

# OBITUARIES

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**CARRUTHERS, Leigh Donald** — Age 80, Hilden. It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Leigh on May 14, 2025, after fighting a short battle with brain cancer. Born in Belmont, he was the son of the late Roger and Agnes (Roode) Carruthers. Leigh is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Lynda (Blair); son, Craig, Winnipeg; daughter, Nadine, Truro and granddaughters, Chloe and Madison, whom he adored. He also leaves behind his brothers, Gerald (Ellen), Bass River and Kim (Carolyn), Belleisle Bay, NB and several nieces and nephews. He met Lynda while working at Snooks Save-Easy. He was then employed with Humpty Dumpty Snack Foods for over 20 years after which time they purchased J&L Grocery. He and the family ran this business for almost 27 years. Leigh was an amazing husband, father and grandfather. A friend to all who knew him, always willing to lend a helping hand. He will be forever missed and loved. The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Best and Dr. McFarlane of the QEII Cancer Centre, Halifax and to Dr. Henderson of CEHHC Palliative Care, Truro, as well as the Colchester-East Hants VON. No visitation by request. A Memorial service was held on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS. Rev. Larry Harrison officiating. Reception to follow. Webcasting will begin at 1:58 pm (ADT).

**LEEMING, Shirley** Bernardette of Masstown, N.S. passed away at the Colchester Hospital in Truro on Friday, May 16, 2025, surrounded by her family. Shirley was born in New Glasgow in 1948 to parents, Elizabeth and Harvey Young. She worked in the wholesale Jewelry business, as an airplane cleaner and in the health care field. She was married to Bill for 39 years, they enjoyed camping for many years, travelling to tropical places. She especially loved her trips to Scotland and Ireland. She loved her pets; Alfie the dog will miss her. She is survived by sisters, Noreen Macdonald /Eric, Alice Carrigan; brothers, Henry / Cheryl, Sandy / Wanda and Stewart / Diane; her children, Jason and Jennifer, and Bruce Young; grandchildren, Isles and Adlen Saywell, Cassia Parsons and Penny Warren. Predeceased by her parents and brother, Alan. It was of the utmost importance to Shirley that the ladies who administered her treatments, whom she called the “Girls in Chemo,” are acknowledged here and thanked for their kindness, compassion and tender care that they gave to Shirley during her illness. If you wish, donations in Shirley’s memory may be made to the CEHHC “We Care About Cancer” or the SPCA. A celebration of Shirley’s life was held on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St. Truro, NS. Eileen Corah to officiate.  
**www.ColchesterCommunity.com.**

**PATTILLO, Thomas John** - Born in Truro, Nova Scotia, Thomas John Pattillo passed away peacefully on May 20, 2025, at age 73 years. He was the son of the late Thomas Starr and Margaret Pattillo and was predeceased by sisters, Ann MacAdam and MaryLew Murray. He is survived by sisters, Gay Pearson, Barbara MacLeod, and brother, John Pattillo; nieces and nephews; his children, Carrie, Kenzie, Lissa, and Steve; and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His loving animal companion in recent years was his grand dog, Cammi, one of many pets he cherished throughout his life. Tom dedicated his career to helping others grow. Whether teaching business at Acadia University, coaching professionals through his company, Catalyst, or tutoring international students in retirement, he remained devoted to building confidence and curiosity in others. A natural educator and spirited traveler, he found joy in the five years he spent in the United Arab Emirates teaching college students, embracing new cultures with openness and enthusiasm. Back home in Nova Scotia, he was a regular fixture for years in community theatre and Dalhousie’s Volunteer Patient Program. A creative at heart, Tom enjoyed crafting custom T-shirts and greeting cards for those he loved, never missing a birthday call complete with a heartfelt rendition of “Happy Birthday.” He believed deeply in the power of listening, often saying there was no better way to learn than through someone else’s story. Folly Lake, Nova Scotia, held a lifelong place in his heart, and part of his ashes will be scattered there. The remainder will be buried alongside his parents in Truro. In Tom’s memory, donations may be made to Feed Nova Scotia, the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia, or a charity of your choosing.

