

OBITUARIES

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GEORGE, John Russell – Age 77, of Acton, Ontario passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 16, 2021 at home with his family by his side. Born in Parrsboro, he was a son of the late Burgess and Pearl (Parker) George. John will be dearly missed by his wife of 57 years, Helen (Dowe) George; was loving father to Richard George and Dean George (Lisa); loving grandfather to Hayden George and Jordan Harris. As well, he is survived by a sister, Leona Willigar; brothers, Arthur and Stephen George; sisters in law, Leona Dowe, Ruby Crossman, Althea Legere (Pat), Faye George (William); brothers in law, Allan Dowe (Judy), Kenneth Dowe (Carol), William 'Bill' Millar; numerous nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Katheryn Millar; a brother, Leo; sisters in law, Vivian Duguay, Marion Legere, Evelyne (Webb) George; brothers in law, Lyman Willigar, Culton Crossman, Isaac Dowe, Sterling Dowe, Wilson Dowe and Perry Dowe. A graveside service was held April 20, 2021 in the Riverbank Cemetery, Port Greville, Pastor Douglas Lake officiating. Covid-19 public health precautions necessary – social distancing and masks required. Memorial donations may be made to the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre at the Toronto General Hospital. Arrangements entrusted to Smith's Funeral Home, Parrsboro. Online condolences at www.smithsfuneralhome.com.

BEESWANGER, Helena "Melba" - 95, Debert, passed away on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at Debert Court. Born in Debert, she was a daughter of the late Amblish and Blanche (Waddell) Matthews. Melba was drawn to the Lord at an early age and stayed very true to her faith and her church all her adult life. She was a lifetime member of Debert Baptist Church. She is survived by nieces, Lynn (Beeswanger) Strong, Belmont; Myrtus Matthews, North Carolina; Lorian (Matthews) Randall, Truro; Lynn (Matthews) MacLachlan, Truro; several cousins, grandnieces and grandnephews; adopted grandchildren, Riley and Kayla Totten. Melba was predeceased by all ten siblings, Leroy, Harold, Madora, Kenneth, John, James, Percy, Laurie, Clarence and Grant; niece, Blanche (Matthews) Steeves. Melba is the last surviving member of her immediate family. Although Melba never had children of her own, she was well known in her community as 'the go to person' after school when you were in need of cookies and milk or simply needed a friendly ear. Melba had a great love of people in general and her smiling face will not be forgotten by those who knew and loved her. Arrangements have been entrusted to Mattatall – Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young Street, Truro where the funeral service was held Thursday, March 25, 2021, Pastor Hudson Trenholm officiated. Interment will be held at a later date in Middle Road Cemetery, Debert. Full obituary and condolences at: www.mattatallvarnerfh.com

Eastcott, Donna Ruth – 90, Debert, passed away suddenly on Sunday, March 21, 2021, at Cumberland Regional Health Care Centre, Amherst. Born in Amherst, she was a daughter of the late David and Sophia Esther (O'Brien) Melroy. Donna was a long-time member of Debert Baptist Church and an Associate Member of Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 106, Debert, for 45 years. Donna is survived by her children, Jerry (Anne) Thompson, Wallace Bay; Earl (Eva) Ferdinand, Wentworth; Larry (Julia) Ferdinand, Middle Musquodoboit; Gordon Lewis, Truro; Sylvia Thompson, Amherst; Ronnie (Helen) Eastcott, David Eastcott, Norman Eastcott, Ian Menzie, Jack Menzie, Debbie Buchanan, Vivian Turner, Marilyn Dykens, all of Debert; "apple of her eye", great granddaughter, Elayna; siblings, Herbie (Donna) Melroy, New Glasgow; Shirley Thompson, Truro; Basil Melroy, Debert; Isobel Melroy, Debert; special niece, Pearl Myers, Tatamagouche; very special friend, Alberta Barker; several grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Along with her parents, she was predeceased by her husband, Robert Eastcott; son, Robert Ferdinand; siblings, Ellie (Marie) Melroy, Lawrence "Bub" Melroy (Ida Mae Myers), Grace Melroy. Funeral service will be held at a later date in Debert Baptist Church, followed by interment in Eaton Cemetery, Pugwash Junction. Arrangements have been entrusted to Mattatall – Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young Street, Truro. Full obituary and condolences at: www.mattatallvarnerfh.com

