



## **LOUISE LUCIA MELNICK**

October 5, 1926 - November 5, 2023

Rotary Club of Kenora



Lucia Melnick, a war bride coming to Kenora from Holland in 1946 to join her husband John Melnick (now deceased), found Kenora an experience having left a big European city to arrive here in the minus 40F weather December of 1946.

Having left the many cultural aspects of her homeland it didn't take Lucia long to realize there was a dearth of musical happenings in town. The Kenora District Festival of the Arts had been brought to a hiatus during the Second World War.

It has been Lucia's fortitude and persuasive dedication that for many years Kenora has had the wonderful experience of having the Winnipeg and Thunder Bay Symphonies coming to perform in Kenora. Lucia was aware that with the city's new Harbourfront and big white tent there was no reason that summer concerts couldn't take place on a weekly basis. It wasn't long until citizens and visitors to this Kenora city were delighted to fill the pavilion to listen to the lilting sound of great voices and musical groups during the summer months. Lucia was one of the longest serving presidents of the Kenora Festival of the Arts.

Lucia was a 23 year member of the Rotary Club of Kenora. She received two Paul Harris Awards. The City of Kenora dedicated the Harbourfront Stage to Lucia in recognition of her enthusiasm in adding greatly to the quality of life in the community. Lucia's son Michael said, "My mother lured me into cultural events not only locally but in Europe and I am so grateful she had such a keen interest in my life and opened up my world."