**VARGA JR., John Charles**, born on May 22, 1962, of Bible Hill, NS, passed away at home due to complications from a recent medical condition on May 21, 2025. He is survived by his two daughters, Avica/Ava, and Annika (Bruce), and their mom, Lee Ann. Also survived by his sister, Maria, and her children, Brittany, Bryce, Auden (Jessica), and Arne and nephews, Noah; grandnephew, Ayven, and grandniece, Ada. He was predeceased by his mom, Eva; his dad, John Sr., and stepdad, Peter Melkert Sr. John was an avid golfer. Any of his golfing buddies over the years could attest to his powerful swing and amazing drives. This skill gained him two nicknames: Divot Man, and The Landscaper. He felt at home on the course and spent many days and trips enjoying his hobby. He was also a talented and accomplished Red Seal Journeyman Carpenter, a career that took him all the way from Japan to Fogo Island. He had a rare skill and created the most beautiful works of art. Fires for years to come will be contained beneath the artistry of the many mantle pieces that he created from scratch. John was also known for his cooking skills and was never happier than when he had a large crowd to cook for. He mastered his Mom’s Famous Meatloaf, could fully crack a lobster in less than five minutes, and his Eggs Benedict were a Sunday morning tradition. John also enjoyed a backyard fire and waited anxiously for the yearly Christmas tree burning on Canada Day weekend and setting off fireworks for his girls and their friends. Although John struggled with mental illness in the last few years of his life, it does not erase the person that he was and the great memories that his family and friends will hold of him. His children and sister wished for this to be a part of his story in the hopes that it would mitigate the stigma of mental illness so that perhaps one person out there might find the strength to reach out and get the help that they so deserve. Donations in John’s memory may be made to the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia or the Colchester SPCA in honour of John’s cats, Max and Ruby. A short ceremony was ill be held in the Truro Golf and Country Club, 86 Golf St, Truro, NS, at 2pm, Saturday, June 7th, 2025, with a celebration of John’s life to follow afterwards until 4pm.

**EASTCOTT, Ronald** “Ronnie” Robert - It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of Ronald “Ronnie” Robert Eastcott of Debert, N.S. Ronnie passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 17, 2025, surrounded by his loving family in the Colchester East Hants Health Centre. Born in Truro on December 15, 1947, Ronnie was a son of the late Robert and Dorothy (Urquhart) Eastcott. Ronnie spent countless hours working under the sun on rooftops, having begun a career in roofing at the young age of nineteen. He loved the work so much that he continued even into retirement—proof of his strong spirit and dedication. A proud and active 57-year member of the Debert Royal Canadian Legion Branch #106, Ronnie found deep meaning in giving back to the community that meant so much to him. Inspired by the service of his father, a veteran, Ronnie served on many Legion committees and held two terms as President. He was always eager to lend a hand, whether to improve the space or to support fellow veterans and their families. Ronnie was also a big part of the social life at the Legion. He took great joy in participating in cribbage, darts, pool, games nights, and especially the weekly “Happy Hour,” at Dave’s where he could laugh and catch up with friends. His sense of humour and love of good company made him a beloved presence wherever he went. An avid outdoorsman, Ronnie looked forward to fishing trips to British Columbia and Quebec with his brothers, and he cherished time spent golfing—always willing to share tips with anyone eager to learn. He stayed active through four-wheeling, broomball, ball games, and hockey. His energy was contagious, and his smile was a constant. A devoted Montreal Canadians fan, Ronnie cheered loudly when they won—and just as passionately voiced his frustration when they didn’t, usually with a cold Keith’s in hand. He had a great love not only for people but for animals as well. Ronnie is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Helen; his devoted son, Paul (Nancy); and his cherished grandson, “Papa’s lil’ man,” Parker. He is also lovingly remembered by grandchildren, Kalen, Kole, Adam, Lil’ Paul, and great-grandson, Ryker. He leaves behind his siblings Vivian, Ian (Audrey), Debbie (Charlie), Marilyn, Norman (Marcia), and David, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his siblings, Gail, Dawn, and Jack. Ronnie was blessed with many dear friendships throughout his life. He will be deeply missed by lifelong friends Owen Gormley and Danny DeCoste, Layne Hayward, and many others who meant the world to him. You know who you are—and so did he. One of Ronnie’s greatest joys was spending time with family, especially cheering on his grandson, Parker at ball games. He was always Parker’s biggest fan. The family would like to thank the genuine kindness and care shown by the VON, CEHHC and QEII doctors and nurses that were so helpful through this very emotional time. A Celebration of Life was held in Ronnie’s honour on Saturday, May 31, 2025, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Debert Legion, Branch #106. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Debert Legion, Branch #106 or VON. Online condolences and donations may be made at: **www.ColchesterCommunity.com**