HOWARD - Bonnie Louise – age 67 passed away peacefully at her home in St. George, ON on March 24, 2021. Bonnie was the daughter of the late George Howard (Brantford, ON) and Marion (Scott) Howard, Londonderry, NS and Brantford, ON. Bonnie loved spending vacations with her grandparents, the late Noyes and Rita Scott, at their farm in Londonderry, NS and camping and clam digging at Economy Cove, NS. She loved Londonderry and the Cobequid Bay area. She is survived by her mother Marion (Scott) Howard and brothers Gary and Scott. Condolences can be sent to the family at www.mccleisterfuneralhome.ca. Donations can be made in Bonnie's memory to Hillcrest Cemetery, Londonderry, NS or Londonderry Community Centre.

MacKINNON, Laura Carl - 95, Debert. On Friday, March 26, 2021, God called another angel home; Laura passed away peacefully with her step-daughter at her side. Born in East Village, she was a daughter of the late James and Elsie (Roblee) Robinson. In 1971, she married Fred MacKinnon and helped raise his four children. After a lengthy illness at home, Laura welcomed her last family of Debert Court. She often stated her appreciation about the kindness and laughter she shared with the staff and other residents. Debert United Church and its UCW was always a big part of Laura's life; we know that God looks on her with pride for her life. Laura was the last surviving member of her immediate family and is survived by her step-children, Raymond (Myrna) MacKinnon, Grand Valley, Ontario; Wayne (Jean) MacKinnon, Morell, Prince Edward Island; Doug (Kathleen) MacKinnon, Victoria, British Columbia; Madonna MacKinnon, Truro; 12 grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren. Along with her parents, she was predeceased by her first husband, George Sanford; second husband, Frederick MacKinnon; daughter, Nancy Sanford; sisters, Muriel, Jean, Louise; brothers, Ernie, Whitman, Audrey; sisters-in-law, Hazel, Dora, Marion; brothers-in-law, Ralph, Johnny, Clifford. Arrangements have been entrusted to Mattatall – Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young Street, Truro, where a private funeral service will be held on Sunday, May 23, 2021; webcasting of the funeral service will be open to all and may be viewed from this site at 12:55 p.m., Sunday, May 23, 2021; this link will remain active for some time after the funeral. Interment will be held in Main Road Cemetery, Debert. Full obituary and condolences at: www.mattatallvarnerfh.com

