



Jim Zeppa

June 19, 2021

Jim Zeppa has finally gone off to Rock and Roll Heaven.

Born in Sault Ste. Marie, Jim was adopted by Pete and Florence Zeppa and raised in the West End. His exuberance and flair and his penchant for a well-told story may have been underappreciated by teachers, principals and officers of the law, but these qualities served him well in the Toronto music scene where he was a prominent figure, running clubs, promoting bands and always dancing to the beat of his own drum.

He was enormously proud of his three children, Jamie, Jason and Eva, encouraging them to do what they loved and to see as much of the world as they could. He was beloved Uncle Jimmy to his sister Roni's children, Scott and Vicki, and was a deeply-adored Grandpa Jimmy to Jasper, Dylan and Pema.

Jim was high-spirited and one-of-a-kind, and he loved music more than anything else. He made friends easily with his natural warmth and openness, and his wit and charm were legendary. As he always put it, he wore his heart on both sleeves, and he will be missed by many folks in many walks of life. Everyone has a story about Jimmy, and he would probably say that was the whole point.

He died in Toronto on June 19, 2021 at the age of 79.

The family would like to extend a deep and sincere thank you to all the staff at Lakeside Long Term Care Center, whose care made Jim's final days as joyful and as comfortable as possible.

An online memorial service is currently being planned so please contact the family for more details.

Donations can be made to Unison Benevolent Fund, an organization that helps Canadian musicians in times of crisis.

unisonfund.ca/index.php/support-us/donate

Tribute Wall

AQ

“ *My heart is so sad. My Daughter Brooke Legace and Jim had the most special relationship; they loved each other to death. We will miss Jim terribly. Fly high my friend; until we meet again forever in our hearts.*

Allison Queen - July 19, 2021 at 03:20 PM

JW

“ *Last time I saw Jimmy was on Eglinton Avenue last year..here's the picture. He was a great friend, He loved to help people connect with others in the music business whenever he could. I will miss his humor and warmth...so long pal... "may flights of angels sing thee to thy rest"..John Williams*



John Williams - June 29, 2021 at 08:52 AM

EV

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Eva - June 28, 2021 at 10:27 AM

EV

“ If anyone wants to come to the Zoom memorial tonight at 7pm Toronto time, here's the link:

Jim Zeppa's Last Waltz on Zoom for Sunday June 27 at 7pm:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4677906948?pwd=S08yQ3N2VzFEUWlvUElQbldKQ0ptQT09>

Meeting ID: 467 790 6948

Passcode: jimmy

Eva - June 27, 2021 at 12:14 PM

AL

“ ANNE TORISTO NEE LADUBEC-SIS IN LAW lit a candle in memory of Jim Zeppa



ANNE TORISTO NEE LADUBEC-SIS IN LAW - June 27, 2021 at 10:28 AM

SG

“ I want to share a memory of the Jim I knew.
One of Jim’s favourite movies was *All That Jazz*. Not a surprise he related to Bob Fosse and the line “It’s showtime folks”. I would tease him that being Jim Zeppa was a full time job.
Prior to the Diamond, Jim tried a nine to five construction job. He’d come home at night and I’d be the little housewife and make dinner for us.
He loved escargot so I decided to make it one night.
Jim was in his favourite orange velour bathrobe and we sat down to watch a movie. I placed the escargot in front of him and they exploded, flew into the air and landed sizzling hot on his foot. I couldn’t stop laughing as he jumped up yelling and accused me of trying to kill him via snail. Later it became one of his stories and he’d laugh about it.
My favourite time ever spent with Jim was when we first went to the Soo and I met his family.
Jim loved his kids and I fell in love with them too and over the years we made lots of memories together and still share a bond.
Jamie, Jason and Eva were his greatest accomplishments and he was so proud of them.
You did well Zippiddy Do Da.
I’ll forever miss you 💔

Sharon Garvey - June 25, 2021 at 06:00 PM

EV

This is such a great story, Sharon. It really sums up my dad. And what was with his obsession with bathrobes?! Also, none of us will ever forget your visit to the Soo, and your role in Jim's life. Thanks and lots and lots of love!!!

