



David Smith

November 21, 2018

It is with heavy hearts and great sadness, we announce the passing of David William Smith. Born 1930 in Windsor Ontario, and predeceased by Canadian actor Jack Creley (2004), his loving partner of more than 50 years, David passed away at Bridgepoint Healthcare on November 21, 2018. David owned Toronto businesses Green Dolphin Antiques and the ladies fashion house: Mr. Smith, with his partner Jack. Loving brother of Shirley Cope and husband Vern of Kingsville, ON. and an extraordinary uncle to five nieces and nephews and their families. David hosted many Toronto socialites at some very elaborate parties with his partner Jack. His qualities of kindness and generosity resulted in many close and treasured friendships. At his request, a celebration of life will be held at a later date for family and close friends. Many thanks to the staff of Bridgepoint Active Healthcare who made David's final months comfortable. Donations can be made to Bridgepoint.

Tribute Wall

“ It said to “share a memory” there isn’t room here for them all. David was fabulous. He was all about excess, fun, beauty, pageantry, loving life in the best, and most fun way possible. And he took us all along for the ride. He was iconic, the boutique was iconic, those days in Toronto were iconic. He was progressive, and smart, brave, and funny , generous, and sensitive, and people just wanted to be around him.

To me he was “Uncle David” and he was beloved. He would come in my room at Christmas , sit on the floor with me and would want to see all my new toys, and dolls , books. He took the time , and would play with me and talk to me. He was special.

He had a starring role in my childhood, as my mum Megan worked for him for 30 years. We were a little family. My childhood flooded with memories always involving him and Jack (Creley) along with Leslie, Cindy, and Laura (David’s “real” nieces, whom I adored) There were dinners, and parties, antiquing, and picnics, art shows, the theatre, the movies.. country drives and beach time.. and then there was the boutique.... there was , and will never be, anything like that again. Toronto was small then. The boutique was special. It was a place to be wardrobed - that’s for sure , in beautiful tweeds, and silks, linen, and wool crepe, tartans, and checks.. all designed by David (and a lot of the time a collab with mum) and always with flare and “a twist” but people came not only for the clothes. They came for the commraderie, the friendships made , to share their lives, their joys, and deepest sorrows. To have a cup of coffee and a visit since a husband had retired and was driving his wife nuts, customers shared wedding news, love stories, family history , tradgedies, and cancer stories. It was a place to share , laugh, cry, play dress up, become the belle of the ball, or a ceo in a “power suit” or both! There were seamstresses in the back , along with hundred and hundreds of yards of beautiful fabrics just waiting for you! There were bows, and jewels, sequins, and velvet! Grosgrain, and ribbons, silver , and gold! Bangles and baubles, belts, hats, and scarves! It was magical. They were magical . He was magical. As I reflect now that David has passed, I realize I carry him within me. My sense of fashion, and flare, my sense of humour , and my

obsession with home decor , all definitely influenced by him, my “Uncle David” . I am happy to have these memories , but profoundly sad that there won't be anymore.

Deepest condolences, and love to Shirley and Vern, Leslie, Cindy, Laura , Tim, and Jason. - and to us all whom lost a great light in our lives. He will be forever missed. I loved, adored, and admired him so much. - Allison

Allison Duncan Cava - January 06, 2019 at 10:09 PM

GM

“ *David was love generosity and fun. Those many times in the backyard or on the couch at McPherson because no one had the key to leave. He was Charlie and Marva, Janice and I were his Angels. May he find more angels on his journey.*

Grecia mayers - December 10, 2018 at 01:58 PM

JJ

“ *Ahhh David....loved that man. He and Jack were like family to me. I feel so lucky to have spent my 20s and 30s living in their beautiful home and being part of their creative, funny and eccentric lives. Much love to the Cope family, they will miss him deeply. My thoughts and love are with Laura, Cindy, Leslie (my BEST childhood friends), Jason, Tim, Vern and last but absolutely not least, the lovely Shirley (i miss you!). Julie xxxx*

Julie Jenkinson - December 02, 2018 at 10:32 AM

LL

Thanks so much Julie for your lovely words. Can I get your email address?

Laura Levy - December 09, 2018 at 01:35 PM

CS

“ I deeply miss David. We were very good friends, and I had the great pleasure of working for both David and Jack. Please notify me with regard to his memorial at 416 944-3507.

Sincerely, Colin Watson (Smillie)

My email address is Colinsmiles@gmail.com

Colin Watson Smillie - November 30, 2018 at 03:40 PM

GV

“ In 1954 David came to Montreal to visit Jack who was starring in several productions at the Mountain Playhouse. (I was then assistant to the producer, Norma Springford.) When I moved back to Toronto, I came to know him better, especially after Mr Smith opened. What wonderful dresses: lovely fabrics and so comfortable. He was such a talented and generous man. I can imagine how much you will miss him. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Gloria Varley

Gloria Varley - November 24, 2018 at 05:17 PM

CM

“ Joe and I are so sorry to hear of David's passing. He was a wonderful neighbour, always smiling. We will miss the flowers he used to leave at our door at Christmas, his chili for our condo parties and his collection of turquoise jewelry. He and Jack moved into Carlton on the Park shortly after we did and I loved to get the regular grand tours as they seemed to continually redecorate.

Cathie & Joe Mahoney

#604

Cathie Mahoney - November 24, 2018 at 12:18 PM

GB

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the family.
David & Jack we're both wonderful icons of Toronto. Always giving.
Malcolm Cooper & Gerard Bueche*

gerard bueche - November 24, 2018 at 10:41 AM

WH

“ *I was sorry to read of David's passing and would like to share some memories.
My mother, Barbara Wilkins, bought many, many things from David.
He also designed numerous special occasion outfits for her. Mom was a 6 foot redhead! She had so much fun with Jack and David.
Meagan was also wonderful.
In 1978 my wedding going away outfit was by Mr Smith. A few years later my husband and I went to New York City for the weekend.
Coming back into Canada we were pulled over by customs. As they were going through my clothes every label said Mr Smith including the suede belt! Who was this Mr Smith they wanted to know.
The store certainly was an icon on Bay Street for many years and I did miss the fun of shopping there.
Wendy Hardy*

Wendy Hardy - November 24, 2018 at 08:51 AM