



# *Leah Mary (Hoyles) Russell*

**1958 - 2021**

The most dazzling gem in our lives has left us too soon. This charismatic beauty was formed in the strong Atlantic rock and gained her strength under extreme amounts of pressure. She had a few rough edges but once polished, she sparkled and lit up the gloomiest of days and the darkest of rooms. A multifaceted stunner, her magnetic personality drew people to her and she was deeply loved by many, as evidenced by the outpouring of love we've received these last few weeks from all those she encountered. She had an effervescent quality that isn't easily captured in a photograph and we already miss basking in her bright,

warm light. She had a magical way of making everything and everyone better and she always made sure to turn everything into a celebration.

Leah's go-to love language was finding the perfect gifts for those around her. In lieu of flowers and to continue this tradition, we've set-up a fundraiser through the Stanton Territorial Hospital Foundation to give back to the people who worked tirelessly to keep her with us as long as possible. As all of the nurses can attest, Leah was a notoriously "hard poke" so we're hoping to raise \$25,000 to purchase a new VeinViewer to make things easier for future patients and staff. Anyone who is interested can either; donate directly on Facebook through the 'Leah, Queen of Our Hearts Fundraiser for the Stanton Foundation', through [StantonFoundation.ca](http://StantonFoundation.ca) under the 'Memorial Donations' link on the Foundation's website or by calling (867)669-7289.

We are so thankful for the compassionate and hardworking staff at Stanton Territorial, the Royal Alexandra and University of Alberta Hospitals. We wish we had met you all under better circumstances but we can't thank you enough for giving Leah the first-class care she received over the last 3.5 years. Laughter is truly the second best medicine, second only to actual medicine. You laughed with us, cried with us, advocated on her behalf, and took care of her in ways we couldn't. We are eternally grateful.

In order to celebrate Leah's life we will be hosting a big party when it's safe to do so. She was always a 'go big or go home' gal so we want to make sure we're giving her a proper send off, in style!

If she could, Leah would tell you to go do that thing you said you were going to do, go dance until your feet hurt, laugh until your belly aches, and enjoy all the very best parts of life!

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