**MURRAY, Linda Marie** — Age 75, Salmon River, NS, passed away peacefully at home after a short battle with cancer. Linda was the daughter of the late Cecil and Joan (McIntyre) Lamont. Linda is survived by her husband, Rick; brother, Bob (Frankie) Lamont; sister, Carolea Terffy; son, Richard (Kim) Keizer; stepson, Nicholas (Kathy) Murray; grandchildren, Mychal (Brandon) Keizer-Frazer, Bailee (Alex) Keizer, Mya Keizer; great-grandson, Rowan, and her four-legged baby, Meeko. She was predeceased by her first husband, John Keizer and her son, Michael. Linda worked for 30 years in a nursing home setting, first at Glenview and then at The Mira until she retired in 2015. Linda enjoyed travelling to sunny locations like the Dominican Republic with her husband, Rick. She also enjoyed spending her summers at Sunset Campground with Rick and her campground friends. Linda loved animals and always said she would like to be able to save all animals in-need. She enjoyed shopping trips with her sister, Carolea, and her “just like a sister” friend, Shelley Crowe - “lots of laughs.” Linda was always very grateful to her friend, Tena Mosher, for her kindness in her time of need. Tena was always there to help and still is. If you would like to make a memorial donation in Linda’s name, please consider the Colchester SPCA. A private family graveside service for Linda will be held at later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS.

**PRIEST-WALKER, Danielle** Caroline - It is with heavy hearts that we announce Danielle Caroline Priest-Walker’s sudden death on May 21, 2025, due to a motorcycle accident. She was a daughter of Raymond Priest and Sandi Gordon. She is survived by son, Owen Walker and husband, Michael Walker, both in Australia; brother, Darren Priest; sister, Donnalee (Bob) MacKenzie; niece, Abbey MacKenzie; uncles, Russell (Sandra) McCallum, Dexter (Helena) McCallum and Scott McCallum, and aunt, Lynn Gillis, and special friend, Douglas Jones. She was predeceased by grandparents, Carman and Shirley (Davis) McCallum, and Leaman and Beulah (Parsons) Priest; stepdad, Ken Brown and uncle, Arnold Priest. Danielle had a very outgoing “free spirit” personality. She taught English in South Korea, lived in Australia, and worked at various jobs as commissionaire, postal services and in senior care. She was passionate first and foremost about her son, Owen whom she loved with all her heart. Danielle was very creative which was expressed clearly in her art, painting and music. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to all the first responders, Stewiacke Fire Dept, EHS, and RCMP who attended promptly to the accident scene. If you would like to make a memorial donation in Danielle’s name, please consider SPCA. Family and friends were warmly invited to gather in remembrance to honour Danielle on Tuesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> for a visitation beginning at 6:00p.m. until time of service at 7:00p.m., both in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS.

