

# OBITUARIES

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**JENNINGS**, Gerald Barry – 93, Upper North River, passed away peacefully at home, Saturday, January 25th, 2025. Born in Masstown, he was the son of the late Frank A. and Dorothy “Dolly” (Leben) Jennings. Gerald is survived by his children, Stephen (Brenda); Nancy (Tim) Winkler; Susan (Chris) Vessey; Ann (Ken) Hansford; Jason; brother Eric (Priscilla); 8 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, 7 great-great-grandchildren and several step children and their families. He is predeceased by his wife, the former Patricia “Sally” Dexter; son Michael; grandson James “Jamie” Gibbs; brothers, Jack, Wallace and Keith. Gerald was a poultry and dairy farmer, and also was a dedicated member of the Onslow Belmont Fire Brigade for many years. After retiring from farming he held various service and maintenance positions. He worked at Kent Homes, Keddy’s Hotel and JG Parkers in Truro. Gerald was a skilled carpenter building a garage at every new home he acquired. In his retirement he was fond of building his own variation of the Adirondack style chairs, brightly painted, many of which found homes throughout the province and beyond. His dream came true when he and Sally, his wife of 67 years, took a 4 month trip in their RV to Alaska and the Arctic Circle, down the west coast to California and back home. Sally never traveled a great distance in the RV again. As active members of the Hub Campers they attended many Bluegrass festivals around the province. Gerald will be missed by many. Arrangements are in the care of MacDiarmid’s Funeral Home & Crematorium. A visitation to celebrate Gerald’s life will be held on Saturday, February 22 from 2-5 pm in The Peg, 10675 Hwy 2, Masstown, NS. Donations may be made to Cobequid United Church, Masstown or to EART (Emergency Animal Response Team, PEI - email [Ron\\_mccconnell@hotmail.ca](mailto:Ron_mccconnell@hotmail.ca)).

**WELLS** – Bruce Alexander (90), Ottawa and Truro, died February 19, 2025, in Truro. Born in Ottawa, he was the youngest child of the late Alexander V. Wells O.B.E. and Edith (Singleton) Wells. Bruce spent the war years in Sydney where his father was OIC of the R.C.N. Dockyard. Bruce was an average student at Argyle primary in Sydney, but when the family moved back to Ottawa, he was able to take advantage of his above-average Nova Scotia schooling and in 1954, he joined the Venture program of the RCN and served for a time on H.M.C.S. Ontario, the same vessel as did his brother during WW2. Bruce resigned from the Navy in 1959 to attend Dalhousie University. Upon graduation in 1963, he moved with his wife, the former Maxine Bond of Truro, to Southern Ontario and began working in Toronto for Shell Canada. In 1973, they moved to Ottawa where he joined the National Energy Board. During this period, he was also a volunteer with the HELP line, an advocacy group for the disabled, and Meals on Wheels, until his retirement in 1991. Bruce is survived by a number of nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his wife, Maxine in 2020; brother, Douglas; sisters, Mavis Burchell and Doreen Wilson; nephews, Bruce Burchell, Geoff Burchell, Neil Wilson and Stephen Wilson and by sister-in-law, Helen Wells and brother-in-law, C.D. Burchell. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS. There will be no visitation by request. A family graveside service will be held at a later date.

**GREENOUGH**, Craig Grant born on June 26, 1973, passed away suddenly on February 17, 2025, at the age of 51 years due to a heart attack. Craig will be remembered for his enthusiasm and passion for adventure. He was a man with many interests. He was deeply fond of his cats. Craig’s love for Star Wars Memorabilia was a constant in his life, as was his excitement for new technology. He was always staying up to date with the latest gadgets and innovations, never missing a chance to explore the “new and exciting.” His dedication to a saltwater aquarium mirrored his care and attention to detail in all aspects of his life. A Car Hauler by profession, Craig’s work took him on mini journeys across the country. His passion for four wheeling and the freedom it brought him was something he cherished, and he often spoke fondly of his adventures. Craig was not just a “man of hobbies,” but also a “man of heart.” He had a unique way of making family vacations not only fun, but educational too. He believed in making the most of every moment, ensuring his daughters experienced something new with every trip.

