



Sonja Aarssen

February 5, 2026

Sonja Martha Aarssen of Wallaceburg passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at the age of 74. Sonja was the daughter of the late John and Agnes (DeSmit) Verstraeten. She was a loving mother to Shannon Davidson and John Aarssen (Claudia Aarssen) and the beloved Oma of Hailey, Spencer, Erica, and Owen. Sonja is predeceased by her brothers Joseph and Adrian Verstraeten. She is loved and missed by her many close friends. Music was Sonja's passion, she played multiple instruments and was the director of the Folk Choir at Holy Family Church until 2016.

Family and friends are invited to gather for visitation at the Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home, 409 Nelson Street in Wallaceburg from 5 pm until 8 pm on Thursday, April 16. The Funeral Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at Holy Family Church at 11 am on Friday, April 17, 2026. Interment to follow at Riverview Cemetery. If desired, donations to Chatham-Kent Hospice may be left at the funeral home (519-627-3231). Cherished stories and tributes may be shared with the family at www.CavanaghFuneralHome.ca

Previous Events

Family and Friends

APR **16.** 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home
409 Nelson Street
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4G9 (CA)
(519) 627-3231
contact@cavanaghfuneralhome.ca
<https://www.cavanaghfuneralhome.ca>

Funeral Mass

APR **17.** 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Family Church
647 Murray Street
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 1W2 (CA)

Tribute Wall



“ Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Sonja Aarssen



Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home - April 14 at 11:05 AM

RS

“ Dear Shannon & John,

I'm so sorry for your loss. I wish I could be there with you, but please know I'm thinking of you, from Belgium.

Sonia meant so much to me. When I was living in Canada, she truly became my "Canadian mom." She had such a warm, open heart and always made me feel at home. I'll never forget that.

I'm really grateful Baziel got to meet her as well, he still remembers that day at the lake; one of your mom's favorite place! That memory is so special to me.

It makes me extra sad knowing we won't get the chance we were looking forward to—her coming to Spain one summer... I wanted to show her all the nice spots...

Grateful for the memories we have, but sad that we won't be able to create new ones with her...

Sending you lots of love and strength, from my family to yours. She will always have a special place in my heart.

*Ruth & Baziel
Bea & Herwig*



Ruth Salien - April 14 at 05:37 PM



“ 104 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home - April 14 at 11:00 AM



“ Gerry Flynn lit a candle in memory of *Sonja Aarssen*



Gerry Flynn - April 11 at 10:26 PM

WD

“ Our heartfelt Condolences to all.... Our thoughts & prayers are with you! Sonja and I have been friends all the way back to grade school days... We had lots of good times as kids and into the teenage years!! This past summer we were fortunate to spend an afternoon together out on our pontoon... we had a great day and Sonja loved and enjoyed every minute of it... as we all did! We are so grateful for that day we spent together out on the water, lots of reminiscing, laughs and good food.... May you rest in peace dear friend, Forever in our hearts, as love lives on... ❤️ 🙏 Ron and Wendy Denning!



Wendy Denning - April 11 at 05:51 PM

WD

“ 2 files added to the album On the Pontoon



Wendy Denning - April 11 at 05:34 PM



“ Leonard (Jeanetta) Atkins Sending sincere condolences to Sonya's family and friends.



Leonard Atkins - April 11 at 07:17 AM

KF

“ Condolences to all of the family Sonja will be very missed ♡ Kelly and Scott Fisher



Kelly and Scott Fisher - April 06 at 07:26 PM

MA

“ To Sonja's loved ones you guys are the best, just like your GREAT MOM, she was a true friend for many years, fun trips and lots of good conversation, much laughter, such a gifted lady and she shared her many talents with everyone. We were so privileged to call her our friend. Heaven has a Special Angel. 🙏🏻🕯️🌸

Margaret Aarsen - March 27 at 06:42 PM

MV

“ Dear Shannon and Mike, John and Claudia, Hailey and Spencer, Erica and Owen, we are so very sorry for your loss of your loving Mom and Oma. She loved you all to the moon and back! And she was always so proud of everything you accomplished -at school or at work or in life in general. We are only 2 of her many friends and we are so happy to have made the many beautiful memories we experienced with her. And we were so lucky to be at Sunny Beach with her for 5 years! We miss her so much already! You are in our thoughts and prayers



