



Mary (Maartje) Mansvelt

June 19, 1932 - October 8, 2025

Our beloved Oma, Mary (Maartje) Mansvelt, of Grand Lake Oakfield, died on October 8, 2025 at the age of 93 in Hospice Halifax.

Born on June 19, 1932 in Kootwijkerbroek, the Netherlands, she was the eldest daughter of Aart and Dirkje Lagerwey. Maartje grew up on the family farm where she learned the values of hard work, resilience, and commitment to family and faith. She knew tragedy from a young age, having lost 2 brothers in childhood. Her mother died after a long battle with cancer when Maartje was 20. As the eldest, she became a mother-figure to her 3 younger sisters and 3 brothers, and due to her family responsibilities, she regretfully had to withdraw from middle school. She knew scarcity during the occupation of her homeland in World War II, and told stories of men hiding in the fields and neighbours going missing.

After the War, Maartje accepted an immigration sponsorship, and arrived in Halifax in 1956 via Pier 21 on board the MV Maasdam. The journey was the adventure of a lifetime; she felt spoiled since she didn't have to cook, do dishes or laundry for a whole week .

She worked as a housekeeper for Colonel Kenrick and Mrs Violet Laurie of Oakfield, a large farm estate on the shore of Grand Lake. Maartje became "Mary" at Mrs. Laurie's request. Mrs. Laurie was like a mother to her and

became a lifelong friend to the family. Despite not knowing any English, Mary learned the language quickly and especially enjoyed the company of other Dutch immigrants on the farm.

In 1957, she married Nicolaas Mansvelt and after some time in New Glasgow, they returned to build a home in Grand Lake to raise their family of nine children.

Mom poured herself into loving and caring for her children, and also many neighborhood children over the years. She made a homemade meal that 11 hungry faces shared elbow to elbow around the table every night. Her macaroni and cheese and her pancakes were family favorites. She baked almost every day, and said that laundry was her favorite hobby. Mom always had a full clothesline flying in the wind, even in winter. Her mending was a work of art. Mom helped us sort our newspapers after school, and sent us out on our bikes or on foot to deliver them, for 6 days a week, for years. She took delight in each of her 26 grandchildren, and then her 15 (and counting) great-grandchildren. Oma loved phone calls; one of her greatest gifts was keeping us all connected by sharing each other's stories. Oma happily welcomed visitors with coffee or tea and sweets at her cozy home. We will always remember her two-armed goodbye wave. She had a humble, quiet faith and enjoyed volunteering in the nursery at Hillside Wesleyan Church, Fall River Chapel, and later in the prayer shawl ministry at St Margaret's Church, Oakfield.

Mom will be forever missed by Reta, Melissa (Todd), Stephanie (Scott), and Greg (Nikki); Deirdre (Dr. Ian Grant), Hannah, Nicolaas, Luke, and Gina; Chris (Marilyn), Joel (Katie), Daniel (Natalie), and Andrew (Tia); Carolyn (David), Ben (Nicolette), Noah, and Sam; David (Jody) and Jonathan; Jeannie (Paul), Jacob, Mollie, and Emma; Brenda (Derek), Lauren; Johnny (Denise), Abigail (Andrew), Katie, and Laura; Wendy (David), Matthew, William, and Evan. She

was predeceased by her beloved husband Nick, her brothers Bertus, Rijk, and Bart, son-in-law Bob Honour, grandchildren Jonah and Grace. Mary is survived by her sisters Ellen, Janny, and Cobie, brothers Jaap and Dick, and special Mansvelt in-laws Gera, Jan, Til, and Henk.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2 pm on Friday, October 24, 2025, at St. John's United Church, Fall River, Rev. Michael Tutton presiding with Rev. Carl Fraser assisting. Reception to follow at Grand Lake Oakfield Community Centre. Private interment to follow at St. Margaret's Anglican Church, Oakfield. Donations in Mary's memory may be made to Hospice Halifax or St. Margaret's Anglican Church, 5639 Highway # 2, Oakfield NS, B2T 1B3
Special thanks to Dr. Lisa MacIntyre, Dr. Nicholas Giacomantonio, Cristy and the Continuing Care Team, Cara and the Palliative Care Team, Comfort Keepers Paru, Shreya, and Tigsti, and Hospice Halifax for their compassionate care for Mom.

Tribute Wall

KB

“ Sending sympathy and condolences to Mary’s lovely family. I remember Mrs. Mansvelt as a kind Dutch lady from church, a friend’s mom, who took time to be friendly to me when I was a teenager. She had a beautiful smile and such warmth to go with it. A life well lived, I’m thankful to have crossed paths with her.

Katrina (Sawler) Brouwer - October 31, 2025 at 02:51 PM

BP

“ So very sorry for your lost, Mary was a kind and loving person.
Brenda Palmer

Brenda Palmer - October 28, 2025 at 08:31 PM

DF

“ Very sorry to hear of Mary's Passing. She was a sweet and lovely lady. God's blessing on the family.
Dave (Forbes)

David Forbes - October 25, 2025 at 07:31 PM

W(

“ My sincere condolences to the whole Mansvelt family. I have fond memories of spending time in your Mum and Oma’s home . She always made you feel like you were part of the family. Wonderful lady.
Bev (MacMichael)Reid

Weldon and Beverly (MacMichael)Reid - October 25, 2025 at 12:19 PM

CM

“ Ken and I rented a place on Oakleaf Crescent while our home was buying built on Acorn Drive, and I was home with my first child, Fleure. Mary used to pop over to see me, and I very much appreciated her cheerful visits.

