



JAMES ROBERT COLBURN

August 28, 1937 - June 13, 2017

It is with great sadness that James Colburn, age 79, passed away peacefully after a brief battle with cancer, at the Stanton Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife.

James was born in the community of Chisholm, Alberta. In his youth, James spent summers at a cadet camp in Vernon, B.C. with his friend and later brother-in-law, Marcel Gagnier. James lived and worked in Edmonton doing various jobs from working on the oil rigs to delivering milk door to door, to part-time bartending in a cocktail lounge. James moved to Yellowknife in 1964, where he took a job as a miner working underground at Giant Mine for a short period of time. Over the years, he did a variety of jobs from correctional officer, to part-time taxi driver to working in construction.

James loved life, the North and the people. He spent many summers on his boat "The Reliance" exploring Great Slave Lake from the shores of the city to the Hoarfrost River on McLeod Bay and other places in between. James acquired title to a piece of property on the Hoarfrost River, presently owned by David Olson. In 1978 James was a construction worker working on the Scotia Centre building and frequently visited the bar next door in the gallery building. It was there that he met his wife Debhora, who was a part-time waitress. In 1984 Prelude Lake became home for James and his wife and it still remains his resting place.

James will be remembered by friends and family as a great story teller, and he always had a story to tell. One of his favourite sayings was – "I came to town with five bucks in my pocket, and as soon as I get my five bucks back, I'm leaving town" and of course, that never happened. Besides his loving wife Debhora, sister Betty Gagnier, brother Bryan Cockburn and his partner Ann, and numerous nieces and nephews as well as friends, he will be missed.

A special thank you to staff at the Palliative Care Unit in the Stanton Hospital for their wonderful care of James in his last week of life.