Eva - June 28, 2021 at 10:10 AM

TT

*Jim was the coolest boss I ever worked with
At Heaven he gave me the front door after hours key to use the
machines in the DJ booth to record demos
Showed me how to kick the fridge door to get a beer if I wanted
I did some construction at his house bathroom and front deck
Met his son once and he hired me to do sound on yonge street music
fest
Last time I worked with him as he would walk through to check on me
Jim was a good bro
I never had an older brother but he could have adopted me
What a cool guy , priceless his spirit
Love you Jimi man
Tones*

Tony Lester aka Tones - October 20, 2023 at 11:35 PM

SG

“ 1 file added to the album *Way back when*



Sharon Garvey - June 25, 2021 at 05:09 PM

SG

“ 3 files added to the album *Jim clowning around*



Sharon Garvey - June 25, 2021 at 05:05 PM

JT

“ A talent seeker
A helping hand
A friend for life
Your biggest fan

An open heart
And curious soul
He'd tell you a story
Like it's never been told

Connecting and organizing
Possibilities and dreams
He performed 'Minor Miracles'
The unseen to be seen

A natural promoter
Pulling his weight
For the unknown underdog
To the fabulously great

Shows and events
The magic of beats
And music he loved
The Band to Little Feat

A voice so deep
Raspy with bass
Squinting his eyes
With a grin on his face

Inspired by you
Encouraging my art
The music man symbol
Worn close to your heart

The Diamond to the Phoenix

*35 years passed
Who knew it would go
All too very fast*

*Forever your influence
Is etched upon my heart
You rise... and you fly...
But never will you part!*

Jeni T.

Jeni Thornton - June 24, 2021 at 06:07 PM

SG

You described him well Jeni. Beautifully said.

Sharon Garvey - June 25, 2021 at 04:33 PM

EV

Jeni, thanks for those words. He sure loved you!

Eva - June 28, 2021 at 10:11 AM



“ *I worked with Jim at The Diamond Club...we were the day staff. Jim and Sharon as Promotions and Public Relations, I was the bookkeeper. I was fortunate enough to see him daily, and have so many conversations about everything and nothing. He shared his stories and wisdom with me, generously. And he looked out for me...was very protective which at the time, I appreciated so much...and hope he knew that. The Diamond was a special time...we all had great pride in the club and the work we were doing...and had a great time.*

My condolences to Jim's family...he loved you dearly...

Susan Feldman

Susan Feldman - June 24, 2021 at 05:57 PM

EV

Thanks for your words, Susan. The "Diamond Days", I think, were some of the best of my Dad's life. I'm glad you got to share that time with him. Lots of love to you from Jim's family.

Eva - June 28, 2021 at 10:12 AM

ST

“ I offer my condolence & sympathy to Jim's family.

I remember his charismatic presence, his energy was felt the moment he appeared..anywhere. He was driven by an instinct for excitement, creativity, & entertainment, all served his love for music & people.

He was a master at the art of story telling, (in my opiniion) & could easily captivate your attention with his gravelly voice, infectious smile, & endless arsenal of experiences. His stories were often “mind blowing” & delivered in the best way - only he could do.

*Thank you Jimi Z... for memories you left us with here.
Rock n Roll Heaven has a "great guy" up there,*

Sandi Thornton

Sandi Thornton - June 24, 2021 at 04:03 PM

EV

Thanks, Sandi, for those words and the sentiment. My Dad is most definitely up there organizing big events in Rock n Roll Heaven!

Eva - June 28, 2021 at 10:14 AM

EV

“ 1 file added to the album Jimmy through the years



Eva - June 24, 2021 at 03:30 PM

JT

“ 5 files added to the album *The One & Only Jimmy Zeppa*



Jeni T. - June 24, 2021 at 03:07 PM

BM

“ *The best way I can describe the kind of man and friend Jim was is to say that if I was in a jam and I had one call to make that call would be to Zeppa.*

We will not see his like again.

