



Obituary

**Ann Marie
(MacNeil) Rankin**

July 3, 1955 – August 21, 2026

Today we mourn the passing of Ann Marie, a kind and gentle soul. She was a devoted mother, nana, daughter, sister; and a treasured friend, neighbour, and co-worker to so many she met throughout her life. All who knew her will

remember her caring and loving ways.

Ann Marie started her life with a big advantage: she was born into the welcoming and loving hands and arms of Annie Belle (MacDonald) and John Alex, and their growing family. Ann Marie was the fourth oldest and, ultimately, their only girl. She was nurtured on a hillside farm in Blackstone with her nine brothers. Ann Marie quickly became a mother-in-training. She graduated from Grade 11 (just turning 16) and made her way to Boston to work as a nanny for the summer. She graduated from the Eastern Institute of Technology in 1973 with a Secretarial Diploma. Ann Marie was dedicated to her work in Halifax, demonstrating a strong work ethic - paying off bills, helping her parents where she could, and buying her own car. Soon after, in 1977, Ann Marie was talked into marriage by John Archie. From there they moved to work in Mexico City, Calgary (where they welcomed their first born) and Edmonton. They returned to Dartmouth in 1980 and expanded their family with twin boys and another girl (something which Ann Marie was determined to accomplish). She was forever thankful that she was able to be at home with the kids while they were growing - nothing like meals at noon, and a hug to send them off again. They went to Newfoundland, in 1991, for 18 memorable years, relocating in 2009 to the cherished home on the hill in Dartmouth where they have since resided. Through this period of her life, Ann Marie was an obliging caregiver to both her parents. This meant the world to them.

She considered herself blessed with her life: blessed with the many things she was given; blessed that she had plenty of opportunities to pass on her love; and blessed with the many people who shared their love with her along the way. Indeed, all of us who witnessed her love are blessed to have shared a part of their life with Ann Marie.

Ann Marie is survived by her husband of 49 years John Archie, her four children: Stephanie (Shawn) and Ewan, Declan; Matthew (Joanne) and Isabel; Michael (Adrianna) and Cole; and Allison (Mike) and Dirk, Roelie and Henk. The seven grandchildren were precious to Ann Marie, and she was overjoyed to take an active part at their births. Three of the grandchildren even had Nana look after them - something she did three days a week the last number of years, even to the last week before she was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour. Ann Marie is also survived by her precious brothers (who cherished her - they even called her their favourite sister): Dougald, Dan (Jan), James (Shirley), Bernie (Ethel),

Francis (Elaine), Alex (Peggy), Phonsie (Sheila), Angus (Annajayne). She was predeceased by her mother and father and her brother Blaise, and sister-in-law Wendy. Also surviving are 19 MacNeil nieces and nephews who were proud to have Ann Marie as their cherished Aunt. Ann Marie had 24 Rankin in-laws, who had a special place for Ann Marie in their hearts. She was predeceased by two of them: Maureen and Donald Leo. On the Rankin side were another 44 nieces and nephews that were very fond of Ann Marie. Also, there are many, many cousins who she dearly loved.

Ann Marie would want us to take this opportunity to acknowledge her best friend and honorary sister, Cecilia, for all the love and laughs along the way. In addition, she was grateful for her neighbours and friends, Bev and Dorothy in Cole Harbour, and Patsy in Newfoundland.

The Funeral Mass was held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Brook Village at 11 a.m. on Friday, August 28. A Celebration of Life followed in the Parish Hall from 12 to 4 p.m. A private burial will take place at a later time. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to St. Mary's Cemetery, West Lake Ainslie, or to a charity of your choice. Funeral arrangements are under the care and direction of Sunset Funeral Co-op, Margaree Valley.

Anam ciùin
A Gentle Soul



Obituary

**SAMPSON, Mary
Marguerite "Margaret"**

Margaret finished her earthly journey the same way as she lived it - quietly and peacefully. With deep sadness, we announce that Margaret passed away on August 25, 2026, at the Cape Breton Regional Hospital in Sydney, NS.

Born in Lower L'Ardoise on November 6, 1943, she was the only daughter of the late Vincent and Clara (Sampson) Sampson.

Her humble rural beginnings shaped her into the hard-working, loving person she was. Thinking of others first, never looking for attention, persevering to the end of any task, all with a good sense of humour, Margaret became a woman of quiet strength. She was a peacemaker, the 'rock' of her family.