Mary VanDamme - February 24 at 03:03 PM

ID

“ We will miss this wonderful lady who has been part of our lives for around 20 years.
Such a great lady and Oma to our shared grandchildren. We send love and support to Shannon, John and families xx

loene Davidson - February 23 at 09:14 PM

UN

“ So sorry to hear that Sonja passed away. A long time ago was my son's very committed accordion teacher. She herself played the instrument extremely well. My sincere condolences to Sonja's family and friends.

Uta Nowakowski - February 23 at 01:39 PM

CD

“ Cari DeKort sent a virtual gift in memory of Sonja Aarssen



Cari DeKort - February 15 at 10:15 PM

GD

“ I am going to miss you my friend ...the world isn't the same without you
Grant

grant dymock - February 14 at 09:35 AM

JT

“ James Bolos amd Synthia Trembley sent a virtual gift in memory of Sonja Aarssen



James Bolos amd Synthia Trembley - February 13 at 01:15 PM

JT

“ Deepest sympathies John, Shannon and your families. Cherish your memories and let her love and laughter fill your hearts forever.

James Bolos amd Synthia Trembley - February 13 at 01:13 PM

NS

“ You'll be missed at the Oaks, my condolences to all her family. ❤️🕊️



Nikki sands - February 12 at 12:36 PM

NO

“ Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and her friends. Sonja you will be missed. Rest in peace. 🙏❤️💜



Noel&ShirleyEdirisinghe - February 12 at 09:30 AM

BA

“ *Sad to hear that Sonja has passed away..I always admired her smile and her laugh..may she be at rest now with the heavenly angels .*



Betty aitken - February 12 at 08:38 AM

KG

“ *Karen Gilhuly lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen*



Karen Gilhuly - February 11 at 06:13 PM

JP

“ *Shannon, John and family. Joe and I are so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She was a lot of fun at work. If we met her in town she was always ready for a hug. May you find comfort remembering all the fun you have created with your mom. Sonja was a beautiful soul.*



Janice and Joe Punnewaert - February 11 at 02:05 PM

MB

“ *Mary Agnes Bogaert let a candle for Sonja*



Mary, Agnes Bogaert - February 11 at 09:52 AM

LY

“ I am so sorry for your loss 🙏
She was such a kind person and always full
of smiles. Thinking of all of you



Leslie Janssens Young - February 11 at 09:02 AM

SP

“ I am a resident at the Oak's - did not know Sonja for a long time but
we
had a couple of Ukelete lessons with Barry Betts and had some
good times together. She will be missed.

Sandra Pegg - February 10 at 07:23 PM

BS

“ Sending our Heartfelt Condolences to All of
Sonja's Family and Friends. I remember her
most from Highschool, she was fun to be
around and very talented!! We are so sorry to
hear of her passing, you are in our thoughts
and prayers at this difficult time. RIP Sonja



Brian and Elaine Shaw - February 10 at 03:25 PM

TF

“ Rest in Peace Sonja



Theresa Freeburn - February 10 at 02:42 PM

JT

“ Our deepest condolences to Sonja's family and friends. We grew up in the same neighbourhood. May she rest in peace.



Jack and Kim Thomaes - February 10 at 02:16 PM

TV

“ Tracy Verstraeten lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen



Tracy Verstraeten - February 10 at 12:59 PM

DA

“ Dale & Colleen Aitken lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen



Dale & Colleen Aitken - February 10 at 11:45 AM

BT

“ Betty Tack sent a virtual gift in memory of Sonja Aarssen



Betty Tack - February 10 at 11:39 AM

VD

“ To all of Sonja's family and friends so sorry for your loss RIP Sonja.
Mike and Vicky Davis

Vicky Davis - February 10 at 11:38 AM

LO

“ Sonja was so kind to give me guitar lessons for free, even when I insisted on paying. She was so gifted musically and was a patient teacher. My sincerest condolences to all of Sonja's family and friends. Liz Oliveira