To paraphrase Jim Carroll:

And Jimmy, I miss you more than all the others

This song is for you my brother

To the family: You guys should know how much he loved you and how proud he was of the people you have become...you were the joy of his life.

To Jim: We'll see you further on down the road.

Bob and Frances Mackowycz

Bob Mackowycz - June 24, 2021 at 01:26 PM

EV

Bob, thanks so much for these words, and for all the friendship and love that you and my Dad shared. You're right that we will not see his like again, but I think his "force of nature" as you put it, affected us all in one way or another, and we'll all carry that with us and hopefully continue spreading it around, keeping those parts him alive and vital in this world.

Eva - June 28, 2021 at 10:18 AM

JS

“ wonderful musical memories in his Toronto days - indeed, he was a force to reckon with! One could lean on him - and he delivered. Be well Jim - and the best of healing & fond memories to family and friends. Best, Joanne Smale

Joanne Smale - June 24, 2021 at 11:50 AM

EV

Thanks, Joanne, for these words. He was a force to reckon with, wasn't he? Lots of love to you!

Eva - June 28, 2021 at 10:19 AM

LO

*“ my condolences to family members on Jim's passing , he was always quite a force of nature & had a great personality , you couldn't miss him when he walked in the room!
Jim was full of life & always had great stories & he loved his children & grandchildren
He packed in a lot of living in his life& i really liked him & his wit
The last time I saw him a few years back he was not well & was still cracking jokes
Rest in peace Jim 🙏
Lori sanderson*

lori - June 24, 2021 at 10:01 AM

EV

Thanks for your words and sentiment, Lori. He thought the world of you too!

Eva - June 28, 2021 at 10:20 AM

PL

“ *I remember in 1973 being very pregnant & going over to Jimmy & Linda's house almost every day for lemazz lessons in breathing with Linda for the birth and just tormenting Jimmy with a thousand questions during his beloved hockey games. He answered every one of them and jumped right back into his game. He was an amazing human once you got to know him. He was our daughters chosen god father and Linda is her god mother. I took my girl back to Toronto after she grew up and Jimmy could not have been nicer to her. He gave her a painting by one of his artist friends and I ended up buying 3 or 4 more of them. You will be missed old man!*

Penny Leblanc - June 23, 2021 at 05:41 PM

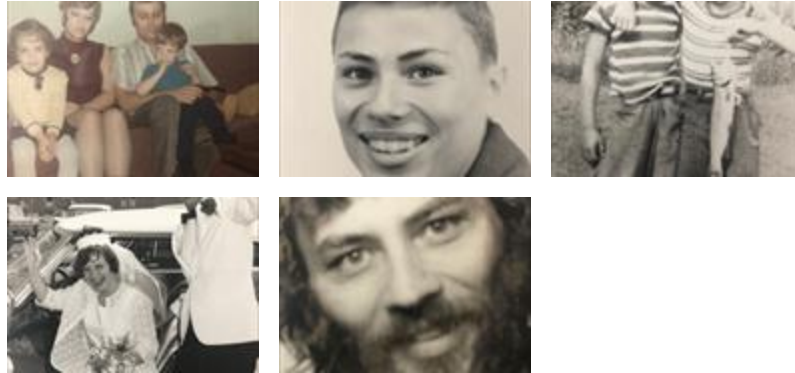
EV

Thanks for your words, Penny, and this great story, which I'd never heard before. My dad influenced a lot of people in his own way, and even though he was pretty gruff, kids loved him! We all did.

Eva - June 28, 2021 at 10:21 AM

EV

“ 7 files added to the album Jimmy through the years



Eva - June 23, 2021 at 12:30 PM

JZ

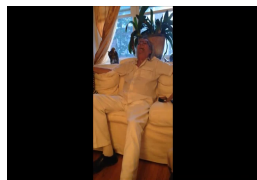
“ 1 file added to the album Jimmy through the years



Jamie Zeppa - June 23, 2021 at 12:12 PM

EV

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Eva - June 23, 2021 at 12:09 PM

EV

“ 18 files added to the album Jimmy through the years



Eva - June 23, 2021 at 10:45 AM