**PRATT**, Dale Aubrey – Age 67, Tatamagouche. It is with heavy hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Dale Aubrey Pratt on February 20, 2025, in Willow Lodge, Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia. Born on June 26, 1957, Dale was a true country man at heart—someone who found joy in the simple pleasures of life and cherished time spent with family and friends. Dale was a truck driver for over 25 years. He was a talented carpenter who built two homes with his own hands, a skilled mechanic and an avid outdoorsman. He loved fishing, camping, four-wheeling and gathering around a campfire with a cold beer and good company. A lover of country music, he enjoyed playing the guitar, singing and hosting lively kitchen parties filled with laughter and song. Dale will be deeply missed by his loving wife, Cindy Pratt; his children, Cory Pratt, Brad (Erica) Pratt and Stacey (Jeff) White; and his cherished grandchildren, Brandon and Alison White, and Emily, Kaitlin, and Joshua Pratt. He is also survived by his siblings, Eldora (Emery) Lynds, Louise (Bill) Buckler, Beverly (Gary) Whidden, Johnny (Karen) Pratt, Rodney (Barb) Pratt, Rodger (Jeannie) Pratt and Jeffery (Donna) Pratt; siblings-in-law, Jean (Robbie) Lynds, Greg (Cheryl) Blair and John (Lisa) Blair. Dale was a proud uncle to many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, all of whom he loved dearly. He was predeceased by his parents, Aubrey Douglas Pratt and Alma Louise Pratt; his sister, Sharon MacRae; parents-in-law, Ross and Betty Blair; nephews, Nick and Andrew Blair. In keeping with Dale’s generous spirit, the family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Huntington Society of Canada in his memory. Dale’s legacy of love, laughter, and country living will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. The family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to the staff of Willow Lodge for the wonderful care and kindness given to Dale during his stay with them. A visitation was held on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. A service was Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro. A celebration of life will be held following the service at Brad Pratt’s home.

**FRASER**, Myrtle (Yerxa) Age 96, of Vimy Court, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, surrounded by her loving family. Born in New Glasgow on April 7, 1928, she was a daughter of the late John and Annie (MacDonald) Yerxa. Myrtle is survived by her daughter, Linda (Allen) MacNutt; son, Steve (Sheila) Fraser; and daughter-in-law, Aleca Fraser. She was a cherished grandmother to Kevin (Lisa) MacNutt, Tracy (Craig) Carter, Jennifer (Brian) McNeese, Adam Fraser, Jennifer (Beau) Tattrie, and Amanda (Justin) Cail. She was also blessed with great-grandchildren, Cole, Ally, Anna, Dagen, Azree, Clare, Cheyenne, Jase, Hunter, and Addie. Myrtle is also survived by her brother, Bud (Marion) Yerxa of New Glasgow, as well as many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 55 years, Simon Fraser; her son, Gerald “Jake” Fraser; four sisters and one brother. Myrtle and Simon married in New Glasgow in 1947, beginning their family before relocating to Truro in 1960. They spent many cherished winters in Zephyrhills, Florida, where they formed many lasting friendships. Myrtle found joy in her work as a counselor at the N.S. Home for Girls and later as a sales associate at Peoples Jewelers. One of her favorite traditions was Fraser Day at Hart Lake, where she was surrounded by family. The family extends heartfelt gratitude to the entire staff at Vimy Court for their compassionate care over the past two years. Myrtle deeply appreciated the kindness and warmth shown to her. In lieu of flowers, donations in Myrtle’s memory may be made to the Vimy Court Recreation Fund or a charity of choice. A visitation was held Sunday, March 2, 2025, in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow Street, Truro, NS.

**SPENCER**, Patricia “Pat” - On the afternoon of February 24, 2025, Patricia “Pat” Spencer (Brown), age 79 years, of Great Village, passed peacefully away with family by her side. She joins her husband, Lyle Spencer, who passed not two months prior, on December 31, 2024. Pat was born in Truro. Her parents were John “Jack” McInnes (of Charlottetown, PEI) and Elva Nolan (of Truro). Her sister, Margaret “Peggy” Hughes, played a significant role in raising her. Although Pat lived in Kitchener, Ontario, for a few years as a young adult, she spent most of her life in Great Village. Pat spent the last 47 years of her life married to the love of her life, Lyle Spencer. Together, Lyle and Pat raised four boys and two girls. She loved her children fiercely and unconditionally. Pat was better known as “Nanny” to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Even as both started to see their health dwindle, they remained anchors in each other’s lives and somehow found the energy and resolve to engage in lively debates with each other. Pat was predeceased by her parents; her sisters, Karen Pion and Peggy, and her brothers, Gary Brown and Ronald “Sooty” Nolan (Betty). Pat is survived, and will be missed, by her sister, Sally Cruikshank (Bill); her brother, Colin “Mike” Brown (Joyce); her children, James Spencer (Janice), Lisa George (Laurie), Tracey Spencer (Kristy), Grant Sprague (Annette), Clinton Spencer (Tery Lynn), and Vickie McNutt (Kelly); many nieces and nephews, some sixteen grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren (and counting). A celebration of Pat’s life was held March 22, 2025, in the Great Village Legion Hall. Donations may be made to “We Care About Cancer” at the Colchester East Hants Health Centre Foundation (600 Abenaki Road, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5A1).

