mid-teens, while her father taught high school there. Also important in Anna's early life were the regular visits to the Netherlands, where she became fluent in Dutch and learned to understand Frisian. This was the beginning of her lifelong interest in languages, for which she had a particular talent.

Anna studied Economics at Queen's University in Kingston, where she met Karl. After both graduated, Anna spent a year in Trier, Germany, studying German and Dutch. She and Karl got married in 1984 and moved to Halifax, where Karl took up a position in Mathematics at Dalhousie University, and Anna continued her studies in Economics.

She volunteered with organizations such as Oxfam, and did bookkeeping for some small co-ops. But her main occupation for many years was home schooling Anton and Eric, complete with extracurricular activities. When Eric became a competitive fencer, Anna was his driver, sometimes going as far as Boston or Ottawa, or accompanying him on longer trips by plane.

Anna had many interests, which she pursued with passion and hard work, while making life-long friends in the process. In the 1980s she studied Russian at Dalhousie University and spent a total of one year in Moscow, becoming fluent in the language. Karl was able to join her for part of the time. Later she studied Spanish, and made good friends from Spain and Latin America. One serious interest at a time was never enough for Anna, and she always had something else on the go, for instance making music. She learned to play the violin along with Eric, trying very hard to keep up with him. For many years she also played in a small Baroque ensemble. Earlier she took piano lessons, and after her cancer diagnosis she learned to play rock tunes on an electric guitar. She also studied Psychology at Dalhousie for a while, and learned the basics of Polish, as her final foreign language.

Of special note was Anna's long-lasting interest and passion for sophisticated modern board games, which her mathematician husband found too difficult. Once again, she made good friends, and converted old friends to becoming board gamers too. She was proud of her ever-growing collection of games and was happy that her sons and daughters-in-law were good and interested players.

Sports was also important for Anna during her last years. She first played tennis and badminton; later she found a passion for pickle ball and became very good at it. She made good friends again, and she played until her progressing cancer made it too difficult for her to move.

Anna left an impression on everyone she met. One acquaintance remarked, "I won't forget her liveliness, her unfailing good humour, and her quick and interesting response to anything that was said." Another old friend and classmate remembered Anna helping him and others with difficult courses, writing, "She was so selfless and had a great sense of dry humour".

During her last weeks, Anna received excellent and compassionate care by the nurses and doctors in the Palliative Care Unit of the VG Hospital in Halifax. Her family is forever grateful to them for making Anna comfortable and feel at home there.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 7, at 11 am in All Nations Church (2535 Robie Street, Halifax), followed by a reception.

Memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.harboursidecremation.ca.

Tribute Wall

KB

“ *Dear Karl and family,*

I'm saddened to hear about Anna's passing. I used to game with her and she was always a joy.

Kirk Brown

Kirk Brown - March 06, 2023 at 01:44 PM

“ Dear Karl, Anton, Eric and family,

Shocked and deeply saddened by Anna's passing, we extend our deepest condolences. It is a great loss.

We have had the pleasure of knowing Anna and reconnecting with her at three separate moments in time. Unexpectedly, our paths kept recrossing in probability defying ways. It was always a pleasure to reconnect.

I first met Anna while we were both at Queen's in the early 80s. Anna was in my Advanced German class, she was the stellar student and more advanced than I! Coincidentally, she was also a direct neighbour in the house next door on Nelson Street in second year!

Our paths crossed again a few years later, in 1984, I ran into Anna at Dalhousie, we both continued our undergraduate degrees in Halifax, and later we discovered that we were in the same Russian language class. Again, Anna was the bright and cheery stellar student. Later in Halifax, coincidentally, Anna and Karl lived in the same apartment building on Kent Street as Elsa and I, we were neighbours again.

We had parted paths in 1986 after leaving Halifax for Montreal only to meet again 20 years later, unexpectedly at a fencing meet in the Greater Montreal area, Anna had accompanied Eric to a competition. Both of our boys, the same age, fenced together using the same weapon. Through fencing, we shared the past and the present with much enthusiasm for the sport.

Anna was an extraordinary person, open, kind, respectful, intelligent and pleasure to speak with. Sadly, our paths will not cross again.

We wish Karl, Anton, Eric and family much strength.