BLAIR, William Wilfred (Bill, Billy): It is with heartfelt sadness and grief, the family of Bill Blair, husband, father and grandfather, Bible Hill, announce his peaceful passing at the Colchester East Hants Health Centre on March 31, 2021. Born in Truro on January 3, 1946, to parents Gordon E. Blair and Marina H. (Haggett) Blair, Bill grew up in North River with his three brothers, Gordon Jr., Ron, Brian and sister, Bernice. On his marriage to Christine, he moved to Bible Hill. After graduating from high school, Bill went to work with his father, Gordon, at Blair's Service Station and then went on to work with Ford tractor dealerships, Truro and Onslow. In 1972, he and brother Ron, began R&B Blair's Sales & Service, a Bombardier (Ski-doo), and Kawasaki dealership in North River, a business they co-owned and operated for 35 years. Bill was well respected amongst his peers in the recreational vehicle business and R&B Blair's was the recipient of several dealership awards over the years. Bill was very athletic and enjoyed many sports. His favourite was hockey, a game he learned to play the old-fashioned way on outdoor ponds. He played right wing for the North River Aces, beginning with the Truro & District Hockey League when in his teens. He played with MacCarthy's Electric and the River John Trail Blazers in the Pictou Rural League, and especially enjoyed his time with the Truro Bearcat Oldtimers. He had lots of fond memories with the Bearcat Oldtimers, including the Florida Classic where the team won the "A" Division Gold, and the Atlantic Cup, where the team also won the "A" Division Gold, as well as participating in many Monctonian Hockey tournaments. He enjoyed a Charity Exhibition Hockey Game with NHL Oldtimers and joined a group of friends with the Truro Cellar Doors in the PEI Oldtimers Tournament. He attended Truro & District Hockey League reunions in 1992 and 2015. He volunteered as a minor hockey and minor ball coach. And, as many of his friends would know, he was an avid Montreal Canadiens fan. He also had a great time playing road hockey with grandson, Adam, and attending his hockey games. Softball with the Bible Hill All Stars, intermediate "D" Champs; volleyball; and another favourite, motocross racing were other sports he enjoyed along with snowmobiling, jet-ski watersports, and especially motorcycle touring with a special group of friends. After selling the business, Bill became a member of the Truro Curling Club and Riverrun Golf Club. Always the sportsman, but always competitive, he was especially proud of winning the curling stik championship in 2015 and 2016. Bill was a member of the Masonic Fellowship Lodge 112, Truro. Since 1993, Bill and Christine enjoyed their summer getaway at Brule Beach Estates, a place to relax at the beach with family and friends. There are also many fond memories of travelling to the UK, Europe, the Caribbean, Portugal, Alaska and Hawaii. Bill was a man of inner strength and character who loved life. He greeted the world with a smile and a twinkle in his eye, ready to lend a hand where it was needed. He was dearly loved and will be sadly missed. Bill was predeceased by his parents, Gordon E. and Marina H. Blair; his sister, Bernice Blair. He is survived by wife Christine (Marshall), the love of his life and best friend; son, Preston (Darlene), grandson, Adam and granddaughter, Maggie, all of Ottawa; son, Aaron (Julie), Debert; brothers Gordie (Beverley), Truro; Ron (Caroline), North River; Brian, White Court, Alberta; niece, Tammy (Jonathan) Blair-Foster, Halifax; nephew, Travis (Jenn) MacKinnon, Alberta; Corey (Abby), Brookfield, Rodney, Truro Heights; niece, Nita (Brian), Truro; aunt Kathleen (Blair) Fell, Valleyview, Alberta; aunt Florence (Haggett) Collins, North Sydney, and many cousins. Our family wishes to thank the caregivers Bill has had since being diagnosed with Vascular Dementia, especially family physician Dr. Stephen Ellis, East Cumberland Lodge Staff, Cedarstone Enhanced Care staff, EHS paramedics, Emergency, ICU, Third Floor D medical unit, and palliative care at Colchester East Hants Health Centre. Thank you to the RNs, LPNs, and Doctors, in particular Dr. Chris Cook, Dr. Rob Graham, and Dr. David Henderson who, with their professionalism, compassion and caring, allowed our husband, father and grandfather to maintain his dignity to the end. Arrangements have been entrusted to Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow Street, Truro, NS. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the family will be holding a Celebration of Life service at the end of May, date to be advised. Donations in Bill's name may be made to the Bible Hill Cemetery Company, St. David's United Church, or a charity of choice. Condolences may be sent by visiting www.ColchesterCommunity.com

