



Stephen George Bennett

June 7, 2024

BENNETT, Stephen George
June 18, 1944 – June 7, 2024

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Steve, on Friday, June 7, 2024, after a stoic battle with cancer, shortly before his 80th birthday. As a devoted partner to his loving spouse, Pat Hall, Steve found sincere joy and strength in their enduring relationship.

Steve was a loving cousin to Karen Robinson, and a cherished uncle to many nieces and nephews and extended family. Steve was predeceased by his dear parents, Thomas and Ruby Bennett, his beloved sister Geraldine Cooper, and brothers Tom and Larry Bennett.

Steve exemplified integrity, a dedicated professional who worked for Bell, Simpsons, The Bay and Leons. His career included many successes and accolades. He built strong professional and personal bonds. Steve was a respected leader throughout his career and known for his unwavering commitment to mentorship. He will be missed by many in his field of work.

A true gentleman, Steve had a remarkable knack for brightening any room with his quick wit and infectious humour, effortlessly putting others at ease.

His warmth and genuine interest in people left an indelible mark. His family and friends were incredibly fortunate to receive his boundless love and unwavering support. He was knowledgeable and curious. In retirement, he especially enjoyed reading finance and researching. Politics was also a passion, he was active in letting politicians know his thoughts, and an advocate for making things right for all.

He loved animals, especially his beloved cats, also the menagerie of birds, squirrels ducks and wild turkeys that visited their beautiful garden. His niece Tammy has fond memories of antics fishing and playing baseball with Pat and Steve. This joy of life continued with Cheryl and family and friends. Steve was fun!

In Steve's absence, we celebrate a life of integrity, kindness, and dedication. His spirit lives on in the hearts of everyone who was lucky to have known him. We invite you to share your cherished memories and thoughts of Steve, as these reflections are a comfort during this time of remembrance.

Written by Steve's nieces Tammy McCormack and Paige Entwistle

Tribute Wall

JC

“ Steve was an exceptional man! We first met in early 1980 when The Bay and Simpsons combined. In June of that year, to celebrate Alberta's 75th Birthday, a Fur Trade Canoe Brigade (11 canoes) was organized to deliver a symbolic beaver pelt bale from Rocky Mountain House on the North Saskatchewan River to Fort Edmonton, a distance of 189 miles. Steve was in the bow of my canoe. Steve said he had never been in a canoe, so to prepare we spent a Saturday morning paddling around Centre Island pond. When we went to launch our canoe in the North Saskatchewan River which was running high and fast, Steve turned to me and said "This doesn't look like Centre Island pond". We had many anxious moments on the river including shooting the feared Drayton Valley Rapids before arriving at Fort Edmonton 3 days later.

Steve's wit and humour during this canoeing adventure was special to all 22 'voyageurs'.

Marlene and I enjoyed our many visits over the years with Steve and Pat . We treasured his friendship....RIP dear friend!

John and Marlene Campbell

John Campbell - June 25, 2024 at 02:02 PM

PH

“ 2 files added to the album Steve's Boys



Patt Hall - June 23, 2024 at 12:42 PM

CH

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Charlotte - June 22, 2024 at 07:41 PM

PS

“ To The Bennett Family:

We at The Lift Truck Doctor feel privileged to have known Mr. Bennett throughout the years at Leon's Furniture. Never without a smile, he was a consummate professional, always pleasant, and welcoming.

All of us have fond memories of a warm and gentle soul - may he rest in peace.

Our condolences to you and yours - you can be genuinely proud of a man who left a positive mark on so many lives.

*Very sincerely,
Paul (Dutchie), Adam, and Mike.*

Paul Seinen - June 22, 2024 at 04:34 PM

JE

“ Steve was indeed a great guy whose kindness and good humour always brightened our day. He left this world a better place. Our condolences to family.

- Jeff & Eva

Jeff - June 22, 2024 at 10:14 AM

“ Dear Pat and family,

I was saddened to hear about Steve's passing. In the late 1980's I had the honor along with Ed Leon of hiring Steve at Leon's when we were seeking out an experienced Distribution Manager to manage our newly expanded warehouse in Scarborough. Steve was quickly brought on board and in time was able to professionalize the operation, expanding the shifts and training a team of managers.

In 1992 Steve then took over the store as General Manager, but he always had his eye on the distribution side of the business. He oversaw the first major renovation in our history managing the store and our associates through some incredible challenges including periods of no electricity and no running water. Steve was proud as a peacock hosting the largest Grand Opening Ceremony in our company's history with over 400 guests. This was one function where Steve didn't spill anything on his tie which he was notorious for doing! The great thing about Steve was he had a sharp wit, but wasn't too big to laugh at himself sometimes.

Steve later moved to our Whitby store and set several sales and profit records during his time there.

When we were looking for a Transportation Manager to work in our Home Office, Steve jumped at the opportunity where once again he organized the department, saved us thousands of dollars and before his retirement drafted a Transportation Manual that is still used to this day.

At Steve's retirement party we quoted a couple of wise sayings that were very apropos:

"When you work for a company, work for the company." Steve always had Leon's best interests at heart, though he showed great empathy for our associates and our customers.

"Leave your footsteps in the sand and let people know you were

there.” Well, Steve left his footsteps in cement and those that worked with him were better for it, both personally and professionally.

May he rest in peace, and may perpetual light shine on him.

*Sincerely,
Graeme Leon
Retired President, Leon’s Furniture*

Graeme Leon - June 21, 2024 at 06:10 PM

RB

“ *Steve Bennett was a very kind man.
I have worked with him for so many
Years at leons furniture.
Steve was was a very good store manager
And kind to all but firm when needed to be.
We had alot of small talk and some funny moments together. Since
Steve left leons I have
Never forgotten him. My deepest condolences
To the family.
May you rest in peace my friend*

Robert Boes

Robert Boes - June 21, 2024 at 04:56 PM

JC

*Steve and I worked together for many years at Simpson’s. He could be tough but also very kind and caring. We had many lunches together and quite often a drink after work.
Steve taught me a lot about running a Distribution Centre, he was always there when I needed some advice.
R.I.P. my friend.
Jim Campbell*

Jim Campbell - June 21, 2024 at 07:26 PM

MM

Although I did not have the opportunity to work directly with Steve, he still served as a mentor to me during my time as a new, young Store Manager. His willingness to guide and teach was invaluable. A true gentleman who has been missed since retirement and always will be. Thank you for all the lessons Steve.

Maria Monteiro

Maria Monteiro - June 22, 2024 at 04:48 PM

KB

As I read all these wonderful tributes, I must say I'm not surprised that Steve is so remembered for his credibility, professionalism, and ability to lead and mentor people over his successful career.

I first met Steve and Pat, in September 1969, as we three joined the Simpsons 18th Management Development Program.

Steve became my close friend over the last 55 years.

Steve was so kind to my wife and I. He watched my sons grow up, and would always want to know how they were doing in their lives. To my boys, he was known as "Uncle Steve", or as "Moose McLusky" (Steve picked this alias)....their friend.

Over the years we would look forward to getting together for so many planned annual social gatherings with Steve and Pat, and friends.

Steve and I shared regular emails , and frequent phone calls. I miss his incredible wit, and great sense of humor to "pick me up" when feeling down. He was always there for me.

Thank you Steve , for being my loving friend.

*You will always be remembered.
Rest in peace.*

Kerry Barton.

Kerry Barton - June 23, 2024 at 10:55 AM