

OBITUARIES

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MEARNS, Shirley Maxine, in loving memory of **Shirley Maxine Mearns**, who passed away on January 23, 2025, peacefully in her sleep in Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro. Shirley was born on November 22, 1923, in Windsor, NS and was the only child of Wiley Patrick and Glennie Ellen Davison. Besides with her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Donald and later, her partner, Josef Dreler. Shirley is survived by daughter, Anne Ragot (Paul); grandsons, Julien Ragot (Vanessa Fung) and Eric Ragot (Myra Campbell). Her grandsons were her joy and she also loved her feline companion, Della. Following graduation from Windsor Academy, she graduated from Kings College Secretarial School. She worked for several companies, but her most important job was secretary for Dr. Garth Vaughan for 30 years. She chaired the Hants West Cancer Society for several years. She was a member of many clubs and played bridge. Shirley played darts with the 50 plus club in Mount Uniacke. She liked to take slips off plants so she could start her own at home. Sometimes they were gifted and sometimes she stole them. We would like to thank Home Care and the many doctors and nurses of the Colchester East Hants Health Centre for their care. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the charity of your choice. Arrangements have been entrusted to Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS. There will be no visitation or service. There will be a graveside committal in the spring

TATTRIE, Victor “Elroy” - 94, Lower Onslow, formerly of North River, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 26, 2025, at Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro. Born in Upper North River, he was a son of the late Victor and Viola (Tatttrie) Tatttrie. Elroy is survived by his wife of 63 ½ years, Patricia; sister, Esther MacFarlane, Truro; brother, Sterling (Vera) Tatttrie, South Branch; many nieces and nephews. Along with his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Floyd and Floyd's first wife, Lola Irene (Mason); Floyd's second wife, Marguerite Laura (Blair); sisters, Doreen (Harry) Gorman, Marguerite (Morris) Green; brother, Murray (Elsie) Tatttrie. Arrangements for cremation have been entrusted to Mattatall – Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young Street, Truro, where a Celebration of Life will be held 2 p.m., Friday, February 28, 2025. Reception will follow. Spring interment in Blackmore Memorial Cemetery, Upper North River. If so desired, donations in memory of Elroy can be made to a charity of one's choice. Tributes, words of comfort and memories may be shared at: www.mattatallvarnerfh.com

COOK, Michèle The family of Mrs. Michèle Cook, age 75, is devastated to advise of her sudden and unexpected passing on Monday, January 27, 2025, in the Colchester East Hants Health Centre in Truro, NS. Michèle was born in Joliette, Quebec on June 8, 1949, to the late Roger (Opa) and Rita (Frappier) Robitaille. She was the second eldest of five living siblings, having lost two brothers in infancy. Michèle graduated from High school and began working in a bank in Montreal. This is where she met her soul mate, and husband of 52 years, Eric. They struck up a friendship that quickly blossomed into love. Eric took Michèle on a whirlwind weekend trip to Ottawa and proposed to her – and she accepted. Michèle and Eric were married on September 2, 1972, and moved to Bible Hill, NS where their first child, Jason was born. A few years later, the family moved to their forever home in Salmon River, where their second child, Sarah was born. Michèle was a woman far ahead of her time. She was the first female letter carrier in Truro, Nova Scotia, and worked there for 27 years before her retirement. She was a very strong union activist and was the Local Shop Steward and President of LCU and CUPW for several years. She also participated in Union events across the country, representing the Union and advocating for worker's rights. She was also a warrior and 7-time cancer survivor. Mom battled several forms of cancer (cervical, skin, lung and breast) over the past several years; always with grace, good humour, and her beautiful smile. Despite her health challenges she battled every fight with dignity and amazing strength. In October '24, she was thrilled to find out that she was officially cleared of lung cancer. Mom and dad's favorite past time was to play scrabble. Her grandchildren and children always knew Nan was their biggest fan. When her health was good - whether it be at a rink, ball field, or watching a dance recital, concert or theatre performance – Nan was always there. Michèle is survived by her husband of 52 years, Eric; son, Jason (Rhonda); daughter, Sarah (Brian); grandchildren, Emily, Courtney, Mitchell & Erica; special and beloved siblings, Carole (Jean-Yves), Yves (Julie-Ann); several nieces and nephews. Michèle was predeceased by her parents, Roger and Rita; two siblings in infancy, and in-laws, Bernie & Ola Cook. A Celebration of life visitation was held on Thursday, February 13, 2025 in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St, Truro. Best wishes only. On-line condolences may be sent by visiting www.ColchesterCommunity.com

