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ISLAND

## *CRANTON*

### *LAURIE CHANDLER*

It is with broken hearts that we announce the peaceful passing of Laurie Chandler Cranton, on Thursday March 10 2022, at home surrounded by his family.

Born on June 7, 1959, Laurie was the eldest son of Betty (MacLeod) Cranton and the late Gordon Cranton.

Upon graduating from Margaree Forks District High School in 1977, Laurie attended the Maritime Forest Ranger School. In 1981, due to a workplace accident, he became a paraplegic. Laurie spent four months at the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Center before he had his car brought to Halifax, attached the hand controls himself, and headed for home on his own. And thus began his drive to pursue his wildest dreams and live his best life. Laurie worked as a Rehabilitation Counselor for the Paraplegic Association in Halifax before returning home to Margaree in 1988, where he continued working for the Cape Breton office until 1992.

He never once let his disability get in the way of the things he wanted to do. He loved to drive anything, especially snowmobiles and ATVs. He made hay with the farm tractor, groomed snowmobile trails, traveled by plane, hunted, fished, boated and even sat on a horse.

Laurie had many accomplishments throughout his life. The father of four children and six grandchildren, he loved his life in Margaree, surrounded by his family and friends. In earlier years, he played for the Nova Scotia Wheelchair Basketball team. He was a snowmobile enthusiast and spent countless hours in the Cape Breton Highlands. There was no such thing as 'too much snow'. He was a founding member of the Margaree Highlanders Snowmobile Club, volunteering with rallies, drag races, fundraisers and enjoying his favorite sport while gaining lifelong friendships. His love of snowmobiles brought him to achieve many things, including being a member of the Snowmobile Association of Nova Scotia in which he acted as president for several years and vice chair of the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations. Furthermore; Laurie was chosen to travel in the 'Powerstreak Rendez-Vous 1998, a snowmobile tour across Canada where he represented Nova Scotia with 14 other riders. This was the trip of a lifetime that he was so very proud of.

Committed to anything that was asked of him and with a passion for his community, Laurie wore many hats throughout the years. He was a member of the Canadian Paraplegic Association, of which he was chosen for the CPA65 award in 2010 from the Lieutenant Governor. He was an advocate for accessibility, involved with the Nova Scotia Off Highway Vehicle Act where he played a major role in Trail Development and snowmobile tourism across the province over the years. The Margaree Area Development Association, the Provincial Accessibility Committee, the ATV Association of Nova Scotia, The Nova Scotia Equestrian Federation, owner/operator of Fox Rock Trail Rides, and was instrumental in achieving funding and grants for many causes such as the Cranton Crossroads Community Center and the River Valley Equestrian Center.

Laurie's most recent achievement was as municipal councilor, serving the Margarees and St. Joseph-du-Moine since 2016, as well as becoming the Warden for the Municipality of the County of Inverness in 2020. Even through his illness, while in the hospital, he proved his dedication to his colleagues and community and strived to help wherever he could.

He and Mary-Ann loved to travel. Whether it was a vacation, a twenty hour drive to pick up a horse, or a quick trip to Sydney for supper, they were always headed somewhere together.

Laurie was predeceased by his father, Gordon. He is survived by his wife of 19 years, Mary Ann (Ward); his mother, Betty; his children, Megan (Jared) Brown, Justin Taylor, Morgan (Travis) Chiasson and Trevor (Breagh) Cranton; grandchildren, Jayden, Ewan, Sadie, Hudson, Lauchlan and Karson; brothers, Kevin (Kim), Aubrey (Shauna); nieces, Frances, Macayla, Casey; and his nephew Matthew.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday March 19 at 11:30am at Wilson United Church, burial to follow in the church cemetery. There will be more seating in the church hall. The family invites you to join them at the Cranton Crossroads Community Center following the service from 12:30-4:00pm to share in a celebration of life. Covid19 restrictions will be in place.

The family would like to extend their sincere thanks to Dr. MacDougall, Dr. Christie, ICMH nurses and staff, Home Care, Palliative Care and most importantly, his favorite nurse, his daughter Morgan.

Donations in memory of Laurie may be made to the Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital Foundation in support of the 'ICMH accessible washroom project'. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Sunset Funeral Cooperative.

***“Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well-preserved body. But rather, to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming “wow! What a ride”***

