

# OBITUARIES

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**CROUSE**, Vaughn known to all as “Bill”, was born on August 15, 1947, and raised in New Germany, Nova Scotia. He passed away on Sunday, March 2, 2025, after spending the day being showered with love from friends and family. He worked for The Royal Bank from the time he finished high school, eventually becoming a bank manager. While working in the bank, he met his wife, Helen (Ross). He retired after 37 years, then quickly realized he had too much life left in him and went back to work! Over the years, he resided mainly in Shubenacadie, then in Truro. He became the Treasurer at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #26, where he enjoyed making new friends. Bill was a part of the Lions Club, took great pride in his home and yard, and enjoyed playing crib and rummy. He always put his family before himself, would do anything for anyone, and nothing made him happier than knowing his family was happy. He was predeceased by his parents, Kenneth Leon Crouse and Joyce Florene Crouse (Woodworth). Bill is survived by his wife of 53 years, Helen; daughters, Dawn Townsend (Jimmy Townsend) and Julie Crouse; granddaughters, Jennifer Messenger (Andy McGee) and Robin Messenger (Taro Foley-Tanaka) and his sister, Carolyn Silver (the late Fred Silver). Special thanks go out to Gordon, Bev, and Matt Mullin, Bill Briggs and Nancy Atkinson, Ashley MacDonald and Carl Cox, Dr. Messeha, Dr. Adams, Dr. Shivakumar, Truro paramedics, and staff at Colchester East Hants Health Centre. In lieu of flowers, Bill requested that donations be made to either Victims Services or St John In The Wilderness Anglican Church Cemetery Fund of New Germany. A funeral service was Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm beginning with a Legion Tribute. There was Celebration of Life at the family home afterwards.

**MORRISEY**, Anthony Robert “Tony” – Age 72, Belmont. It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Anthony Robert Morrisey, known to all as Tony, on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Colchester East Hants Health Centre at the age of 72 years. Tony was born on July 14, 1952, in Truro, NS, and spent his entire life in Belmont. Tony worked at Culgin Construction for over 40 years, retiring only due to recent health issues. Throughout their lives, Tony and Donna moved a few times (eight to be exact) because Tony and his son, Mike, shared a passion for building homes. Nobody was ever sure exactly where they were moving, but it was always within a three-mile radius. Tony is survived by his wife of 55 years, Donna (Mugridge) Morrisey; his son, Michael Morrisey (Heather) and daughter, Gena Priest (Matthew); granddaughters, Hannah Eisses (Matthew), Michaela Priest (Cameron Graham), and Mallory Priest; great-grandchildren, Eli, Keira, Norah Eisses. Unfortunately, “Little Grampie” will miss out on the birth of his first great-grandson, Mack Anthony James Eisses, who will be arriving in June. Tony is survived by his brothers, Steven Morrisey (Florence), Roger Morrisey (Kathy), and Marty Morrisey (Linda Smith); his sister-in-law, Charmaine Turner (Brian). He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Lewis and Henrietta Morrisey; his brother, Gordon Morrisey and his wife, Phyllis, and his sister-in-law, Debbie Weatherby (Jim). Tony also leaves behind special friends and travel companions, Mark Fletcher and Donnie & Tanya Raymond, who shared many vacations with him and Donna. We would like to thank Dr. Jagmohan Singh for her care over the years, as well as nurses, Emily Rossiter and Riley MacEachern, for their compassion and support during Tony's final days. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Belmont Cemetery or please consider registering with Canadian Blood Services to donate blood or stem cells. A visitation was Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 1pm until time of service at 2pm, both in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro. Pastor Steve Adams officiating. A family interment will take place in Belmont Cemetery at a later date.

