

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*ANN
MARIE
RANKIN*

July 3, 1955 - August 21, 2026



Ann Marie (MacNeil) Rankin

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, neighbor, 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; 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 tumor. 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 will be held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Brook Village at 11 a.m. on Friday, August 28. A Celebration of Life will follow 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.

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A Gentle Soul