



James Gibney "Gib" Goodfellow

February 21, 2024

James Gibney "Gib" Goodfellow (October 25th, 1941 - February 21, 2024)

James Gibney Goodfellow died on February 21, 2024, at the age of 82. "Gib" as he was affectionately known, will be missed dearly by Phyllis, his wife of 57 years, by his daughter Karen and her partner David Zayachkowski, his son David and his wife Cidalia, his three GrandAdults, Tommy, Morgan, and Ash, as well as his sister-in-law Barb Hopkins. His many friends, neighbours, and colleagues will miss his kindness and humour.

Born on October 25th, 1941, Gib dedicated his life to the field of education, making significant contributions during his career with the Toronto Board of Education. He was a passionate and well respected educator, especially in the area of Geography and History. Gib also served as an Educational Consultant, shaping curriculum and pedagogy. He inspired many educators and students.

Gib was a founding member of the Ursula Franklin Academy, a testament to his commitment to innovative and progressive education. Upon retirement he served a 10 year term as President of The West Toronto Junction Historical Society and continued his involvement as a volunteer. Gib was an advocate

for human rights, social justice and environmental action. He believed strongly in building a sense of community in the city.

Gib loved dancing, camping and world travel. He was an avid board gamer (often long distance with his GrandAdults and friends), and enjoyed cooking and baking for others. He loved getting students to connect with nature in his role as an outdoor educator with The TRCA overnight centres. He valued the important work of The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

Gib was preceded in death by his parents, Rose and Jim Goodfellow, and his brother Gordon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to one of Gib's preferred charities: Doctors Without Borders or Environmental Defence.

Tribute Wall

TV

“Gibb was kind and intelligent and we have fond memories of him from St. Matthias'. He cared attentively for his brother Gord and was always helpful when we needed a lift to Royal York Station after church on Sunday. He will be missed. [Tyler & Erika Versluis]

Tyler Versluis - May 04, 2024 at 04:16 PM

MG

“So sorry to hear of Gib's passing. I only have fond memories of Cousin Gib. He always wore a smile and I know my mom and dad were extremely fond of him.

Marianne Goodfellow - March 17, 2024 at 10:32 PM

JT

“Gib was my older brother Ken's best friend. I was the bratty little brother back in the mid fifties. Our paths were about to cross again when my son Paul moved to Indian Road Cres and joined the WTJHS. Gib and Paul shared some memories about those earlier days and I was looking forward to seeing him again in person when St. John's church held one of their WTJHS events. Sadly a missed opportunity.

Jim Thompson - March 17, 2024 at 09:32 AM

OS

“ I was really saddened to read of Gib’s death! He was a very kind and understanding gentleman. I knew Gib professionally from my teaching and consultancy days at the TDSB. After my husband died, though, I was looking for rental accommodation for my daughter and I, some place close to the subway line, and Gib came to the rescue! He suggested an apartment he had available in a house on Jane, that he owned. What a relief that was! So he became my landlord! In all my encounters with Gib, he was always kind, sincere, friendly and just a lovely man!
My sincere sympathies to you, Phyllis, and the rest of the family!
God bless! May he RIP!
Olga (Panowyk) Shiels

Olga (Panowyk) Shiels - March 09, 2024 at 05:04 PM

DH

What heartbreaking news to hear about the passing of Mr. Goodfellow. He was my grade 8 teacher at Annette St. Public School. So well respected that our class presented him with a green vase and we played the song “To Sir with Love”. Still to this day whenever that song plays I can relive that memory!
He was kind and certainly left a life long impression on me.
Thanks for the memories Mr. Goodfellow. RIP

Donnita Hannaford-Maxim - March 16, 2024 at 10:46 PM

MB

Oh, Mr. Goodfellow was my favourite teacher! He taught us so much about caring for our environment and caring for one another.

Marie Griffith Barnes - May 11, 2025 at 02:36 PM

JS

“ To Gib's family,

I met Gib on a trip to China in 2004 when he and my friend, Doug Hain, were travelling together. I was travelling with Carol Howe. He and Doug would give regular explanations of the geography of China. I also learned that he loved to dance and was very good at it. He was a lovely man.

My condolences.

Judy Smith

judy e e smith - March 08, 2024 at 12:01 PM

DP

“ Phyllis:

We are saddened to hear of Gib's passing. Our condolences to you and your family.

Diane and Zbig (#65)

Diane Poloczek - March 06, 2024 at 07:55 PM

DS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Dale Schwartz - March 06, 2024 at 05:29 PM

DS

“ James “Gib” Goodfellow
Posted on 2024-02-27

Gib Goodfellow

Toronto Swing Dance Society is deeply saddened that our beloved friend Gib Goodfellow passed away. The entire dance community mourns this loss. He was a very special person and friend to many.

Gib was a committed volunteer director on the TSDS board for many years, sharing his leadership skills and always providing thoughtful and imaginative ideas.

Gib was passionate about all forms of dance yet he always put his family first. His love for his wife Phyllis, his children and grandchildren was evident in his conversations.

