

OBITUARIES

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GRUZ, Andras – Age 86, Bible Hill. It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Andras (a.k.a. Bandi and Andy) Gruz, who passed away peacefully on April 13, 2025, in Cedarstone Enhanced Care, Bible Hill, Nova Scotia, surrounded by family. Andras was born in a small village of Vatta, Hungary in 1938. At the age of ten, his family moved to Budapest, where he spent his formative years. He excelled at his favourite sport of Greco-Roman style Wrestling and won many competitions and medals. At the age of 18, Andras bravely started out on an adventure of his lifetime with only a few possessions and no money with his cousin and best friend during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. His two month journey brought him to Pier 21 in Halifax on January 5, 1957, where he made the decision to stay in Halifax. He began his career right away with his Machinist skills, specializing in the Tool and Die trade. His first job was with Eastern Machine Shop, in February, after only arriving in Canada for one month, and could not speak a word of English. He worked for various companies throughout his career such as Fairey Canada Limited, IMP, Dartmouth Machine Shop, Nova Automotive and finally, with Olands Brewery (Labatts) for the remainder of his career as the Maintenance Supervisor. As a proud new Canadian citizen since 1963, Andras's favourite expression was "Great Country, Eh!" He moved to Mount Uniacke in the late 1980's, to build his beloved home and to enjoy the lake life on Lewis Lake. His early passions included deer hunting with his many friends, fishing, being a soccer coach for peewee divisions, and spending time with his dogs. Our Dad was a huge influence on his three daughters, Veronica, Gina and Sonya, as well as his three granddaughters, who he had the pleasure of babysitting on a regular basis. He was predeceased by his parents, Andras and Maria (Farkas), of Hungary; his two sisters, Maria Gruz and Ella Csiffary, both of Hungary; as well as his wife, M. Joan Gruz (Dolomont), who passed away on November 28th of last year. Andras is survived by daughters, Veronica Gruz (George), Horsham, Pennsylvania, Regina Allen (Paul), Truro and Sonya Gruz-Brownlow (Chris), Edmonton, Alberta; his granddaughters, LJ Ferrand (Nathan), Vancouver, BC., Emily Gruz (Yashar), Edmonton, Alberta, Sondrea Gruz, Edmonton, Alberta and also his special fur baby grandson, "Rocky" Allen. He is also survived by his niece, Anna Maria Fervagner, Budapest, Hungary, nephew, Attila Csiffary, Budapest, Hungary and niece, Andrea Csiffary, Athens, Greece, and their extended families. Special thanks to the medical team and the wonderful, caring staff in the Victoria Way neighborhood at Cedarstone, Truro. A funeral service for Andras and his wife, Joan Gruz, will be held in St. Thomas More Church, Dartmouth on Friday, June 13th at 10:30am, with a reception to follow. He will be interred privately with immediate family in Bible Hill Cemetery at a later date.

REMEMBERING April 18-19, 2020

The following is a statement from Premier Tim Houston:

This week marks five years since the events of April 18-19, 2020. As each day, month and year passes, we continue to reflect and remember those lost, and we continue to support survivors.

These events were deeply felt by all Nova Scotians, but no one can truly understand the depth of the loss for those most impacted.

To the families, survivors and communities - I want you to know that Nova Scotians continue to have you all in our thoughts and close to our hearts.

I continue to be inspired by your courage and your strength. Know that we stand with you today and every day.

We remain Nova Scotia Strong.

We will continue to work with municipalities, the federal government and the RCMP to make our communities safer. We are unwavering in our commitment to make real change.

To all Nova Scotians - I encourage you to observe a moment of silence at noon on April 18 and April 19. I also ask that you continue to be compassionate and supportive during this difficult time, honouring the privacy of the families and communities impacted and giving them space to grieve, reflect and remember.

