



## James Lawrence Bennet

July 23, 1931 - February 7, 2022

James Lawrence Bennet  
1931 - 2022

Jim Bennet died on Monday, February 7, wrapped in the love expressed in a myriad of emails, texts, messages and other missives sent from his adoring family and friends and the kindness of strangers. Jim Bennet lived a long and happy life. He was the best-loved son, husband, father, uncle, parent, grandfather, and great-grandfather. People who knew him loved him as a wonderful friend. It was often said it was a privilege to know him.

Jim Bennet was fun. He wrote and performed songs and doggerel to the enjoyment and delight of hundreds of Nova Scotian audiences and beyond. His songs, such as "Thick O' Fog" and "Nova Scotia Diet," are Nova Scotia classics. As a broadcaster with CBC radio and television for more than 30 years, his roles included announcer, program host, scripting television specials, creating radio plays, coverage of international news specials and co-host of the popular national television production, Singalong Jubilee. His books included Jim Bennet's Verse, Jim Bennet Rhymes Again, and South End Boy. Some people still have a copy of "Bennet's Bits" from 1990.

Jim Bennet was often approached by (mostly) grey-haired strangers, who would stop him to say how much enjoyment his songs, music and poetry had

brought to their families over the years. Jim Bennet has left us. It will be a long time before he is forgotten in his beloved Nova Scotia.

Jim was pre-deceased by his daughter Lindsay, his parents, Helene and Professor Lindsay (C.L.) Bennet and his sister Jane Bennet Douglas.

Jim is survived by his wife of 65 years, Laura (nee Plummer), his sister Caroline Hubbard, his children Christie (Ken Hammel,) Vicky, Neale (Sharon Bennet), and Amy (Tom Roach). He also leaves his grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Ben (Karen), Mae, Juliet, Alex (Sarah), Freddy, Arlo, Maggie (Chris), Laura, David (Swini), Peter (Abby), Fran, Gus, Jack (Rachael), Claire, Jeff (Sandy), Henry, Lucy (Jake), Elizabeth (Greg), Frances, and Emma along with many nephews, nieces and cousins.

Cremation has taken place. There is to be no funeral. When an appropriate-sized gathering can be held, there will be a celebration in memory of Jim Bennet. Perhaps there will be Black Rum and Blueberry Pie.

Jim wished to encourage donations and support for Hospice Halifax, 618 Francklyn Street, Halifax NS.

# Tribute Wall

CH

“*Laura, and all the various assorted Bennets — I'm just now seeing the sad news of Jim's death. The world would be a whole lot better place if there were more people like Jim in it. I loved his gentle humour and sense of fun, and felt privileged to be an Honourary Bennet in those early years. Many happy memories. Hugs to you all. — Corinne Hartley-Robinson*

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**Corinne Hartley-Robinson** - September 04, 2023 at 12:01 PM

DP

“*Laura, Caroline and families, I am slow in expressing my sympathies to all of you on the death of this wonderful man but have thought of you often. Jim and his family were neighbours and friends as my family grew up in the area. He was a friend of my brother's and taught my husband to play the ukelule. Like so many others mentioned in their remembrances, his songs brought such joy and laughter as we spent the years singing his clever compositions. I am sorry I have not seen you Laura and Caroline for quite a while but did want to say I share in your loss and know how proud you must be for his legacy to us all. Loving thoughts to you all. Diane (Bethune) Palmeter*

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**Diane Palmeter** - October 15, 2022 at 11:49 AM

GG

“ Mrs. Bennet, Christie, Vicky, Neale, and Amy:

*There will be many larger-than-life tributes, all well earned and appropriate. His embrace of life and love of Nova Scotia were infectious and expansive.*

*I feel fortunate to remember Mr. Bennet on a smaller, down-home scale.*

*During those wonderful childhood years when I was a fixture in your house, he was always a great source of fun and support. He clearly remembered well his own childhood (I loved South End Boy, BTW) and enjoyed participating directly and vicariously in all the craziness that Neale and I conjured up. He loved sharing his traditions, and was open to the idea of new ones being built. He didn't quite, but came very close, to encouraging us to get into mischief (being one of the few parents of the time who meaningfully distinguished mischief from trouble).*

*I am grateful to have known him, remembering and admiring him as a man and father. I am so sorry for your loss.*

*Gus Grant*

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**Gus Grant** - February 28, 2022 at 12:30 PM

JM

“ *Jim was a real gentleman and a very talented writer. We enjoyed meeting him, reading his books and swapping emails from time to time. His poems and songs have brought us so many smiles--and will continue to do so. Our condolences to his family.--Allister MacGillivray, Cape Breton*

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**John A MacGillivray** - February 27, 2022 at 07:07 AM

ED

“ Larry and I were so sorry to hear of Jim's death. We will always remember his songs. When we sat in the cockpit of a boat on St Margaret's Bay we would often sing his songs. We knew so many of them. When I went to curl in Scotland, The States, and to my International Curling Club in Montebello we always sang *In the Fog* or *Drinkin'Black Rum* and *Eatin Blueberry pie* and always were costumed appropriately. All his songs were wonderful and in Scotland we handed out the songs and everyone sang with gusto. I wish Jim could have heard them.