**LEGGETT**, Anne - It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Anne Leggett (Ridge) of Bible Hill, Nova Scotia, on March 6, 2025. Born to Robert and Mary Eileen (Molly) Ridge in Braunton, England, on June 3, 1937, Anne grew up in Braunton along with her older brother, Harry Ridge. Anne was the first in her family to attend university and received her Teacher's Certificate from London University in 1958. She married Royal Naval Seaman Graham Leggett on a rainy day at St. Brannock's Church in Braunton on July 27, 1959, and the love they shared for each other stayed strong throughout their marriage. In 1975, Anne and Graham saw an opportunity for a different life, and they made the big decision to move to Canada, first settling in Toronto, and then finding their home in Valley, Nova Scotia a year later. Anne was deeply involved in her community and was a founding member of the Valley-Kemptown and District Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary, and a member of the Valley United Church UCW. As a member of the Valley Recreation Association her fundraising efforts were key to the creation of the Pictou Road ballfield, something she was very proud of. In addition, she was incredibly active in Girl Guides of Canada as both a leader, and eventually a District Commissioner, and in later years as a member of the Trefoil Guild. Anne is survived by her devoted husband, Graham; son, Nigel; daughter, Ruth, and grandchildren, Rachel and Justin. She will be deeply missed by her family and her friends. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester East Hants Hospice Society. The family wish to extend their heartfelt appreciation and thanks to Dr. Sarbjit Singh and Caitlin, Dr. David Henderson and Hannah, and the wonderful, caring team of nurses on 3E and in the Palliative Care Centre at the Colchester East Hants Health Centre who took such good care of Anne in her final days, and also to Trina, Rhonda, Lorraine and Tammy - her team of caregivers who made such an incredible difference. Cremation has taken place. A celebration of life was Sunday, March 23, 2025, at 2pm in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS, followed by a reception. Tributes and memories may be shared by visiting [www.ColchesterCommunity.com](http://www.ColchesterCommunity.com).

**van den Hoek**, Willem - July 31, 1949 - March 6, 2025. Willem: husband, father, Opa, passed away after a lifetime of following his dreams in Canada, at age 75 and 55 years of marriage. Survived by wife, Maja; six children, Willem (Potter), Cees (Kathy), Margaretha (Charles), Cornelia (Cory), Wolfsen (Fumiko), Ben (Marlee), and brothers, Teun (Gerrie) and Martin. As Opa he leaves behind a legacy of fourteen grandsons and one granddaughter, Hendrikus, Maximus, Reuben, Oscar, Yamato, Garrett, Nico, Hiroto, Kaito, Cees, Makoto, Duncan, Luther, Ririko, and Victor. Ranging in age from seventeen years to just six months. Predeceased by his parents, Willem and Margaretha van den Hoek. Born in the Netherlands, he immigrated to Canada with Maja in 1970, shortly after they were married. After spending some years in BC, they drove across Canada eventually settling in Economy, NS. Establishing a homestead there where Willem and Maja started to make cheese in 1981. In 1990, the family picked up and moved to the current location in Upper Economy. Willem continued to pioneer the modern Canadian Artisanal Cheese Movement by defying the Dairy Standards and gaining National fame for his creation of the coveted Dragon's Breath Blue cheese. Here they developed their extensive hobby farm and the back forty network of gardens, trails and endless ponds... aka... Willem's Folly. He will be fondly remembered as a dreamer, a builder of ponds, a cheese maker, and “a discussor” (arguing every side of a subject, controversial or not). In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in Willem's memory to the Colchester Foodbank or the Canadian Cancer Society.

**FERGUSON**, Raymond “Brent” - It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Raymond “Brent” Ferguson, at age 64 on March 7, 2025 in Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro, after fighting a hard battle with cancer. Brent was a loving man who enjoyed having a good time with family and friends, having his beer and cigarette while listening to country music. He loved it when his grandsons came to visit him. He loved 4-wheeling with the boys, especially his buddy and friend, Chris McCallum. He also loved fishing and going out on his friend Mike Cameron's boat. He worked most of his life installing flooring. He is survived by his wife and soulmate, Helen; son, Brandon (Stacey); daughters, Amber (Troy) and Caitlin (Matt); five grandchildren, Hunter, Noah, Gavin, Felix and Bennett with another grandson on the way, who he was hoping to meet. Brent is also survived by sister, Shelly (Gary); brother, Allister; brother-in-law, Raymond in Montreal; sister-in-law, Shirley in Truro; many nieces and nephews. Brent was predeceased by his father, John Ivan Ferguson; mother, Dorothy Ferguson and sister, Deborah Ferguson. In keeping with Brent's wishes, there will be no funeral service. Donations can be made in his honour to the Canadian Cancer Society. A celebration of Brent's life will be held at his home at a later date.