Liz Oliveira - February 10 at 10:54 AM

LF

“ Linda and Ken Fox lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen



Linda and Ken Fox - February 10 at 10:40 AM

LH

“ To the Aarssen and Verstraeten family's and all of Sonja's wonderful friends who were also by her side on her journey, our sincere condolences to all. Sonja touched many life's and she will be missed by all that knew her
Thinking of you all at this most difficult time
Stuart and Lorrie Handsor and family

Lorrie Handsor - February 10 at 10:27 AM

CD

“ Our sincerest condolences to Shannon, John & families on the passing of your mother. She was a wonderful person and a very talented musician. I enjoyed being in the choir with her at Holy Family Church. She will be missed. Sending thoughts and prayers.

Con & Joanne Van Damme - February 10 at 10:26 AM

RY

“ Rose Yazbeck lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen



Rose Yazbeck - February 10 at 10:03 AM

GB

“ Gary & Janice Broidioi lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen



Gary & Janice Broidioi - February 10 at 09:47 AM

TD

“ Deepest condolences. Sending love and prayers.



Tracy (OBrien) Van Damme - February 10 at 09:13 AM

LT

“ *Our condolences to Sonja’s family. We went to high school together.*



Linda & Brian Thornton - February 10 at 09:06 AM

CH

“ *Carolyn Van Haren lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen*



Carolyn Van Haren - February 10 at 08:59 AM

RW

Condolence to Sonja family

Rose Walter - February 10 at 09:39 AM

RW

sorry for your loss ,a great lady RIP sONJA

ROSE WALTER - April 11 at 10:27 AM

NA

“ *Norma Authier lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen*



Norma Authier - February 10 at 08:56 AM

FB

“ Our deepest sympathy to Sonja's children, grandchildren, and her many close friends. We've known her for many years. May she rest in peace.



Fran Barnier - February 10 at 08:55 AM

BK

“ I'm sorry for the loss of your mom. My sincere condolences and prayers for Sonja's family

Barb Kearney - February 10 at 08:45 AM

DF

“ My accordion teacher !!! 😞

Don Fuoco - February 10 at 08:44 AM

MC

“ My deepest sympathies to her loved ones. I loved going to church to listen to her music and her specially when she played the accordion. Her heartfelt nature touched a lot of hearts. Marian Hereygers

Marian Calvert - February 10 at 08:37 AM


George McGaffey

“ George McGaffey lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen



George McGaffey - February 10 at 08:34 AM

JS

“ Janet Slack sent a virtual gift in memory of Sonja Aarssen



Janet Slack - February 10 at 08:29 AM

SC

“ Shelley Cameron lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen



Shelley Cameron - February 10 at 08:27 AM

JG

“ Janice Gonyou lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen



Janice Gonyou - February 10 at 08:23 AM

MC

“ Michael Cibulka lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen



Michael Cibulka - February 09 at 08:52 PM

JE

“ *Sending sincere condolences to Sonya’s family and friends.* ”



Jean (VanDamme) Elliott - February 09 at 08:47 PM

DC

“ *Dave and Norma lit a candle for Sonja* ”



Dave Cogghe - February 09 at 08:42 PM

CJ

“ *Aunt Sandy and Cheryl from Vancouver, BC send our condolences.* ”



Cheryl Jones - February 09 at 06:59 PM

WD

“ *Wendy & Ron Denning lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen* ”



Wendy & Ron Denning - February 09 at 05:59 PM

DD

“ *Our sincere condolences to Sonja’s family,our thoughts and prayers are with you*



Dan and Cheryl Dehens - February 09 at 04:29 PM

CF

“ *Our Heartfelt sympathies and prayers are with Sonja’s family*

Clarence Cindy Feddes - February 09 at 04:27 PM

AS

“ *Anibal &Paula Soares lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen*



Anibal &Paula Soares - February 09 at 03:39 PM

GF

“ *Gerry Flynn lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen*



Gerry Flynn - February 09 at 03:00 PM

JN

“ *Julie Nemeth lit a candle in memory of Sonja Aarssen*



Julie Nemeth - February 09 at 02:40 PM