She worked at MacMaster U for more than 30 years.

Though she and Freddie lived in Hamilton, Ontario for over 60 years, they never forgot their roots. They returned for a month's vacation each summer and could be seen helping out family and friends, or volunteering at the L'Ardoise Acadian Festival.

Margaret was a woman of deep faith and warm hospitality, a faithful servant of the Lord. The family were active parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes in Hamilton. They visited the shrine of St Anne de Beupr  annually on their way to Cape Breton.

Margaret is survived by her beloved husband, Alfred "Freddie" and their cherished son, Frankie, of St Peters, NS, her aunt, Delina Martell of Halifax, and many cousins and friends.

Besides her parents, Margaret was predeceased by her brothers, Alexander "Mac" and Joseph Albert "DD", and her Godmother, Alma Sampson.

A sincere thank you to all who helped with their move from Hamilton to St. Peter's last fall. Margaret was so happy to be living home again. Thanks also to those at SRH, QE2, CBRH, and EHS who cared for Margaret during her time in hospital. A special thank you to Dr. Paul Pluta and Dr. Jonah Samson.

Cremation has taken place.

Visitation will be held at the Holy Guardian Angels Visitation Parlour L'Ardoise on Sunday September 6th from 2 - 5 p.m.

Funeral Mass for Margaret will be in the Holy Guardian Angels Parish on Monday, September 7th at 11 am with Rev. John Yake officiating. Burial to follow in Holy Guardian Angels Parish Cemetery, L'Ardoise. A reception will be held at Holy Guardian Angels Parish Hall.

To send words of wisdom and memories of Margaret. Please visit www.chboudreau.com

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to C.H. Boudreau Funeral Home Ltd., Arichat



Obituary

**Margaret "Peggy"
Johnston Ouellette**

Margaret "Peggy" Johnston Ouellette passed away August 18th, in the company of friends and family at St. Anne's Centre, Arichat Nova Scotia. Born October 1938, Peggy was the daughter of John Martin and Agnes Johnston of Red Islands. Peggy attended school in

Johnstown and St. Peter's. She graduated from Teacher's College and spent a lifetime in education as a teacher and administrator in Amherstburg, Ontario, Dartmouth and Richmond County, Nova Scotia. Peggy's students and co-workers will often speak of her passion for those who struggled with learning, and she was a strong advocate for special and resource education. While working full-time, Peggy attended St. Francis Xavier University and was granted her Bachelor's degree in Arts and Education in 1982. After retiring from the Richmond District School Board, Peggy returned to teach new teachers at the Nova Scotia Teachers College in Truro in the late 1990s.

Peggy touched many in her community during her lifetime as a volunteer with many community organizations, including the Catholics Women's League, St Anne's Nursing Home, Richmond Literacy, Nova Scotia Speech and Hearing, to name just a few. Peggy and husband Jack experienced loss early in their life together which led to a long and deep commitment to helping those experiencing grief. Peggy continued to attend Strait Richmond Palliative Care meetings and was a passionate advocate for their mission.

Peggy's ability to listen and challenge people to do their best was her gift to all who she encountered in the classroom, meeting rooms, out in the community or sitting on the back deck in Arichat. Our family shared her with many and Peggy's capacity to care was endless. Peggy was more than willing to act on the things she cared about. Where she saw injustice or unfairness, she would not hesitate to speak truth to power, with grace. St Anne's Nursing Home became her residence in 2024. The staff and residents became part of her family, and we are so grateful for the dignity and care shown to her in her final days.

Peggy was predeceased by her husband Jack Ouellette, infant son Timothy Neil Ouellette, brothers Joseph and Gregory Johnston and sister Isabel Johnston. She is survived by her sons John (Linda) and Michael (Monique) and her cherished grandchildren Jacob, Hannah, Shannon and Tim. While Peggy counted many as part of her extended family the "kids across the road" Aschaelle, Kassande, Kristoff and Fernand Terrio occupied a special place in her heart.

Peggy's funeral mass and celebration of life will be held Friday, September 4th, 11 am at Sacred Heart Church in Johnstown. In honour of Peggy, please consider a donation to the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society.



Strait Area Church Services

ARICHAT BIBLE CHURCH
- Baptist
Sundays - Adult Bible Study
and Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.

