



*December 16, 1955 - January 20, 2023*

## **Martha Mae Codner**

was born in Middle Musquodoboit, NS on December 16, 1955 to parents Marion and Murray Dillman. She was the youngest of 4 siblings: Joyce Butcher (Lawrence), Maxwell Dillman (Bernice), and Edith Dillman.

Following completion of nursing school in Dartmouth, NS in 1978, Martha relocated to Yellowknife, NT in hopes of securing her dream career in the medical field. Her first job was hospital housekeeping, but soon was recognized as the best person for an available nurse's position in

the Medicine ward. After some time, Martha moved to the Surgery ward before eventually settling into the Emergency Department in 1994.

In 1981 Martha snagged a handsome devil named Patrick Codner, affectionately known as Paddy. They fell in love and married in 1987. Martha gave birth to her one and only child, Kendra Lea Codner, in May 1983. Kendra was the apple of Martha's eye from the day she was born. Martha naturally fell into the role of a strong, fierce, prideful mother, spilling with love for her blue-eyed baby girl. Following a very colorful career of 22 years in the Stanton Emergency Department, Martha retired in 2016. In true Martha fashion, she continued another 3 years in various Healthcare positions. Not a day went by where her passion for healthcare faltered.

After a total of 38 years in 3 Yellowknife hospitals that led to a legacy of guiding nursing students and new nurses, working long hours with teams of Nurses and Doctors, Martha truly made a massive impact on many medical professionals. Her influence will undoubtedly ripple throughout the medical care of the north and the country.

A woman known for being authentic, personable, comedic and an intelligent spitfire in every facet of her life, Martha held no haste in correcting someone or cracking a Martha appropriate joke. Martha was a true force to be reckoned with. An ability to pack away medical knowledge and recalling medical histories of past patients, she is remembered fondly for her strength, compassionate care, humanity, and empathy. Martha enjoyed socializing, adventures, was naturally the quirky life of the party and forever had an open and revolving door for anyone. She loved her ladies' weekends at Prelude East with the "Hooters and Duckies", sitting around fire pits, and cruising around town.

Enthusiastic storytelling was one of Martha's ways of sharing her tales of shenanigans. Paddy would smirk and nod with agreement as Kendra would chime in with additional details.

In more recent times, Martha was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, had surgery and chemotherapy. Kendra became the hands-on caregiver to her mother. Declining in health, Martha was admitted to hospital in October 2022 while her loving daughter continued to be the primary caregiver. Within Martha's last weeks, friends and family frequented the hospital to share laughs and tears. In the final days of Martha's life, at Martha's request, Kendra would read comments and memories of times gone by. These comforted Martha as she enjoyed every single one.

Martha passed peacefully in Stanton Territorial Hospital on January 20, 2023 while embraced by a room of her loved ones, exactly the way she had wished it to be.

In life, nurses spend their careers taking care of others.  
In death, nurses take care of one another.

Thank-you to Dr David Pontin, Bovina Beaudoin, April Morin, Nancy Lee Othmer, Susan Macinnis, Rhonda Merko, Kathy Shearing, Mikael Turgeon, Mike Codner, Audrey Henderson, Jessie Teed, and the staff of the Transitional Care Unit during Martha's hospitalization.

Thank you to everyone for your kind words, generous gifts and offers of help during a very difficult time. Your acts of friendship and love have not gone unnoticed. It is comforting to know that we are not alone in our grief.

Celebration of life for Martha Codner will be held Saturday, January 28th from 630pm to 9pm at the multiplex DND Gym in Yellowknife, NT.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to Stanton Hospital Foundation Cancer Care Fund in Martha's memory.