Remembering and reflecting on the events of April 2020 may affect Nova Scotians in different ways. If you are struggling

ROVERS Leonardus "Leo" Arnoldus Gerardus known fondly to his family as *Ope*, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his loved ones, on April 14, 2025, at the age of 86. Born in Asten-Heusden, Netherlands, on, March 14, 1939, Leo was a son of the late Adrian "Harry" and Antonia Rovers. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Mary Jeanette; his sister, Mary (Maynard) Stevens and brother-in-law, Hyland Fraser. He leaves behind his children, Adrian Rovers, Chris (Tina) Rovers, Leona (Sinclair) Verboom, and Laurie (Andrew) Poehl; grandchildren, Brandon (Renae) Verboom, Matthew Verboom, Evan Rovers, Selaina Rovers, Hayden and Jenna Poehl and great-grandchildren, Kyle, Jaylah, Anders, and Theodore. He is also survived by his siblings, Arnold (Roberta) Rovers, Toni (Herman) Van Den Hoogen, Joanne (Francis) Duykers, and Harriet Fraser. Following the war, Leo and his family emigrated from the Netherlands to Ontario in 1952. They first settled in Heatherton, Nova Scotia, where his family farmed. It was there that Leo met Mary at a dance in Pomquet, and they married on April 18, 1964. Together, they raised their family while continuing to farm in Heatherton until their move to Stewiacke in April 1972. It was in Stewiacke that Leo transitioned into the construction business, founding *L&R Construction Ltd.* In 1975. His company, which specialized in sewage and water treatment plants, apartment buildings, and hotels like Journey's End Hotels (Comfort Inns), became a cornerstone of Nova Scotia's construction landscape. Leo's most proud project was the Colchester Regional Library in Truro, a testament to his belief that a town needs a heart to bring its community together. He had a vision for the old Normal College site, where he seamlessly integrated the historical architecture into his design, preserving the essence of the past while infusing it with modern functionality. This careful blend of old and new not only honoured the heritage of the area but also created a vibrant space for future generations. Leo took immense pride in this accomplishment, which will stand as a lasting legacy to his hard work, foresight, and respect for the town's rich architectural history.

As a founding member of the Guatemala Outreach Project in 2010, Leo dedicated himself to the cause, making biannual trips to build "Leo Stoves" for the villagers—an initiative he spoke of with unmatched enthusiasm and dedication. Leo's devotion to the well-being of others extended beyond the stoves. He was deeply committed to ensuring that children in the villages had a safe space to play, playing a pivotal role in the installation of playgrounds and the establishment of a medical clinic. His legacy is one of boundless compassion, adventure, and service. The family would like to extend special thanks to Marion Skinner and Eleanor MacLellan for their exceptional care over the past five years. Your love and dedication to Dad will never be forgotten. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to Lauri Isenor, Mary Beaton, and Paula Simms for their care, as well as to Joy Nicholson for the joy she brought to Dad's life through music and therapy. Our thanks also goes to the VON and Canadian Red Cross for their invaluable support. In Leo's memory, memorial donations may be made to the Colchester East Hants Health Centre Foundation or a charity of your choice. A visitation was held Wednesday, May 7th from 6 to 8 p.m. in Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro, NS. A Funeral Mass took place on Thursday, May 8th at 2:00 p.m. in the Immaculate Conception Parish, 669 Prince St., Truro, followed by a reception in Campbell Hall. A private burial will take place afterward in Pine Grove Cemetery, Stewiacke East, for family and close friends. Leo will be dearly missed, but his love, strength, and indomitable spirit will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to know him.

gling and need support, the provincial mental health crisis line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-888-429-8167.

The flags at Province House and all provincial government buildings and institutions will fly at half-mast on these days. I encourage citizens, businesses and community organizations that fly flags to join us.

We will never forget: Tom Bagley, Kristen Beaton and her unborn child, Greg Blair, Jamie Blair, Joy Bond, Peter Bond, Lillian Campbell, Corrie Ellison, Gina Goulet, Dawn Gulenchyn, Frank Gulenchyn, Alanna Jenkins, Sean McLeod, Lisa McCully, Heather O'Brien, Jolene Oliver, Aaron Tuck, Emily Tuck, Const. Heidi Stevenson, E. Joanne Thomas, John Zahl and Joey Webber.