ROMAN CATHOLIC
St. Joseph's - Port Hawkesbury
Services held Saturdays at 4pm
Sundays at 10am St. Lawrence
Parish - Mulgrave Sat. - 6 p.m.
Stella Maris Pastoral Unit, Isle
Madame. St. Joseph Parish, Petit
de Grat - Saturdays at 4:00pm
[alternating language French one
week; English the next] Our Lady
of Assumption, Arichat - Sundays
at 10:00am [alternating language
English one week; bilingual [E/F]
the next]

UNITED BAPTIST
Port Hawkesbury - A.U.B.C.
Service- 10:30 a.m.
www.phubc.com
Phone: 902-625-0830

GOSPEL FELLOWSHIP
(Non-Denominational)
10:30 a.m. Pastor Wanda
Grant Evergreen Seniors Club
Embree St., Port Hawkesbury
Phone: 902-625-0357

**EASTERN GUYSBOROUGH
UNITED CHURCH**
Rev. Heather Manuel
Phone: 902-533-3711

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CANADA**
St. Peter's Grand River,
Loch Lomond
Pastoral Charge
St. Peter's United Church
Sunday Service 11 a.m.
Pastor Keith Wiseman DLM
Phone: 902-535-2150

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CANADA**
West Bay, Black River,
Princeville
ALL SERVICES 10 a.m.
902-345-2077
or 902-345-2064.

**LITTLE NARROWS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Sunday at 9:30
Margie MacIntyre officiating

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
St. Mark's United Church,
*Starting Aug 9th services will
be led by guest worship leaders.*
504 Bernard St., Port Hawkesbury
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Church Office 902-625-2229
E-mail: stmarksuc@gmail.com

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CANADA**
St. David's United Church
7 Old Victoria Road
Port Hastings, NS
Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.
902-625-2178
With Sandi Irving

**ANGLICAN CHURCHES OF
STRAIT - CHEDABUCTO**
St. James, Melford
St. Andrews, Mulgrave
Holy Trinity, Port Hawkesbury
Services 2nd & 4th Sundays of each
month. For times and information
call Rev. Darlene Jewers
902-919-7104

**RIVER & LAKESIDE
PASTORAL CHARGE**
Forbes United Church,
River Denys.

**SOVEREIGN GRACE
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**
Blues Mills Fire Hall TCH 105 -
11:00 a.m. 902-756-2203
Rev. Wayne MacLeod

**MULGRAVE PASTORAL
CHARGE (United Church)**
St. Matthew's, Afton: 9:00 a.m.
Trinity, Mulgrave: 10:45 a.m.
Hadleyville: 12:30 p.m.

**Dennis Haverstock
Funeral Home Ltd.**
CANSO 902-366-2308
GUYSBOROUGH
HEAD OFFICE 724 Granville
Street, Port Hawkesbury, NS
B9A 2N8 902-625-1911
WHYCOCOMAGH 902-756-2446
ST. PETER'S 902-535-3067

**ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Sunday at 11:00
Margie MacIntyre officiating

Dennis Haverstock Funeral Homes Ltd.

*Information on
Pre-Arranged Funerals Available*
John Langley Funeral Director
Craig MacLean Funeral Director
Martin Flood Funeral Director
Steve MacIntosh Funeral Director

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Novena

Novena to the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Never Known to Fail)

Oh, most beautiful flower of Mount
Carmen, fruitful vine, splendour of
Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son
of God; Immaculate Virgin, assist me
in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea,
help me and show me you are my
Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of
God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I
humbly beseech you from the bottom
of my heart to succour me in my ne-
cessity. (Mention your request here).
There are none that can withstand your
power. O Mary conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to Thee.
(3 Times) Sweet Mother, I place this
cause in Your Hands (3 times) Amen.
Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days
and then you must publish it and it will
be granted to you.
J.M.



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Charles MacKinnon **345-2480**
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Labour Day Closures & Solid Waste Impacts

All municipal offices and facilities will be
closed on Monday, September 7, for Labour
Day.

There will be no solid waste collection that
day. Instead, there will be **special
collection on Friday, September 4.** Please
have material curbside by 7:00 a.m. on
Friday, September 4, to ensure collection.

For solid waste collection reminders and
updates, download the Recycle Cape
Breton app at invernesscounty.ca/sortitout.