

Gary C. Porter

It is with incredible sadness that I share the news about the passing of my wonderful husband Gary. Sadly, Gary passed away on March 16, 2021, at Stanton Yellowknife Hospital after a short battle with liver cancer. He is predeceased by his parents Alden Inglis Porter, mother Beatrice Maion (Vickery), stepmother Eleanor (Matson) Porter, siblings Glen Harlyn Porter, Charlene Avis Porter. Gary is survived by his wife Mary, his children Gary (Michelle), Charlene (Johnny) Carl (Tania). Grandchildren Kayla, Kendra, Matthew, Jenna, Brandon and, Great Grandchildren Knightly and Raya Charlene.

Gary's knowledge of construction gave him the opportunity to travel to the Middle East to Saudi Arabia, Hafar al Batin from 1977-1979 and, Cayman Islands 1980. Shortly before leaving for the Caribbean Gary met the love of his life, Mary. Upon Gary's return, Gary and Mary were married in Halifax, NS. Mr. Gerry Tanner the former Personal Manager for the NWT Housing Corporation during the early 80's was in Halifax holding interviews. Gerry and two Project Officers from Headquarters, Yellowknife NT met Gary for an interview at the Altantica hotel in Halifax, NS. As a result of the interview, Gary was offered the position of Project Officer. Gary was responsible for administering projects and delivering maintenance programs as well as the Home Ownership program for the NWT Housing Corporation and the Housing Authority for the Kitikmeot District 1981-1985 and, Inuvik the Western Arctic District from 1985-1988. Shortly thereafter a position became available for a Project Manager for the North Slave District Office which meant moving to Yellowknife, NT. The position required supervising a group of Project Officers. Gary and his team were responsible for the construction projects carried out in the District. Gary travelled throughout the District to oversee construction not only in Yellowknife but all the surrounding communities: Dettah, Rae Edzo, Snare Lake, Rae Lakes, Lac La Marte.



However, in 1996 the District Office was closed due to the split of the Territories. Too young to retire Gary decided to take advantage of the situation and start his own construction business calling it Porter's Construction Ltd. After Fourteen successful years Gary decided to hang up his tool belt. Sometime later Mr. Richard Edjericon approached Gary asking him if he would be interested in working for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation as a Project Manager. Through Gary's experience, he totally changed the community landscape in Ndilo/Dettah as we know and see it today. He demolished old residential buildings in the community to meet the NWT Fire Marshal Code, and make way for the new residential/commercial lots for new construction allowing minor/major capital projects for the community. The curriculum changed between the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Housing Division and, the NWT Housing Corporation with respect to the Block Funding Agreement making the position redundant after five years.

I would like to extend sincere gratitude to Joe & Jeannine for being there with me every step of the way. To Bev & Johnnie, Gerry & Terri for the goodies and delicious meals. Jeannie Rocher who without hesitation went above and beyond as well as other neighbours who reached out, to the countless friends near and far. I would also like to thank Dr. Jacqueline Tan for her continued support. To the remarkable Medicine Unit of Stanton Hospital. To those incredible nurses who took such amazing care of Gary, God bless you all. Gary will be missed by many friends he made in the North and, the surrounding communities.

*For it was not my ear that you whispered into, but my heart.
It was not my hand you held, but my soul.*

Interment will take place at Lakeview Cemetery. Celebration of life will be held at a later date due to the Covid-19 restrictions to say good-bye to such a sweet gentleman.

You will be forever in my heart