

Saladana, Rita Marie

October 29, 2025

## Rita Maria Saladana (nee Vos)

Rita Maria Saladana (nee Vos) passed away in the afternoon of Wednesday, October 15th, 2025 at Moose Jaw, SK's FH Wigmore Hospital, following a brief and brutal struggle with an aggressive cancer. Born September 25th, 1958 in Port Alberni, BC, she attended G.W. Gray Elementary School, A.W. Neil Junior High and Alberni District Secondary School before entering the Royal Jubilee Hospital nursing program. She became an RN in January 1980 and started her career at St. Joseph's Hospital in Comox, BC the next month. Rita was working there as an ICU nurse when she met her future husband, a Canadian Air Force officer.

Military postings meant frequent moves and over the years she worked at the Providence Hospital in Moose Jaw, SK; Bonneyville Health Centre in Bonneyville, AB; Providence Hospital in Anchorage, AK; Lovelace Hospital in Albuquerque, NM; Labrador Health Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL and finally at the Union Hospital and then the F.H. Wigmore Hospital again in Moose Jaw, SK. Throughout her career Rita worked in various RN positions including Medical and Surgery wards, ICU, ER, OR, Post-Op and Recovery and as the head nurse of a medical ward; however, because of the intensity and challenge, it was the ER that she enjoyed the most. The medical staff with whom she worked always held her skills in high esteem but particularly admired her courage and tenacity, never backing down to ensure patients received appropriate care. Rita officially retired in February this year, ending a 44 year career.

A kind and loving wife and mother, she valued family above all else. She will be deeply missed and forever lovingly remembered by her husband Kurt, daughter Zoe (Steve Leidal), and son Aidan. She is predeceased by her parents John and Engelina (nee Krabben) Vos and survived by her sisters Leona Winstone (Brian Kingsfield), Deborah Vos and Cecilia Antoniazzi (George), brother Fred (Jody, nee Tell) and numerous nephews and nieces.

She was fiercely proud of her children and enjoyed nothing more than watching Zoe play music, either in a band or with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and watching Aidan play sports, most recently professional volleyball in Japan and Europe. An avid sportswoman,



through the years Rita played competitive fastball and basketball, ran, and enjoyed skiing, fitness classes, playing volleyball, and golfing. In the last few years she rekindled her love of music and tennis, taking bass guitar lessons while playing with Regina's School of Rock adult band and joining the Moose Jaw Tennis Club where she forged strong friendships with her "tennis ladies".

The cancer diagnosis came without warning; she never missed a check-up or test. The staff members at Regina SK's Allan Blair Cancer Centre were phenomenal - caring, kind and professional as they administered a course of chemotherapy that, unfortunately could only temporarily extend Rita's time with us. As she approached the end, she was cared for and comforted by the remarkable staff at Moose Jaw's F.H. Wigmore Hospital.

If Rita had one piece of advice to provide it would be to retire as soon as you are able and spend your time with family and friends doing things you enjoy because you can never know when those opportunities will be taken off the table.

Rita's family, friends and colleagues are invited to a celebration of her life at 1:00 PM Sunday, November 2nd at the 15 Wing Moose Jaw Officers' Mess. In lieu of flowers, Rita would have liked a donation in her name to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Moose Jaw Humane Society.

1.



Linda Stirton on October 30, 2025 at 11:02 am

Kurt & family, Unfortunately I will not be here at the time of Rita's service, but know that I am thinking of you. I was sad hearing the news and hope that you will remember the happy times. I know that Rita will be greatly missed by many. With sincere sympathy.

[Reply](#)

2.



**Glynne Hines** on October 30, 2025 at 3:40 pm

Sincere condolences on the passing of Rita Saladana. Rita was one of the all-round nicest person that I ever met. Outstanding mother, tolerating wife, and exceptional neighbour. I never heard her utter a harsh word nor did I ever hear ill spoken about her. Rita was an extremely active person, balancing her love for her family, her devotion to her nursing profession, her community spirit, and her personal fitness. I remember how she always looked so young compared to the rest of us – good living built on a foundation of good genes. Rita was taken much too soon. May family and friends find some solace in the fact that she lived a full life, albeit too short; she loved and was loved by all who knew her; she was already an angel, long before she passed. Forever in our hearts and on our minds. May she rest in peace.

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