



## Bernard Thomas Leadbetter

May 29, 1945 - August 7, 2024

Bernie was a very special man. All who knew him commented on his gentle, quiet demeanor. His smile was infectious, his laughter genuine and his empathy soul-deep.

He conducted his life as a gentleman. He felt no need to resort to using foul language, didn't gossip and never berated anyone aloud. He was, however, someone who knew how to get things done. He undertook all challenges with fierce focus.

As a young man working for the then thriving store chain, K Mart Canada, he became the youngest district manager on their team, responsible for overseeing the opening of several flagship stores throughout Atlantic Canada. He met and married his first wife, Doris, while working in Halifax. His first child, Laurie, was born in Hamilton On. and his son, Brian, was born in Cornerbrook Nfld.

Bernie later moved permanently to Halifax where he built a tree service company, Eastern Tree, into the largest such company in Atlantic Canada. People in Windsor, Wolfville and Kentville, to name but a few, witnessed the expertise with which his crews caringly and professionally conducted the removal of their towns' stately but, sadly, diseased elm trees. As such, he was very instrumental in the hiring and training of many of this province's well-known tree specialists with thriving companies of their own today. They held him in high regard.

It was while conducting business for NB Power that he met his second wife,

Lynette, who was on a business trip in New Brunswick. They were engaged while in-flight to Kona Hawaii and married in Winnipeg a year later on July 29th, 1989.

Bernie had a rare talent for identifying the underlying factors causing business failures and for finding solutions to these problems. This ability enabled him to travel to diverse locations. From the Yukon, Yellowknife and Whitehorse in the Northwest Territories to Jamaica and Grand Turks in the West Indies, Belize in Central America and Arviat, Nunavut, he undertook every challenge that was presented to him. He definitely left every place better than he found it.

He was a serious sports fan. He especially loved hockey, a game he loved to play in his youth, and was one of Sidney Crosby's most devoted fans. He followed this prolific player's career from the time he began to gain notoriety and rarely missed watching the Pittsburgh Penguins play. Bernie was, himself, an exceptional golfer. A right-hander swinging a left-hand club, he astounded onlookers with the power and accuracy of his drive. He had fond memories of playing the Kona Golf Course with his wife's brother Fern and the Cinnamon Hill Golf Course in Rose Hall with her other brother Marc, while working in Jamaica. Sadly, illness robbed him of the ability to actively participate in the game he loved but he continued to follow it to the end.

His last business venture, and possibly his most meaningful, was his driving school. After completing an extensive driver training course through Safety Services, Bernie formed Easy Way Driver Training School. He soon became known in the Asian immigrant community as the best instructor. His gentle non-critical calm instructing resulted in countless students successfully obtaining their Nova Scotia drivers' licenses and made him well-loved within those communities. He was an honored guest at many of their special celebrations even after he'd ceased operating his business.

Accidents and illness unfortunately began to take their toll but, throughout it all, Bernie maintained his beautiful composure. He rarely complained about anything, kept a peaceful heart and, if possible, became even more gentle and loving as time passed.

He was a rare and wonderful human being. He had a strong faith and had the wisdom to refrain from engaging in Life's egoic controversies. Many could benefit from observing his ways. He will be truly, deeply missed.

# Tribute Wall

JS

“ Was sad to learn of Bernie's passing, the beautifully written obituary captured perfectly the man I looked up to while growing up as a boy in Roman Valley. I will never forget Bernie skating up and down the icy roads in his resplendent Detroit Red Wings Hockey Outfit at a time when hardly no one could afford skates with alone all the gear! He obviously went on to impact the lives of many in the best ways possible...Godspeed Bernie - Jackie S.

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**Jack Sullivan** - August 23, 2024 at 01:56 PM

LS

We didn't know Bernie for a long time. However, he was a pleasure to know. So polite, so gentle, and so easygoing. His love for Lynette was evident at all times and when she wasn't near, he missed her greatly. They had a beautiful relationship and it warms our hearts to know that Bernie was so loved.

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**Linda Stay** - August 29, 2024 at 01:32 PM

LM

“ Hi Dad.

*It's your little girl. Oh how I miss you....*

*You meant the world to me, I loved and adored you more than words can say.*

*Now what's left are the memories. The memory of you holding me and carrying me around when I was little.*

*The fishing lesson with your bright orange tackle box, the velour robe that you would wear Sunday mornings and the Jesus sandals you'd wear in the summertime, the perm you had in the late 70's, and the Barbie camper I had to have from Santa ( which you had to assemble on Christmas Eve patiently putting all the decals on it... and there were a lot of decals.*

*And you did it because you loved your little girl so much and wanted her to be happy.*

*There are a lot of memories of you I carry with me... but the ones of being your baby girl when I was a child are the ones that mean the most.*

*You will always be remembered and forever in my heart. xo*



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**Laurie Leadbetter Mitchell** - August 22, 2024 at 08:20 PM

LC

*Laurie I was intrigued by your father's obituary, I am also a Leadbetter from Stellarton, NS. I have a family tree starting in 1775 when Thomas Leadbetter was born in Scotland he died in 1838 in Barney's River, Pictou County. Probably just quintessential. Sorry for your loss.*

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**Lillian (Leadbetter) Cassidy** - August 23, 2024 at 03:21 PM