

*MARY  
EVELYN  
"BOBBIE"  
MACDONALD*



Mary Evelyn (Bobbie) MacDonald (May 18th, 1934 - January 6th, 2024)

It is with a deep sense of both loss and gratitude that we share with you the passing of Mary Evelyn “Bobbie” MacDonald, wife of James “Jim Dan”, mother of Pamela (Jonathan) and Fiona (Shawn) and grandmother and step-grandmother to Nate and Abby. On the 18th of May, 1934, Bobbie was born in her family home in Port Hood, Cape Breton, to parents Beatrice and John Alex MacDonald. She was the sixth of eight children, and spoke often of memories made with siblings Kenny, Donald, Joe, Wency, Celia, Nelda, and Joanie. She was predeceased by all of these except youngest sister, Joanie, as well as by sisters-in-law, Marcella, Rita, Doris, and brother-in-law, Albert.

Bobbie lived most of her life in Port Hood, where she felt deeply connected, and was a devoted member of Saint Peter’s Parish. In earlier years she worked and lived in Montreal, Boston, Connecticut, British Columbia, Newfoundland, Ontario, and Halifax. Each place had entertaining stories and impressions attached, ranging from epic blizzards in a tiny outpost, unforgettable stage shows, and great ‘down home’ dances and ceilidhs with family in Boston, Montreal, and Ontario. After she and Jim married in 1961, the road trips began! With the cooler stocked, the thermos of tea handy, and the tunes lined up, they hit the road; Bobbie regularly keeping their speed in check (“Jim, your foot!”). Traveling widely across Canada and the United States, they enjoyed the sights, visited family, and hit the malls. A highlight for Bobbie was her trips to Ireland and Scotland, where she surrounded herself with one of her favourite things - tartan!

Bobbie had a reputation as an excellent cook and baker. The kitchen was her domain, and nothing pleased her more than having both ovens going and the counter full of treats. In earlier years she operated The Highland Nook with her mother, Bea, where the tea and laughs flowed, and in the seventies she ran The Tudor House dining room.

Bobbie cherished her home and worked hard to make it beautiful and welcoming. She loved to see guests enjoying a good cup of tea and a “lunch”. She knew who favoured mince pie over apple, and who had a taste for ‘war’ cake and the elusive ‘country cheese’. It was once calculated that the number of biscuits she made over the decades could stretch to the causeway! Holidays were a feast, and we all appreciated her dishes, made with love.

Another of Bobbie's greatest passions was Celtic music. Some of her first memories were of the Gaelic songs sung by her mother and grandmother, and little Bobbie joined in as soon as she was able. Her many years singing with Gaelic group Coisir an Eilein brought her immense joy, friendship, and a focus for her beautiful voice - to say nothing of the parties! She also loved square dances, and she and Jim would come home glowing after a night on the floor. A favourite song or fiddle tune would sometimes cause her to pause, close her eyes, and simply revel.

Bobbie placed faith at the center of her life and possessed a spirit far stronger than her quiet demeanor would ever suggest. Her remarkable sense of humour, daily spiritual devotion and fortitude carried her, with grace, through years of declining health. Jim, always concerned with her comfort and well-being, was a patient and loving companion. Recently, they would spend most of their time in their small den, and Jim took great satisfaction in keeping the fire blazing, as Bobbie loved to feel the warmth and gaze at the flames (experienced visitors knew to dress for the heat)!

As her Alzheimer's progressed, Bobbie and her family prayed for her ability to remain at home, where she felt most safe and comfortable. Her family is very grateful to the care-givers and home support workers who helped make this possible. Some became almost instant friends, and added much to her

quality of life. Martha Gillis, loved by both Bobbie and Jim, was a dedicated and compassionate care-giver for almost two years. Pamela and Fiona extend special thanks to this wonderful woman! Her family also wishes to acknowledge the exceptional palliative care Bobbie received during her few days at Inverness Consolidated Memorial Hospital. The nurses, together with family physician, Dr. Monique LaFrance, could not have been more professional or attentive. A particular expression of gratitude goes out to Bobbie's niece, Linda MacDonald, of Sydney, N.S., who has consistently supported her aunt Bobbie and family with kindness, medical insight, and loads of laughs!

Yes... Bobbie's passing leaves a void, but those who knew her well are also left with lessons on how to grow over time, deal with life's challenges, and keep laughing 'til the end!

Bobbie's visitation will be held at Port Hood and Area Resting Place, Port Hood, Tuesday, January 9th from 2:00 - 4:00 and 7:00 - 9:00, and funeral at Saint Peter's Parish Church, Port Hood, Wednesday, January 10th at 11:00 a.m.

Donations in memory of Bobbie may be made to:

Cape Breton Southwestern Food Bank Society - [communications@feednovascotia.ca](mailto:communications@feednovascotia.ca) (902) 457-1900

Inverness County Cares Society - [invernesscountycares@gmail.com](mailto:invernesscountycares@gmail.com) (902) 227-5425