MINGO, Russell "Keith" – Age 92, Bible Hill, passed away surrounded by family on April 14, 2025, in Vimy Court. Born in The Falls, Keith was a son of the late Russell and Olive (Marshall) Mingo. Keith was in the military for 28 years and retired as a Warrant Officer. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #26. He is survived by his wife, Frances (mccallum); his children, Brenda (Curt), of Truro, Alan (Anita), of Indonesia; grandchildren, Gary (Lianna), of Ottawa, Kristi (Chris), of Alberta, Lance, of Alberta, Russel, of Indonesia, Winda, of Indonesia; great grandson, Alexander from Dartmouth; brother, Kenneth, of Alberta; along with nieces, nephews and cousins; stepchildren, Kevin (Cindy), Bruce, Mark Jacqueline); seven step grandchildren and two step great grandchildren. Besides his parents, Keith was predeceased by his first wife, Jennie (Burns). The family would like to thank the staff at Vimy Court for the care they provided Keith. Donations in Keith's memory may be made to a charity of your choice. Arrangements have been entrusted to Colchester Community Funeral Home, 512 Willow St., Truro. Interment took place on April 26th at 2pm in The Falls Cemetery.

Ryan, Barbara Alice – 82, of Great Village passed away on Thursday, April 24, 2025 at Colchester East Hants Health Centre. Born in Portauisque, she was a daughter of the late Lyman and Violet (Blair) Ryan. Barbara lived in Portauisque most of her life. She moved to the senior's McCaull Villa in Great Village in 2015. Barbara worked at Fulton's Motel for a few years and then she remained home to look after her mother. She was a lady full of wit and enjoyed people. Barbara is survived by her sister, June (Foster, deceased) Wilson; brothers, Aubrey (Susan) Ryan, Truro, David (Margaret, deceased) Ryan, Glenholme; nieces, nephews and cousins. Besides her parents, she was predeceased by sister, Etta (Cecil) Williams; brothers, Malcolm (Faye), Richard, Merle (Rita) and Everett (Shirley). Honouring Barbara's wishes, there will be no visitation or funeral service. A private family graveside service will be held in Folly Village Cemetery, Glenholme at a later date. If so desired, donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia are welcomed. Arrangements have been entrusted to Mattatall – Varner Funeral Home, 55 Young Street, Truro. Tributes, words of comfort and memories may be shared at: www.mattatallvarnerfh.com

Statement on Five Years Since Mass Casualty

(NOTE: The following is a statement from Myra Freeman, Chair, on behalf of the Progress Monitoring Committee.)

On April 18 and 19, 2020, the lives of countless people were forever changed in a devastating mass casualty that affected communities in Nova Scotia, Canada, the United States and beyond. The mass casualty created profound grief to those most impacted and five years later, we continue to experience its far-reaching effects.

We remember: Tom Bagley, Kristen Beaton and unborn child, Greg and Jamie Blair, Joy Bond and Peter Bond, Lillian Campbell, Corrie Ellison, Gina Goulet, Dawn and Frank Gulenchyn, Alanna Jenkins and Sean McLeod, Lisa McCully, Heather O'Brien, Jolene Oliver, Aaron Tuck and Emily Tuck, Const. Heidi Stevenson, E. Joanne Thomas and John Zahl and Joey Webber

We also remember those who have been lost in the years since April 2020, who were deeply affected by these events. We turn our thoughts to those who continue to experience the impacts, both physical and psychological, in the years that have passed.

We remain committed to monitoring and reporting publicly on the initiatives that the governments of Canada and Nova Scotia, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, are undertaking in response to the Mass Casualty Commission final report. We will take the time to mourn and reflect, and then we will continue our work.

We extend our deepest sympathies to all those who have been impacted by the mass casualty. We all have a part to play in bringing about change to make our communities safer and appreciate the efforts of everyone who continues to advocate for these changes.



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