Carol Morrison - October 24, 2025 at 05:24 PM

RV

“ Tante Mary was such a great mom and such a great lady! I know you will all miss her very much. Sending sincere condolences to all the Mansvelts. Rochelle Visser

Rochelle Visser - October 24, 2025 at 04:26 PM

JF

“ Sending condolences to a beautiful family...your Mom was a wonderful lady. RIP Mrs Mansvelt.

Jean Ferguson - October 24, 2025 at 09:03 AM

KM

“ Our deepest sympathy on the passing of your mom. She raised a wonderful family. May your memories and the peace of God sustain you all

Kathy and Richard Mullin - October 23, 2025 at 12:22 PM

LF

“ Sterling and I send condolences to Chris and Marilyn and all the family. Praying for the Lord's comfort at this difficult time.

Linda Fillmore - October 21, 2025 at 02:15 PM

WL

“ Chris, Marilyn & the Mansvelt Family: Truly we are saddened to learn of your family loss. Years of good memories brings consolation during these times. We extend sincere sympathy with thoughts & prayers. Wally & Vi Lewis

Wally& Vi Lewis - October 21, 2025 at 10:01 AM

CF

“ Johnny, my condolences to you and your family on the loss of your mother, Mary. May she rest in peace.

Cliff Falkenham - October 20, 2025 at 07:50 PM

PH

“ My thoughts and sympathy are with you Deirdre (DeeDee) and your family.
I think of you often!

Pam Hughes - October 19, 2025 at 06:12 PM

VS

“ Although I did not have the privilege of getting to know Mary Mansvelt, I have been close friends with Carolyn for decades. That has been my honor. Mrs Mansvelt will live on in each and everyone of her children.

Vivian Siscoe - October 19, 2025 at 09:29 AM

DC

“ *Our sincere and heartfelt condolences to all of Mary’s family and friends. We hope you will find peace and joy in remembering a life well lived, and the blessing Mary truly must have been to all of you. She was an angel whose light shone bright in living out her faith each and every day, showing love and kindness to all whose lives she touched, now called home to hear the Father say “well done my child “.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Love Dan and Joanne

Daniel and Joanne Charlebois - October 17, 2025 at 01:15 PM

VT

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Virginia Taylor - October 16, 2025 at 11:00 PM

VT

“ *Our condolences to Mary's family. The obituary pays testament to the selfless devotion to her family in which Mary took great pride. We can't begin to imagine the difficult times during which she and Nikkolas raised such a large family. Fondly remembered for her sweet and humble nature, Virginia and Stuart (friends)*

Virginia Taylor - October 16, 2025 at 10:42 PM

NH

Our thoughts & prayers are extended to Mary's precious family. We shared a Dutch common bond with my husband's roots & the pleasure of a hot drink accompanied by a sweet! We enjoyed attending the same church as Mary & Nick & watched as their children grew in adulthood. People of faith & great integrity. Always enjoyed our yearly visit with the Mansvelts when camping at Lorrie Park. This yr was really special as it coincided with Mary's 93 birthday & all of the lovely decorations done by some of her family.

Nancy & Gerald den Hollander - October 18, 2025 at 07:32 PM

EP

Mary was like a grandmother to my siblings and me. She will always be missed and remembered fondly. Her boundless energy and positivity were infectious and she brightened any room she was in. Such an incredible lady <3

Erica Pryde - October 25, 2025 at 10:30 AM

HW

“ It was an honour to serve as Pastor of Hillside Wesleyan Church in the mid 70's and to have the Mansvelt family as a part of the congregation. Their solid support, quiet strength and wonderful family were an inspiration. I am thankful for many memories of those days. Please accept my sincere condolences. H C Wilson

H C Wilson - October 16, 2025 at 05:38 PM

FK

“ Our condolences to the Mansvelt family . No doubt your love for family is one of Mary’s greatest legacies. She will always be remembered fondly by all. I will always remember the kindness she had for everyone. I was so happy have a visit with her on my last visit. RIP Mary.



fred Kamperman - October 16, 2025 at 04:57 PM

KA

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Karin - October 16, 2025 at 01:52 PM

KA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Karin - October 16, 2025 at 01:08 PM

KA

It was very nice that my mum visited her sister in law last year❤️

Karin - October 17, 2025 at 02:12 AM

PB

Johnny, Denise and family. So sorry to read of the passing of Johnny's mom. Sincere condolences and hugs to all. Love, Paulina Beckman

Paulina Beckman - October 17, 2025 at 07:26 PM

RA

Johnny, very sorry to read of your Mums passing. Best wishes to you and all your family. Rose and Randy Snow

Randy - October 18, 2025 at 09:33 AM

GD

Our sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family ! Lots of memories and it was always nice when Mary visited , even not long ago on her bicycle !! Rose really enjoyed these special times !! Will be missed by all !! God bless !! Gerry and Rose DenOuden

Gerry DenOuden - October 18, 2025 at 07:34 PM

SR

So sorry to read of Mary's passing. My condolences to the Mansvelt family. Steve Rogers

Steve Rogers - October 19, 2025 at 06:40 PM

HG

*Marilyn,
So sorry for your loss. What a heritage!
Hope Graham*

Hope Graham - October 21, 2025 at 07:43 AM

DT

Sorry for the loss of your Mom. Sending deepest condolences. Diana Thimpson

Diana Thompson - October 24, 2025 at 08:15 PM

RI

My heartfelt condolences to the Mansvelt family on Marys passing. Richard Van Ingen

Rick - October 25, 2025 at 07:52 PM