**WEAGLE** (Sabean), Dorothy Pauline, lovingly known as “Dot”, peacefully left this world on February 26, 2025, with her family by her side in Colchester East Hants Health Centre in Truro, NS. Dot was born in Digby County, N.S. on August 16, 1938, to mother, Celeste Marie Sabean (Comeau) and father, Elias Sabean. Dot was predeceased by her loving husband, Reginald Weagle in 2008 as well as both her parents and six sisters, Kay, Betty, Rose, Margaret, Ella and Geraldine and three brothers, Elias, Junior and Neil. She is survived by two remaining sisters, Linda and Gloria and her two children, Janice Marie MacArthur (Alfred) of Moncton, NB and Julie Anne Healey (Ron) of Bible Hill, NS. Dot had six grandchildren, Celeste MacLeod (Brodie) of Quispamsis, NB, Chad Carruthers (Krysta) of Moncton, NB, Ben Healey (Catalina) of Toronto, ON, Corey Carruthers (Tara) of Moncton, NB, Kara Heighton (Carl) of River John, NS and Amy McKenzie (Chris) of Calgary, AB. Dot had nine great grandchildren, Caleb, Miyah, Colton, Jayce, Grayce, Macy, Gage, Royce and Shay. Dorothy was lovingly referred to as, “Nanny Dot” or “Noonie” by all of her grandchildren and their friends, as they would spend many a weekend having sleep overs there and sneaking treats from her hiding spots. Dot resided in Truro for over 60 years and enjoyed activities like curling, bowling and crafting her homemade apple dolls for many years as well as being a member of the local Beta Sigma Phi Sorority group in Truro. She was genuine, the real deal, and if you ever had the privilege of knowing her, you couldn’t help but love her! She will be greatly missed and will be forever in our hearts and our memories. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society in Dots memory would be greatly appreciated. A private celebration of Dot’s life will be held in the Spring, followed by interment in Terrace Hill Cemetery in Truro where she will join her beloved husband, Reggie.

**COLLINS**, Shirley Cecilia – On Tuesday, February 25, 2025, Shirley Cecilia Collins, age 75, passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones at Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro NS, after a short but courageous battle with cancer. Formerly from Port Hawkesbury, she was a daughter of the late Joseph E. and Dulcie (LeLacheur) Ryan. After leaving home at a young age, Shirley settled in Truro where she met the love of her life, Gary Collins. She then moved to Green Oaks with him, where they spent the next of 57 years of their life. Together they raised their only child, Amanda. She was employed at the International Café at the Truro train station, later becoming a long time, dedicated employee of Stanfield’s for 47 years. After retiring in 2014, she dedicated her time to her family, whom she loved immensely. She was very proud of her three grandchildren, Quinton, Lydia and John. Shirley is survived by her husband, Gary Collins; daughter, Amanda (Jonathan); grandchildren, Quinton (with whom she shared a very special bond), Lydia and John, who she adored; siblings, Elaine, Nanaimo BC, Jannette, Brampton ON, Joan (Richard), Port Hawkesbury, Lynda (Chuck), Powell River, BC, Carol (Jerry), Port Hawkesbury, Carmel, Dartmouth, Flo (Bill), Pictou; brother-in-law, Roy, Port Hastings; many nieces and nephews who she loved and many family friends. She was predeceased by siblings, Judy, Sharon, Leo and Baby Joey; in laws, Leonard and Lydia Collins; brother-in-law, Johnny Bona. Shirley’s family would like to thank VON and Palliative Care Unit, who cared for her with the utmost respect (they are truly angels in disguise). Thank you as well to her sister, Carol, brother-in-law, Jerry and niece, April, who stayed by her side during her final days. Donations may be made to Children’s Tumor Foundation of BC (Neurofibromatosis) or a charity of your choice. In keeping Shirley’s wishes, cremation has taken place. There will be a Celebration of Life and interment at a later date. Messages of comfort can be forwarded to Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow, Truro, NS.