LONUS, Shearer, Russell – Age 73, Lower Onslow, passed away in the Aberdeen Hospital, New Glasgow, with family by his side on January 31, 2025. Russell was born on October 29, 1951, in Lower Onslow to Florence (Blackmore) and Alexander Shearer, Sr. In his working years, Russell dabbled in forestry, labour at Truro Agromart Ltd., maintenance at the Best Western Glengarry, furnace repairs, soil testing, carpentry and other various labour jobs. Although Russell was a very hard-working man, he cared most about what he could do for others. Being of service to his family became the purpose of his retirement years. Russell believed his biggest accomplishment in life was his five beautiful children. You could find Russell contently tending to his land or gardens, baking bread, splitting and piling wood for winter, tinkering with an old vehicle or lawnmower or assisting with some construction project that was on the go. Russell is survived by his former spouse and best friend, Donna (Clarke) Shearer; daughters, Kathy Downing (the late Kimball Crowe) and their children, Hunter, Rhianon, Tatum; Natasha (Alex) MacLeod and their daughter, Hannah (Elias); Natalie Newcombe (Zane Young) and their son, Isaiah and their daughter, Alura (Gregory) and their child, Elliot; sons, Benjamin (Katinda) Shearer and their children, Cordell, Kaya and Miika; and Nicholas Shearer; sister, Terry Lynn (Kevin) Duguay; brother, Teddy (Marg) Shearer along with many nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends. Russell was predeceased by his father, Alexander; mother, Florence and brothers, Curtis, Elmer, Geordie, Roach, Alex, Eric and Perry. Russell will be dearly missed by his two feline companions, Tramp and Miss Kitty. The family asks that donations in Russell's memory go towards funeral expenses. E-transfers may be sent to bshearer@barringtonlaw.ca. A celebration of life was held Saturday, February 8th beginning with tributes to Russell in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow as St., Truro, NS.

LEON, Dianna Patricia (Dawson) – Age 75, Great Village. God needed another angel, so he sent for Dianna. It is with heavy hearts and profound sadness that we, the family of Dianna Patricia (Dawson) Leon, announce her peaceful passing on January 31, 2025, in the Palliative Care Unit at the Colchester East Hants Health Centre in Truro, N.S. Dianna was born on April 22, 1949 to the late Bernard “Bernie” and Kathleen “Kay” (Farrell) Dawson. She is survived by her husband, James Leon and daughter, Michelle (Leon) Tomiczek; son in-law, George Tomiczek; granddaughters, Eowyn Tomiczek, Christen Leon and Kaliaanna Leon; sister, Cheryl McPhee; brother, John Dawson and sisters-in-law, Carolyn (Leon) Schilte and Elaine (Leon) McGrath. Besides her parents, Dianna was predeceased by her son, Vincent Leon. She was also the loving daughter-in-law to the late Wilfred Leon and Agnes (Burns) Leon. Dianna was a beautiful, loving, giving soul who devoted her life to her family. Always in our hearts, she will be loved and remembered always. Donations in Dianna's memory may be made to the Canadian Liver Foundation. A Funeral Mass will be held Tuesday, March 11th at 3pm in Immaculate Conception Church, 669 Prince St., Truro. Interment will take place on July 10th at 1pm in Resurrection Cemetery, Sydney Forks. Arrangements have been entrusted to Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro. www.ColchesterCommunity.com