**STEWART (WILSON)**, Eleanor Hope— Age 88, of Shortts Lake, passed away peacefully on March 7, 2025, in Elk Court, where she had resided for the past few years. Eleanor was born in Colchester County and at the age of five years was adopted by Flemming and Iona Wilson of Lower Debert, spending her childhood on the family farm. After the death of her father, she and her mother moved to Truro where she attended school and then graduated from the Teacher's College. She taught at many schools, the first being Alice Street, then in the Halifax area and retired from Stewiacke East. She and Boyd then spent many happy retirement years living at Shortts Lake. In addition to her parents, Eleanor was predeceased by her husband, Boyd and her brothers and sister. She is survived by her son, James; grandson, Mitchell and his mother, Marsha along with many nieces and nephews. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS. No visitation or service by request. Private interment at a later date in Folly Village Cemetery.

**van HOUT**, Gary - January 6, 1964 – March 5, 2025. Gary van Hout passed away at the age of 61 years after a short battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his close family: his partner, Tracy (Scales); his children, Jessie (Greg) Justason and Hayden (Isabelle) Talsma, and his beloved grandchildren, Blake, Elizabeth, and Jessica. A true sports fan, Gary could always be found cheering for his favorite teams, the Maple Leafs and the Cowboys. He also had a deep love for playing sports on a personal level, including baseball, golf, bowling, and darts. One of his favorite traditions was his annual football pool with his lifelong friends, which brought him joy year after year. Gary spent most of his life in his hometown of Bowmanville, Ontario, before choosing to retire in Onslow, Nova Scotia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Gary's name to the Colchester SPCA. A celebration of life will be held in the summer in Bowmanville, Ontario. Arrangements have been entrusted to Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS. Gary will be truly missed by all his friends and family.

**SHARPE**, Annie “Grace” – Age 85, Truro, died on March 8, 2025, in Cedarstone Enhanced Care. Born in Belmont, Colchester County, she was a daughter of the late Stewart and Bella (Slack) Weatherby. Grace graduated from the V.G. School of Nursing in Halifax in 1961. She married the following year and retired in 1966 to raise her family and engage in numerous hobbies, especially gardening, genealogy and home improvement projects. She is survived by her husband, Earl; son, Joe (Colleen) Sharpe, Fletcher's Lake; daughter, Cathy (Grant) Smith, Halifax; four grandchildren; five great grandchildren; brothers, Gerald and Jim Weatherby, Belmont; sisters, Gladys Lindsay and Lena Gibson, Belmont, Gloria Void, Montreal, and Betty Alarie, Dartmouth. Besides her parents, Grace was predeceased by her sister, Dorine. A private family visitation will be held, followed by burial in Belmont Cemetery. Arrangements have been entrusted to Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro.

**TAYLOR**, Hugh Edgar, 78, Valley, passed away unexpectedly at his home, March 10, 2025. Born in Truro, he loved going for countryside drives with his brother, playing horseshoes and also crib on Saturday mornings with neighbors. He will be sadly missed by family and friends. He is survived by stepdaughters, Juanita McCabe, Patricia Atkinson, and Barbara (Robert Geddes) Murphy; stepson, Robert (Catherine) Parsons; special boys, James (Stephanie) Parsons, Scott (Michelle) Atkinson; sister-in-law, Janet Taylor; sister and brother-in-law, Doris and Tom Parker; several grandchildren and many great grandchildren; nieces and nephews. Besides his parents he was predeceased by his first wife, June Varner; second wife, Loretta Taylor; sisters, Jean, Margie, Shirley, Ruth; brothers, Frank and Howard. Donations may be made to help cover funeral expenses by e-transfer to [jrkparsons@outlook.com](mailto:jrkparsons@outlook.com) or by cheque made payable to James R. Parsons, Executor at 794 College Rd., Bible Hill, N.S. B2N 2R4. Visitation was held from 1-2 p.m. followed by the funeral service at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro with Minister Marty Clark-Ettinger officiating. Condolences available at [www.ColchesterCommunity.com](http://www.ColchesterCommunity.com)

