

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*JOAN
CAMPBELL
MACDONALD*



It is with great sadness that the family of Joan Campbell MacDonald, 52, announces her passing on October 7, 2026, at Inverness County Memorial Hospital surrounded by love and friendship.

Joan was the youngest redhead of Ronnie and, the late, Josephine (née Campbell) MacDonald of Port Hood. She is survived by her sisters, Kelly Nicolson (Rob) of Dartmouth and Therese (Keith Young) of Calgary; brother, Tom (Malou) of Fort McMurray; and sister in-law, Peggy MacDonald of Dartmouth.

She will be lovingly remembered by her nieces and nephews: Megan, Genevieve, and Todd MacDonald; Lena, Jesse, and Nora Young; Kelvin (Debby) and Martin (Pamela); and grand nephews Primo, Calvin and Franko. She is also survived her aunts: Tena Murphy (Pat) of Mississauga, Betty Anne Campbell of Judique, and Mary Campbell of Prince George; Uncle Tony Campbell (Flo) of Judique; many cousins; and her community of L'Arche Cape Breton, who have also been her family for the last 18 years.

She is predeceased by our mother, Josephine, and brother Peter.

Joan required a little more support and time to accomplish tasks in her early years, but once she started walking there was no stopping her. She played sports in the backyard with us where she developed her love of hockey (The Maple Leafs), baseball (The Jays), and football. She loved visiting her Uncle Buddy on the farm in Little Judique Ponds to see the cows or visiting "Horse" Donald on the Joe Effie Road to see the horses. She especially loved her swing set in the backyard and the hula hoop. Joan graduated from Judique-Creignish High School. She worked in the Post Office in Judique with Kaye, at the Port Hood CO-OP, North End Building Supplies, and The Hope Chest before following her true love of art.

After she moved to L'Arche Cape Breton, Joan truly discovered and developed her talent for creating art and defined herself as an artist and entertainer. She was an enthusiastic participant at Springfest and in various performances and productions by L'Arche Cape Breton.

Joan brought a unique light into the lives of all who knew her. Her smile, laughter, and genuine affection had a way of making others feel welcomed and valued. She taught those around her powerful lessons about patience, unconditional love, and the importance of celebrating every achievement, big or small. She gave the best hugs and was always up for a group hug.

Joan travelled across Canada to visit family, or on vacations with her friends from L'Arche. These are a few of her highlights: She held the Olympic torch, met Terry Fox, attended a Calgary Flames game and a Blue Jays game, and visited the Anne Murray Centre because of her love of Anne Murray's music. She loved playing Steal the Pack, Snakes and Ladders, and drinking her Diet Coke.

Joan's light shone brightly in any room she was in. She may not have understood the concept of time or the rigid rules of math, but she knew how to express herself through her art far better than most. She knew a good person when she met one and truly loved with all her heart. Joan loved to tease, but anyone who teased her back would be put in their place!

Joan's life at L'Arche Cape Breton allowed her to share her light and love with people from around the world. People who learned from her and took her teachings home with them when they left. Sharing life with so many people is not always easy, but Joan knew how to forgive and taught others how to do the same. She was also a shining example of how to live in joy, and to find the quiet when you need it.

Joan lived a life filled with experiences, friendships, laughter and love. She was tough! She fought through many hospitalizations, remaining her sassy self until she couldn't.

We know you are being welcomed into heaven by many who loved you who have gone before you. We love you BIG, Joan. Give Mom and Peter a BIG hug from us.

Visitation will be held on October 14, 2026, from 2:00pm – 4:00pm and 7:00pm – 9:00pm at Port Hood Resting Place, 237 Main Street, Port Hood. Funeral mass will be held on October 15, 2026, at 11:00 am at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Port Hood.

We would like to thank the staff at Inverness County Memorial Hospital who cared for Joan in the last few days of her life, especially Dr. Lauren Cooper, Dr. Rhea MacDonald, and the nurses. We are deeply grateful to the community of L'Arche Cape Breton and its many members for their kindness and the compassion shown towards Joan and her family.

In lieu of flowers, Joan's family asks that you please roll up your sleeves and make an appointment to donate blood in her memory, because "it's in you to give".

Appointments can be made at Canadian Blood Services under the Partners for Life Program, "Peter and Friends".

If you are not able to roll up your sleeves, the family asks that you consider making a donation in Joan's memory to L'Arche Cape Breton, www.larchecapebreton.org.