He often talked about his teaching days and his involvement with the community and the Historical Society. He got along with everybody he knew and was always very helpful when someone was in need.

Gib seemed to really enjoyed his life and lived it to the fullest. He always had a smile and a good word when greeting you. Gib will be greatly missed both on and off the dance floor.

The entire community shares the family's tremendous loss and grief.

Dale Schwartz - March 06, 2024 at 05:28 PM

KR

“ *My most sincere condolences to his family, his wife Phyllis, who is a dear friend, and his children
Gib will be missed very much in our dancing social circle. We will miss his sense of humor, his smile and his dancing
We will dance again, my friend, somewhere.*

Krystal - March 04, 2024 at 08:09 PM

PM

“ *I met GiB at the Annette Street Public Library, where the WTJHS office is located. We became friends, and when Phyllis was unable to dance I became Gib's substitute dance partner. Gib was full of life and young at heart - and a wonderful dancer. I am very saddened by his sudden and untimely death. My deepest condolences to Phyllis, Karen and all the family. He will be missed by many, but his joie de vivre will live on in our memories and hearts.*

Pam Mountain - March 02, 2024 at 01:29 PM

DT

“ *I have known Gib since our high school days at HumberSide Collegiate. We were on the swim team there. After graduation our paths again crossed when we taught together at Indian Road Crescent P.S. and he followed me to Annette Street P.S. from where he left to become a renowned teacher and eventually a consultant with the Toronto School Board. I could not shake him, and he was part of my wife's and my wedding party. When he married Phyllis, we enjoyed many visits together even though our families were separated by a little distance. He suggested that I would get a membership in the WTJHS and I enjoyed the experience and leadership that he provided. Today, I am still looking for his response to our online Scrabble board. I will miss my dear friend, but I have so many great memories.*

Don Tutty - March 02, 2024 at 10:46 AM

DA

“ *My condolences on your loss. I know Gib through the dance world at the Westway. Will certainly miss his smile.*

Deborah Abbott - March 02, 2024 at 10:27 AM

JP

Cousin GiB was a very special person who was always able to find joy and wonder.

Joan Price - March 02, 2024 at 01:43 PM

ZB

I am so sorry for your loss. I not only knew Gib professionally but also personally as a Bloor West villager and parent, and grandparent. I will remember him fondly, as a positive and forward looking teacher and friend.

zoriana bunga - March 02, 2024 at 02:02 PM

LB

My deepest sympathies go out to you. Gib was a lovely man whom I enjoyed dancing with. He will be so missed in the dance community.

Linda Bull - March 02, 2024 at 02:55 PM

GT

I spent my first two years teaching at Indian Road Crescent Public School with Gib and Don. I had a lot to learn and they were excellent examples. When our first son was born you knit a blue sweater for him, Phyllis. Sylvia asked for the pattern and has knit many like that since always remembering your kindness and Gib's winning ways. He was one of the good ones! Our condolences.

glen tarlin - March 02, 2024 at 04:18 PM

TL

I am truly sorry for your loss. Gib was a good man. I knew him during my years as both a Geog teacher and Dept Hd at the TDSB and I also had the pleasure of teaching Karen at HCI. Tom Lyons.

Tom Lyons - March 03, 2024 at 12:22 PM

RL

When I joined the historical society, Gib was one of the first to welcome me. He arranged a one-on-one meeting and inspired me to become active in the society. He was the perfect example of a willing and enthusiastic volunteer. He is greatly missed in so many ways. Sincere condolences to Phyllis, Karen and family.

Richard Lundeen - March 03, 2024 at 12:51 PM

LS

Thinking of the entire family at this difficult time of sudden loss. Though I only met him a few times, he clearly taught many by example, and especially his family, how to be a true friend. Deepest condolences.

Lisa Stuart - March 03, 2024 at 03:18 PM

JB

Phyllis, Joan and I are so sorry for the profound loss to you and your family

Joan & Garry Burns - March 03, 2024 at 11:46 PM

DA

So sorry to learn of the passing of Gib Goodfellow. He was an inspirational character in my years with the Board of Education and a fine man. Phyllis and the family should know they have my sympathy and understanding.

Dave Appleyard - March 05, 2024 at 10:08 AM

TB

Dear Phyllis and Family. I am so sorry for your loss. Please accept my sincere condolences. May his memory be a blessing.

I started teaching in 1964 at General Mercer Public School with Phyllis. We were both young teachers just starting our career. We had school parties at that time and husbands and wives socialized and had fun together. I later moved to the secondary panel and reunited at Oakwood Cl. We would see each at meeting etc.

I lost touch with both of them over years and just recently, Phyllis set up a Zoom meeting so we could talk. I was in Florida and I was happy to see both of them. I was really looking forward to meeting with them in April when I return to Toronto.

Phyllis, I will contact you when return. I am so so sorry. I know exactly what you are going through. Sending hugs to your Family

Ted Berman

Ted Berman - March 24, 2024 at 10:58 AM