**KYLE**, Sharon Beth – It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Sharon Beth Kyle, a beloved mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother, auntie, and friend, who left this world peacefully surrounded by her family on March 13, 2025, at the age of 77 years. Born on March 16, 1947, in Russell, Manitoba, Sharon was a beacon of compassion and kindness from an early age by caring for her baby brother, Bobby, while her mother battled cancer. Her calling to care for others led her to pursue a career in nursing, where she graduated from nursing school in 1968 to serve her community at Colchester Regional Hospital and later VON. While at Colchester Regional Hospital, Sharon advanced her career to Head Nurse and took great pride in training her “baby nurses”, who she always spoke highly of. She taught them that nursing goes beyond textbooks and clinical skills; it's compassion, empathy, and genuine connection. In addition to her nursing career, Sharon was an active member of the Debert Legion, Br. #106, where she served as an executive member and president. She could always be found at the Legion fundraising, playing darts, and crib where she would always introduce herself as, Grannie. Sharon loved her Friday nights sharing drinks with the boys, where she sat at the head of the table that was reserved only for her. Sharon will be forever missed by her two children, Clay (Mireille) Vincent and Shelly (Jamie) Fisher; sister, Jody (Paul) Mclsaac, Trenton, Ontario; nephew, Chris (Deniece) and niece, Julie (Gord) both of Trenton, Ontario; her eleven grandchildren, Samantha (Mike), Alysa, Savannah (Keith), Christopher (Breanna), Dustin, Deven, Courtney (Noah), Ally, Maddie (Lucas), AJ, James; thirteen great grandchildren, Connor, Mason, Easton, Keegan, Avery, Penelope, Sawyer, Calder, Cora, Ivy, Freya, Xander, and Bentley. Sharon was honored to be called “Auntie” by Sierra, Elizabeth, Marcia, Greg, Owen, Mandy, James, Shelby, Mitchell, Scott, Coralee, and Mark. During her final moments Sharon, a warrior by nature, was promised that we would all look after each other. Sharon is now reunited with her daddy, mum, and baby brother, Bobby. Donations in Sharon's memory may be made to the Debert Legion, Br. #106. A celebration of Sharon's life was held Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm in the Debert Legion, Br. #106, 1252 Masstown Road, Debert.

**GILLIS**, Vincent Gerard - It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of ncent Gerard Gillis, Age 86, of Bible Hill, on March 13, 2025, surrounded by his family. Born in Upper Margaree, Cape Breton in 1938, he was the son of the late John James Gillis and Annie Catherine MacLellan. Vince was a faithful member of the Immaculate Conception Church, Truro and was a lifetime member of the Knights of Columbus Council #6633. He joined the Federal Government Agriculture Canada in 1968. Vince served in various places in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and St Pierre Miquelon (Animal Quarantine Station). After ‘retirement’ from the Federal Government, he joined the Nova Scotia Department of Agricultural as a ‘casual’ in the food safety department until 2018. He is survived by his wife, Mary (Major) Gillis; daughters, Kimberly Gillis, Julie (Jeff) Fowler of Bible Hill; grandsons, Matthew and Andrew Samson of Bible Hill; half-sisters, Sandra Gillis of Cape Breton and Patricia (Barry) Drury of Ontario; half-brothers, John (Joan) MacLellan, Lloyd (Susan) MacLellan, Joe (Joyce) MacLellan, Ray (Celeste) MacLellan all of Halifax.; from childhood, a special relationship, Gloria Doucet and many nieces and nephews. Vince was predeceased by daughter, Lisa Marie and half-brother, Harold Gillis. Donations in his memory may be made to Saint Vincent de Paul or a charity of your choice. We are requesting no fresh flowers due to allergies. Visitation was held on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro. Mass of Christian burial Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> in Immaculate Conception Church, 669 Prince St., Truro. Reception will follow immediately in Campbell Hall. Interment in Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Robie St., Truro at a later date.

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