**CAVANAUGH, Kimberly** Ruth Stewart Age 54, of Masstown, NS - With sadness, we announce the peaceful passing of our beloved wife and mother, Kimberly Ruth Cavanaugh, on May 28, 2025, in the Colchester East Hants Health Centre. Surrounded by her family, Kim left this world as she lived in it—with grace, strength, and an abundance of love. Kim was born on August 30, 1970, to Percy Stewart and Doris Conway. She married her high school sweetheart, Jeffrey Cavanaugh, on July 7, 1990. Kim and Jeff started studying the Bible together and were baptized in 1991. Kim was a beloved member of the Salmon River congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Truro. Kim was a warm and kind person who always brought sunshine into a room and had a beautiful way of making everyone she met feel seen and appreciated. To give heartfelt hugs or effortless forgiveness was a glimpse of the many qualities Kim had because of her faith. For 20 years, Kim worked as an Educator Assistant at the Chignecto Regional School Board. She had a gift for connecting with children, especially those who needed extra love and care. She loved these little ones and worked hard to help them overcome their challenges. Kim also worked at the Truro Boys and Girls Club for several years, assisting children in recreational programs. Outside the classroom, Kim found joy in the simple things. She loved walking along the ocean to collect sea glass, spending time at the lake, caring for her animals, sharing her faith, and simply sitting with loved ones and friends, laughing and sharing stories. Kim enjoyed sharing her faith based on truths she learned from the Bible with others. One of these Bible truths was the hope of the resurrection to perfect life on earth, when sickness and death will be no more. This Bible-based hope sustained her and comforted her throughout her illness. She thrived on the encouragement and spiritual support from dear friends and family. Kim leaves behind her loving husband of 34 years, Jeff Cavanaugh, and their two sons, Cory and Riley, who were the pride and joy of her life. She is also survived by her parents, Percy Stewart, and (stepmother) Ethel; Doris Conway, and (stepfather) Richard; her sisters, Trish (Peter) and Celene (Shawn); stepsisters, Shelly and Leona (Jim); sister-in-law, Christina (Gary); nephews, Danny (Lindsay), Colton (Bev), Logan, Dillan; great-nieces, Blake, Kenzie, and Myla. She will also be deeply missed by many aunts, uncles, extended family, lifelong friends, and the countless children and families she touched. We are especially grateful to those who visited and supported Kim during her illness, the nurses of her palliative team, Dr. Smith, Mary, and VON care. Though we grieve her loss, we are comforted by the love she gave so freely and the many lives she enriched. Kim’s legacy is one of compassion and an open heart. Her favourite saying was, “every day is a new day.” She will be missed more than words can express. In honour of Kim’s generous spirit and lifelong devotion to helping children, donations may be made in her memory to a children’s support organization of your choice. Cremation has taken place, and a service at the Kingdom Hall and a celebration of life will take place at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS.

**RUSHTON, Georgina A. (Lane)**— 97, Sutherland Lake. It is with heavy but grateful hearts we nounce that in the early morning hours of Sunday, June 1, 2025, our cherished Mother, Nan/Nanny passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her beloved family. Born in North Sydney, she was a daughter of the late Bertram and Alberta (Toole) Lane. Georgie grew up in Londonderry Station. Following graduation from Hantsport High School, she was employed at A.J. Wells General Store at Londonderry Station, later at Hayward & Lane’s General Store and then Zellers. Her last employment was at Fraser’s Pharmacy in Bible Hill. Her family was especially dear to her. She treasured and was so grateful for every visit and every phone call from “my people”. Her spare time was spent sewing, knitting, reading, crocheting and she especially loved her garden and travelling with her sweetheart. She was active in church and while living in Bible Hill she was an active member of St. David’s United Church UCW. Georgie is the last original member of The Cheerful Stitchers ladies group who founded the Londonderry Station Community Church (The Thirsty Church) in 1947. The little church remained near and dear to her throughout the years and she attended her last service there at Christmas. Georgie is survived by her daughters, Evelyn (Jack) Patriquin, Cindy (Glenn) Matheson, Ginny (David) Sullivan; grandchildren, Lisa, Marla (Steve), Kevin (Jill), David (Casssey), Mark (Lorena); great grandchildren, Grace, Faith, Kamryn, Mackenzie, Oliver, Hunter, Lily, Alicia, Mikayla; great-great grandsons, Jackson, Beckham; sister-in-law, Emily Lane; several nieces and nephews. Along with her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Myles (2016); son, David Myles (1972); sisters, Lillian and Evelyn Lane (in childhood); Marjorie (Rolfe) Hayward, Beulah (Rex) Trask, sister-in-law Grace Lane; brothers, Keith (Helen) Lane, Clifford Lane. Georgie’s family would like to extend sincere thanks to VON, Cumberland Palliative Care Team, John Gatto at Truro Seniors Clinic, with special thanks to Julia Prest for her tender loving compassionate care of our dear Mother this past year. Funeral service was held Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at Mattatall – Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young Street, Truro, Pastor Melody Patriquin officiated. Interment in Mahon Cemetery, 8480 Highway 2, Great Village. Tributes, words of comfort and memories may be shared at: **www.mattatallvarnerfh.com**

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