**TOUPIN**, Roger Serge – The final posting for Roger Serge Toupin has been granted. It is with immense sadness that the family of Roger Toupin announces his passing on Thursday, February 27, 2025, in Colchester East Hants Health Centre in Truro, Nova Scotia due to complications from ongoing health issues. He passed peacefully in his sleep to join his wife of almost 60 years, Sheila Toupin, whose passing occurred on October 1, 2024. Roger was predeceased by his loving parents, Ernest and Yvonne Toupin and parents in-law, Ned and Gertrude Power; dear sisters, Terry Boisvert (late Johnny), Mado Chabot (late Jean Guy) and Rita Shooner (late Rodrigue); brother, Raymond Toupin; brothers-in-law, Joe Beauchemin, Chuck McDonald, Barry Granter; sister-in-law, Theresa Power; nephew, John Beauchemin; nieces, Thais Dawn Power, Johanne Boisvert and Sylvie Boisvert. Left to mourn are his children, Stephen (Kim), Marcel (Diana) and Andrea; grandchildren, Rebecca (Jordan), Jocelyn (Ethan) and Julia; Roger’s sister, Huguette Beauchemin, many Beauchemin, Boisvert, Chabot and Shooner nieces and nephews; sisters-in-law, Patricia Brazil (Leo), Mary McDonald (Rod), Joan Granter (Gene), Bridget McDonald, Gert Strickland (Murray) and brothers-in-law, George Power, Mike Power (Janet), Jim Power (Nat), Ed Power (Leslie), John Power (Cathy), Maurice Power (Donna), Tom Power, Darryl Power and a large number of nieces and nephews from the Power Clan. He will also be missed and remembered by a large circle of friends he collected during his military career that spanned four provinces. Roger began his military career at the young age of eighteen. His first posting after basic training was Gander, Newfoundland. A son, Marcel was born in Gander before his next Air Force posting. Now with two young ones, his career was on the move. When Roger decided to retire with his wife, Sheila, they found a little piece of Heaven in Lac des Iles, Quebec; a house with a lakefront view where they spent the next 25 years hosting their children, grandchildren, and countless family and friends. However, the years began to catch up to Dad and Mom and the burden of upkeeping this property began to take its toll. A decision to move East to Truro, Nova Scotia was made, they found a mini home which was more manageable for them and with Mom’s family nearby to welcome them and help them settle in. As a final military send off. . . . Sic Itur Ad Astra (Such is the Pathway to the Stars).

**SAUNDERS**, June Muriel – 100 years old, passed away on February 28, 2025, after a long and fulfilling life that spanned Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Nova Scotia, as well as career, family, and choir. Born in Peterborough, Ontario, on April 24, 1924, she was the daughter of the late Arthur and Islay Marie Burrows of Peterborough. After WWII, June worked as a teller at the Royal Bank of Canada, her first job, before becoming the Credit Manager at Sears. June and her husband, Stuart, were active members of the congregation and choir of the George St. United Church. Blessed with a striking singing voice, she often performed as a soloist. In the 1970s, after the couple moved to North Battleford, Saskatchewan, June continued to sing and taught ESL on a voluntary basis. In the 1980s, June and Stuart retired to Nova Scotia to be closer to family. A longtime member of both the choir and the Ladies Auxiliary at the St. James Presbyterian Church in Truro, June also volunteered at the Family Support Centre, which later became Maggie’s Place Family Resource Centre. June was predeceased by her husband, Charles Stuart Saunders and her daughter, Elizabeth Saunders; son-in-law; Bill Barron; as well as her brothers, Bernard and Doug Burrows. She is survived by her daughter, Carol Barron; son, Bernard Saunders; daughter-in-law, Mart Saunders. She is also survived by grandsons, Chris and Marc Saunders, David and Ben Farstad, Matthew, Stephen, and Sandy Barron; as well as great-grandchildren, Kalen, Hannah, Maggie and Anna Saunders, Isobel, Allison, and Evan Farstad, Emma and Charlotte Barron. A visitation was held on March 8<sup>th</sup> in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow Street, Truro.

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