*We would like to express our sorrow to Laura, Carolyn, Christie, Vicky, Neale and Amy.*

*I also simply loved Jims parents Helene, and Professor Bennet. When I took English 5 at Dal we used to go to their house for refreshments and to act out plays in their dining room which was the stage and we were watched bu the audience in the living room. He was also a mentor to me and was always a very special person in my life at Dal.*

*The Bennet family is special.*

*With deepest sympathy to you all,*

*Elise and :Larry Doane*

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**Elise Doane** - February 18, 2022 at 06:57 PM

CM

“ *Dear Laura and family*  
*I'm so sorry to hear Jim passed away. If a person can be compared to a symbol, I think Jim was a lighthouse, beaming out humour, comfort and kindness. He had the best smile and it was contagious because we all smiled with him. I have sweet memories of times with both of you and will cherish them. I know love and support from family and friends helps so much when you miss him. Lots of love*  
*Carole McDougall*

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**Carole McDougall** - February 16, 2022 at 10:52 AM



“ Thinking of all of you in this difficult time. No matter the age, losing a parent is hard. I remember well visiting the Bennett home with Sarah Hubbard in the early 80s. Jim was always welcoming and was the consummate host. Everyone was welcomed and he always had that twinkle in his eye which suggested that hijinks were either afoot, or in the planning. He will be missed.

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**Luanne Walton** - February 15, 2022 at 10:26 AM

RM

“ Laura and family,  
Our deepest sympathy on the passing of your Jim.  
Ralph and Shirlee Medjuck

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**Ralph & Shirlee Medjuck** - February 13, 2022 at 11:53 AM

MM

“ I am deeply sorry to hear of Jim's death. Over the years, first on Singalong Jubilee then later on a Tv interview show called Homebase, which we co-hosted, I was fortunate to get to know Jim. He was a talented man, and I learned a great deal from him and was always grateful for his kindness to one just starting out in the broadcast business. God less.

*Marilyn (Davies) MacDonald*

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**Marilyn MacDonald** - February 12, 2022 at 01:02 PM

EH

“ Dear Christie,  
We were saddened to hear of the passing of your father.  
I have asked my parents to say hello to him when he arrives in  
Heaven.  
Our sincere condolences to you and your family,  
Erik & Dorothy Hahn

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**Erik Hahn** - February 12, 2022 at 09:09 AM

DM

“ Very sad to learn of Jim's passing. He was a gentle and kind  
person. I always felt uplifted by Jim. Condolences to Laura and  
Neale and the rest of the Bennet Family.

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**Don Mills** - February 12, 2022 at 08:33 AM

DR

“ *Laura & Family;*

*Our heartfelt condolences on Jim's passing. He certainly lived a long & meaningful life having brought immeasurable joy through his music, writings, witty sayings & songs. Many a tearful laugh was had listening to his rich voice & ribald ballads. What a great legacy to have left to his city , province & country .As you know Laura we were great fans & were privileged to have enjoyed he & you visit our home ; not to mention many visits while strolling on Spring Garden Road. We certainly look forward to joining you in the future for a gathering in his memory.....there better be Black Rum & Blueberry Pie available. May he Rest In Peace.*

*Carolyn Davis Stewart & Dr. Dan Reid*

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**Dr. Dan Reid** - February 11, 2022 at 11:55 AM

CP

“ *To the family of Jim Bennet:  
Our deepest sympathies to all the family on the death of a wonderful Nova Scotian, Jim Bennet. What was expressed in the obituary captured Jim perfectly. There are so many Nova Scotians and Canadians who feel they know Jim as a close family friend - he was in our living rooms weekly with "Singalong Jubilee". What a legacy he has left, a real treasure for us all, and very especially for his extensive family. Thinking of you all and sending prayers, Christos & Cynthia Pilichos*

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**Cynthia Pilichos** - February 11, 2022 at 10:57 AM

MK

“ *Jim impressed me so much - as an artist, as a family man who raised beautiful human beings, and even briefly as a sort of peripheral colleague. He was a person who seemed to be fully engaged in living life to the full. His songs and stories resonate powerfully, and are gifts that give and give and give. My condolences to Laura, Christie, Vicky, Neal and Amy and to all of us who will miss him more than we even realize. How lucky we are that he was with us for such wonderful years. Godspeed Jim.*

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**Mary Kelly** - February 11, 2022 at 10:52 AM