Ian van Haaster and Elsa Lo (Montreal, QC)

Ian van Haaster - February 16, 2023 at 05:20 PM

LB

“ *I remember Anna as a student at E.S.Tagwi H.S. in Avonmore, she was active in the Outdoor Club. Please accept my sympathies, Lorraine Bourdeau, teacher and librarian.*

Lorraine Bourdeau - January 27, 2023 at 03:30 AM

CB

“ *I met Anna in Moscow when I studied there in 1987 (and also met Zhanna O'Clery). The start of Glasnost was an exciting time to be in the Soviet Union and I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of a group of 10 Canadian students from Dalhousie living in a dormitory with Russian postgrad students and exchange students from the UK and the Eastern Bloc countries. I spent lots of time with Anna and some of the other students during that period going on many adventures around the city often initiated by Zhanna but also on our own. I am glad that I had the opportunity to meet and get to know Anna and look back on my memories with much fondness.*

Christina Butler - January 22, 2023 at 06:55 AM

MD

“ *Titia and family, our sympathy to you in your loss of Anna. What an amazing person she was! May your memories help to comfort you. Love, Piebe & Maryke DeJong*

Maryke DeJong - January 21, 2023 at 02:35 PM

VW

“ Anna and I were high school friends and those are memories I am grateful to have. She was a very talented volleyball player and I always preferred to be playing with her than against her...she had a wicked spike! She was always the smartest in class and was very generous with her time for those of us that didn't find algebra and calculus so easy! I loved her quirky sense of humour and was inspired by her total indifference to what was popular. I stopped in for a visit a couple of years ago and even though her cancer was very serious at that point she did not dwell on it and we shared many laughs as we wandered around looking at the tall ships. The friends we make in our formative years I think are particularly precious and I am glad Anna was one of mine. Karl, I appreciate you getting in touch. Anna always coloured outside the lines so I expect your life together was an adventure. I extend my condolences to you and your family.

Kind regards,
Val Wert

Val Wert - January 13, 2023 at 12:54 PM

HK

“ Anna kam 1984 in unser Leben. In diesem Sommer haben Karl und Anna in Harle, Deutschland, geheiratet. Auf dem Hof der Schwiegereltern gab es ein unvergessliches Fest über mehrere Tage. Bekannte und Verwandte sind aus allen Richtungen angereist. Annas Schwiegermutter hat den Kontakt zu der Verwandtschaft in Friesland und Kanada bis zuletzt aufrecht erhalten.

In den vielen Jahren ist Anna immer wieder nach Harle gekommen, später dann auch mit Anton und Eric. Für uns war es sehr schön, die zwei Kinder aufwachsen zu sehen und nette Abende mit Anna zu verbringen.

Unvergesslich ist ein gemeinsamer Kurzurlaub mit Anna und Karl in Madrid in 2017.

Wir werden Anna sehr vermissen.

Our most sincere condolences to Karl, Anton und Eric, to Titia, Kathryn and Duncan and their families.

We have a treasure chest of memories, thank you Anna.

Karin & Hartmut



Hartmut & Karin - January 07, 2023 at 12:12 PM

EL

Dear Karl and family,. So sorry to hear of Anna's passing. We remember being delighted by her company and humour when you were first going out. You have had many years together and built a lovely family. We hope you can offer each other comfort and joy in your memories. Emily and Ian

Emily Levy-Purdy - January 10, 2023 at 12:20 PM

ZO

“ I met Anna in 1986 in Moscow, where she spent a year studying Russian. We lived in the same dormitory in south-western Moscow and explored the city together - cinema, theatre, museums and endless gatherings to discuss politics. It was an exciting time in the old Soviet Union with perestroika and glasnost in full swing, and we were witness to many a historical event. Anna showed great interest in every aspect of learning Russian and the Russian culture. She was full of life and had enthusiasm for whatever we did. Her beloved Karl visited her, and it was moving to see a young couple so supportive of each other. Our sincere sympathies to Karl, Anton and Eric on their loss and may the fond memories of Anna and their support for each other provide some solace. May Ann rest in peace!
Zhanna (& Conor) O'Clery, Dublin, Ireland

Zhanna O'Clery - January 05, 2023 at 03:49 PM

SS

“ We met Anna when we were students at Trier University, Germany. Anna was fun to be with and we enjoyed our time together. We all loved her good sense of humour.
Our deepest condolences to her family.
Steffi and Armin, Munich, Germany
and the Steiner family, Hauenstein, Germany

Stefanie Steiner - January 05, 2023 at 09:52 AM

JA

“ Anna fought long and hard, inspiring all who knew her with her strength, tenacity, honesty and resilience. It was a pleasure to enjoy Anna's company these past few years on the pickleball court where she became an excellent player , always strategically smart and able to make great shots as well as show tremendous physical agility. Anna's family has my deepest sympathy.

Your loss is great. Anna's many talents and achievements are so well outlined in this tribute .

Jane Archibald - January 04, 2023 at 11:55 AM

MW

“ Anna was a precious friend & volunteer at Oxfam-Deveric and Latin America Information Group in the 80s. She helped me with my son Simon and we loved her. Deepest condolences to Karl, Erik & Anton.



Marian White - January 04, 2023 at 09:54 AM

AD

“ 1 file added to the album *Photos for the Service*



Anton Dilcher - January 04, 2023 at 12:05 AM