PYE, Garry Victor – Age 77, Truro. Truro Businessman, Garry Victor Pye, passed away after a hard-fought battle with cancer and cancer-related complications on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 6, 2021. He was 77 years old. Garry was born June 12, 1943, the only child of the late Beatrice Louise Pye (MacCallum) and Russell Pye. He grew up in Bible Hill and attended school in Onslow and later at Success Business College. Over the years, Garry accumulated experience and knowledge working for Zellers and bookkeeping for Truro Volkswagen. His business career really started in the mid 1970's when he purchased several small apartment buildings. This is when he realized his love and passion for business and working on a new "deal"! In 1983, he purchased Brett Motors (now Pye Chevrolet) which over the years led to the acquisition of four more dealerships. During this period, Garry enrolled in St. Mary's University in the MBA program and graduated top of the class alongside of his daughter, Shannon, a very proud moment in his life. Garry truly loved the challenges of working in business and proved it by forging ahead. Through the years, he was involved in over twenty businesses that employed over 600 people, of which he was extremely proud included his family. Garry is a first-generation businessman who worked hard to get ahead, believed in the value of a handshake and felt strongly that his success was not due to him but to the combined skills, energy and enthusiasm of each of his managers, employees and partners. One of those partners was his devoted friend, Brent MacGrath. They complimented each other with a passion and good sense for business, realizing that hard work and practicing good business ethics was the right direction for achieving success. Garry served as Chairman of the Colchester East Hants Hospital Foundation, Chairman of the Board of Colchester East Hants Health Authority, Co-chair of the fund-raising committee for the new Truro hospital, served as Chairman of the Truro Police Commission, was a member of the Kiwanis and Rotary club for several years and served on the Toyota National Dealer Council. Outside of his business career, Garry loved to spend time at his summer home in Lunenburg, a place very dear to him. He loved the beauty and peacefulness of the rugged Nova Scotia shore where his grandmother (four generations) landed in the late 1800's. Garry enjoyed boating, working in the woods and playing golf with his friends. Garry is survived by his wife, Mary-Louise (Guillaume); children, Shannon Pye Wilson (Patrick Wilson), Traci Pye Roberts (Glenn Roberts), Andrew Pye, Alexandra Tung (Bryceton Tung); stepchildren, James Macpherson (deceased), Heidi Macpherson (Andrew Caldwell), Jennifer Macpherson and ten wonderful grandchildren - all BOYS! Sincere thanks to the doctors and nursing staff at the South Shore Regional Hospital, Fisherman's Memorial Hospital and Colchester East Hants Health Centre, Earth Angels, Today's Nurse and especially the compassionate care from the VON. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the VON or SPCA. Visitation was held April 11th in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS. COVID-19 restrictions were in place. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.ColchesterCommunity.com

TAGGART, Phillip Lyle – 75, Lower Onslow, passed away at home on Friday, April 9, 2021, as a result of compounding health issues. Born in Truro, he was a son of the late William and Daisy (McGill) Taggart. Phillip is survived by his brother, Freddie Taggart, Georgetown, Ontario; uncle, David Taggart, Ontario; niece, Karen (Robert) Putnam, Belmont; nephew, Derek (Natalie) Taggart, Richibucto Road, New Brunswick; great nephews, Reid Taggart and Craig Taggart, Richibucto Road, New Brunswick. Along with his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, North (Gilby); sister, Shirley Taggart. Interment will be held at a later date in Folly Village Cemetery, Glenholme. Arrangements have been entrusted to Mattatall – Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young Street, Truro. Full obituary and condolences at: www.mattatallvarnerfh.com

MacKINNON, Ethel Grace (Corbett) – 82, Lower Onslow. With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Ethel Grace (Corbett) MacKinnon on Friday, April 9, 2021, in Truro. Born in Five Islands, she was a daughter of the late Hilbert and Luella (Boyd) Corbett. Ethel leaves behind her loving husband of 59 years, Elmer; children, Barbara MacKinnon (Jamie Rogers), Truro; Ian MacKinnon (Lynn Randall), St. John's, Newfoundland; Carol MacKinnon (Dan Glionna), London, England; Janice Faulkner (Blair), Truro. She will be greatly missed by all of her grandchildren, Alexandra and Benjamin Rogers, Katherine and Roderick MacKinnon, Seth and Jenna Faulkner, as well as many nieces and nephews. Along with her parents, she was predeceased by her sisters, Elizabeth (James) MacAloney, Elsie (Walter "Buddy") Yorke, Helen (Ivan) Ettinger. Ethel was a leader and organizer in her community of Lower Onslow. Over the years, she was a Girl Guide leader, founding member of Lower Onslow Playschool, dedicated member of Trinity United Church, treasurer for both Lower Onslow UCW and the former Lower Onslow United Church, board member of Lower Onslow Community Centre, volunteer with Colchester Hospital Auxiliary and organizer of weekly chair yoga. Ethel worked outside the home once her children were school age. She was a bookkeeper for Moxon's Drug Store, office manager for VON – Truro office and medical assistant for Dr. Jamie Rogers' office, working until the age of 74. She loved her work, and made many friends along the way. A celebration of Ethel's life will be held later this summer with family and friends. Arrangements have been entrusted to Mattatall – Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young Street, Truro. Full obituary and condolences at: www.mattatallvarnerfh.com

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