

Kaarina Wickström



Life story



- ▶ She was born in 1943 and now she is 74 years old.
- ▶ She doesn't remember much because she was so young.
- ▶ They had to leave the Karelian Isthmus in Summer 1943 because of the Continuation War.
- ▶ They were evacuated when she was six months old.
- ▶ Their family of nine persons took their cat, icon and fork with them and left .
- ▶ They came from Hautavaara to Juuka and they were in host family but after two years they built their own house.

- ▶ They lived in a house that had only one big room.
- ▶ The locals weren't very friendly when they came.
- ▶ Language was a problem because evacuees spoke Karelian and others spoke Finnish and it was hard to learn it.
- ▶ In school Kaarina was bullied because she had a different religion. Finnish people were Lutheran and evacuees were Orthodox.
- ▶ Adapting was hard and Kaarina had to repeat her first grade at school.
- ▶ In spite of all these difficulties and problems, she has visited her roots in Karelia