KENT, Janet Fay – Age 86, Lower Truro. The family of Janet F. Kent are saddened to announce her passing on February 2, 2025, in Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro. She was born in Upper Stewiacke to the late Wallace and Mildred (Fulton) MacKay. Janet is survived by her daughters, Sharon Moore and Wanda Gallant, both of Truro; sons, Dale, Halifax and Blair, Truro; grandchildren, Kyle (Samantha) Moore, Old Barns, Ryan (Joanne) Moore, Calgary, Kent Gallant (Alice), ON, Bradley Gallant (Megan), North River, Haley Kent, Makayla and Nicole Kent, Truro and their mother, Kelly Hodgkinson; great grandchildren, Fulton and Brooke Moore, Old Barns, Lucas and Zachary Moore, Alberta, Kash Hingley and Maisie Esme-Wallace, Truro; sisters, Ethel Ervin, New Minas, Mary (Rodney) Kincaid, North River, Leta (Glenn) Ells, Sheffield Mills and Shirley Graham, Brookfield; brothers, Kenneth (Evelyn) MacKay, ON, Gordon (Cheryl) MacKay, BC, Gary (Eleanor) MacKay, SK, Elmer, Ken, Gerald and Bruce Vanberg; sisters-in-law, Glenda Kent, Truro and Evervard Kent, Halifax. Janet had so much love for her grandchildren and will be deeply missed by all of them. She was predeceased by her husband of 56 years, John H. Kent; great grandchild, Cameron Hingley; parents-in-law, Hedley and Alice (Clarke) Kent; birthmother, Charlotte Ann (Pratt) Vanberg; sisters, Rosalie Canning and Ruth (Vanberg) Cox; brothers, Hugo and David Vanberg; sisters-in-law, Mary Fisher, Katie Jefferson and Elaine Kent; brothers-in-law, Laurie Canning, Howard Graham, Ross Ervin and James Kent. The family would like to thank the VON for all your special care of Mom. A special thank you to Nadia, Kim and Sonya. Donations in Janet's memory may be made to VON or the Cobequid District Fire Brigade. Arrangements have been entrusted to Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS. A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.ColchesterCommunity.com.

GERARD, Michael “Mike” - Onslow Mountain. It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Michael Gerard “Mike” During at the young age of 65, on Monday, February 3, 2025, after a courageous and lengthy battle with cancer, with his loving and cherished wife Jenny by his side. Throughout the last few years, and more recently as of this past summer, Mike was always positive and looked forward to spending whatever time he had with his soul mate Jenny and his many loved ones. Most beloved husband to Jenny; loving father to Kandas (Scott) and Kris (Krystal); grandfather to Arianna whom he loved so very much. Remembered dearly and fondly by his sisters, Linda (Jim), Rayanna, Elaine (Hal); father-in-law, Leander; his sister-in-law, Donna; many other cherished family members, namely his many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Mike was the youngest son of the late Raymond and Doris During and will be missed by his loving stepmother, Gillian and her children. He was predeceased by his older brother, Richard; older sister, Diane (Rick); mother-in-law, Annie. Cremation has taken place and a remembrance service was held Monday, February 17, 2025, at Mattatall – Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young Street, Truro, Reverend April Hart officiated. A planned Celebration of Life will be scheduled for summer, date and place to be provided later. Tributes, words of comfort and memories may be shared at: www.mattatallvarnerfh.com

OGILVIE, Kevin Robert - It is with heavy hearts that we announce the sudden passing of Kevin Robert Ogilvie on February 3, 2025. Born August 1, 1964, in Truro, Nova Scotia, he was the son of Glendon Ogilvie and Marie Armstrong. During his career, he was a red seal welder, a mechanic and a labourer. Kevin was a “free spirit” who chose to live off the grid in his small cabin in the woods of Kemptown. There, he enjoyed the peace and solitude of nature to the fullest. Rather than conforming to a structured lifestyle, Kevin chose to do it one day at a time; fly by the seat of his pants and, “do it my way” attitude. Kevin's life journey of ups and downs was much like taking a spin in his Mustang convertible. Sit down, hold on and enjoy the ride! He loved family, especially his aunt, “Squirrely Shirley” and cherished his closest friends' fellowship. He enjoyed fishing stripers at Bramber, loud radio music, a good smoke and his cat, “Kitty 1.”He was a kind soul with a large heart. He will be sadly missed and always in our thoughts and prayers. Kevin is survived by his mother, Marie; his “sis,” Roxanne; brothers, Adam, Ian, Norman and his niece, Nadine. He was predeceased by his father, Glendon and brothers, Cleve and Stephen. The family wishes to thank the doctors and nurses at the Colchester East Hants Health Centre, the EMS paramedics and the Salmon River and Valley-Kempton Fire Brigades for their efforts and medical assistance. It was greatly appreciated. Donations in memory of Kevin may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the SPCA. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

BARTLETT, Juanita Marie, Age 80, Truro, passed away suddenly on February 5, 2025, in the Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro. Born in Stellarton, she was a daughter of the late Leo and Dorothy (Smith) McKay. Juanita held her family close in her heart in her own way. She loved reading, doing puzzles and being in her own space. She will be sadly missed by those who knew her. She is survived by her son, Donald Bartlett; daughters, Kimberly (Frank Boylan) Bartlett, Tanya Bartlett; sisters, Nadine (Bill Moore) McKay, Charlene Butler, Linda Whidden, Betty (Tony Amirault) McKay, Carol McKay; brother, James McKay; several grandchildren; six great grandchildren; many nieces and nephews. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by a sister, Marjorie Fisher; brothers, Ralph, Raymond and a baby brother in infancy. Cremation has taken place. There will be no visitation or service at her request. Arrangements entrusted to Colchester Community Funeral Home, Truro, where condolences are available at: www.ColchesterCommunity.com

GRANT, Peter T. - With broken hearts, we share the sad news that Peter T. Grant passed away peacefully in Colchester East Hants Health Centre on February 5, 2025. Born in St John's, Newfoundland, in 1935, Peter was a son of Margaret (née Smith) and Grainger Grant. Peter spent his early years on Bell Island, Newfoundland, and then in Val-D'Or, Quebec, where his father worked as a mining engineer. Peter later attended Lakefield College School, where he enjoyed playing many outdoor sports since the school didn't have a gym in the early days. Peter worked as a miner in northern Quebec and Ontario before attending the University of New Brunswick to complete a geology degree. After working with the Quebec Geological Survey, Peter returned to school earning a Bachelor of Education degree and began a career in teaching that would span 30 years. Peter met his wife, Helen (née Howe), while teaching at the same school in Campbellton, NB. Helen and Peter spent the next 60 years together with an unwavering commitment to family, community and each other. Peter and Helen moved to Springhill, NS in 1964, where he taught science at the vocational school, and then to Truro, NS in 1968 when a new vocational school opened. Peter was a devoted father who supported multiple sporting activities and the academic pursuits of his two children. He instilled a deep love of outdoor discovery through many walks and adventures throughout the province. Peter was predeceased by his parents and three brothers, Gerald, Harold and Leonard Grant. He is survived by his wife, Helen; daughter, Theresa (Tim), and son, Stewart along with many nieces, nephews and cousins, who loved him deeply. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to STEPs on Arthur Foundation, Kane's Kitchen at the Immaculate Conception Parish or to a charity of your choice. A visitation was held Wednesday, February 19th from 1-3pm, beginning with a Royal Canadian Tribute Branch 26 Tribute, in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro. A funeral service will be held in June, additional details to follow. Tributes and memories may be shared by visiting www.ColchesterCommunity.com

RUSHTON, Anna Elizabeth – Age 71, Truro. We are saddened to announce the peaceful passing of Anna Elizabeth Rushton on February 5, 2025, in Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Truro with her son by her side. She was a daughter of the late Alton and Muriel (Cooke) Rushton. Born in Truro, Anna lived most of her life in the Londonderry area, but did travel to Germany and New Brunswick, as her father was in the military. In recent years, she resided in the Truro area. Anna was a wonderful cook and spent most of her working life with different businesses doing what she loved to do – cook! She liked to play cards and watch true crime stories. Anna loved her family and enjoyed family gatherings where there was always lots of laughs and shenanigans. Anna is survived by her son, Cameron; daughter-in-law, Melanie (Eddie); granddaughter, Aydan; grandsons, Isaac (Emma) and Jacob; brother, Michael (Carol); sister-in-law, Debbie; Uncle Hubert (Mae); Aunt Georgia; many nieces and nephews and her companion, Hilton Ruston. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Dale; son, Jody; brothers, Terry, Timmy, Chris; sister, Sharon and nephew, Patrick. The family would like to thank the doctors, nurses and staff for the wonderful care given to Anna during her stay in the Colchester East Hants Health Centre in the last few months. A celebration of Anna's life will be held at a later date.

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