



Jay Johnston

December 26, 2025

Born in August of 1943, in Port Lambton, John William Johnston, lovingly known as “Jay,” passed away peacefully, with his family at his side on Friday, December 26, 2025 at the age of 82. He was a deeply beloved son, brother, cousin, uncle, husband, father, and papa.

Jay is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Claudette (Peltier); his devoted daughters Tammy and Jennifer; and his cherished grandchildren Sydney, Averey, and Cameron — or as he preferred to call them Syd, Booboo, and Bud. He is also survived by his twin sister Jean (Louis) English, Dan Mullen, Peter (Margie) Johnston, Sherry (Bill) Vandevenne, Terry (Ron) Castaldi, Ron Peltier, and Rick (Delores) Peltier along with his best friend (and self-proclaimed tour manager of "Captain Bird & the Martins") Phil Johnston.

Predeceased by his parents Jack and Elizabeth Johnston, brothers Larry (Nancy) Johnston, Donny (Louise) Johnston, sisters Betty (Norm) Brandon, Peggy Mullen, Pene (Orville) Moore, Mary Ellen (Jack) Charron. Also predeceased by mother and father-in-law Clarissa and Donat Peltier, Shirley (Jim) Blair, Patricia (Louis) Ouellette, Mary-Lou (Doug) Flenniken, Joan Peltier, and Robert Peltier.

Jay leaves behind a legacy defined by love, laughter, and quiet kindness. He taught all of us the true meaning of selflessness. He would quite literally give

the snap-up shirt off his back to anyone in need — but had a distinct preference to do so anonymously. If you were ever on the receiving end of one of those quiet gestures or random acts of kindness, you know exactly the kind of man he was.

Dad loved the outdoors and could happily pass countless hours tinkering around the farm, focused on whatever special project had captured his attention that day. If you ever phoned Pops and even casually mentioned a project you were thinking about undertaking, you could set your watch by him. Within minutes, you'd hear him pulling into your driveway, armed with an assortment of tools, trinkets, parts, and pieces he had saved up for just such an occasion. Without fail, whatever clever contraption Dad would rig together would be the perfect solution to the problem at hand.

He proudly carried on his family's farming tradition, building his own home and raising his family on the same 50 acres of land where his parents had raised him along with his ten siblings. That land held generations of memories, love, pride and hard work. A legacy he was proud and determined to know would continue on for generations to come.

One of dad's favourite ways to spend a summer afternoon was sitting pond-side on his swing, carefully studying his Purple Martins. He always had plans in the works — a never ending list of small tweaks and thoughtful improvements he felt sure to attract additional Martins, and ensure their supreme comfort throughout their stay.

Pops remained our guardian until the very end. He left us with very specific instructions on how we should mourn him: "You can cry and be sad when I'm gone — but not too much crying and don't be too too sad." He also made sure we knew how important it was to him that we continue looking after one another once he could no longer keep watch himself.

A proud member of Local 663 in Sarnia, Jay worked as a pipefitter and spent his career seeing and working in nearly every Canadian province. The friendships and connections Dad forged on those right of ways have endured until his final days.

Dad fought his most recent health challenges with incredible strength, determination, and an ever-present smile, all with one goal in mind — getting back home to be with the people he loved. He inspired many with the unwavering effort and quiet courage he showed in pursuit of that goal.

He touched millions — quite literally — with his Christmas spirit. In December 2025, a simple moment shared online captured his sweetest, most heartfelt rendition of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, bringing smiles and warmth to people far beyond those who had the joy of knowing him personally. Dad received hundreds of cards and personal notes from around the world celebrating the extraordinary person that he was, that was perfectly captured in a 30 second video.

Jay's life was deeply rooted in faith, and his strong commitment to it grounded him throughout his years, guiding him with quiet strength and grace.

Jay's presence lives on in the family he loved, the friends and neighbours whose lives he quietly touched, and the land he tended and called home. His impact can be felt in the community he was part of and in the everyday acts of kindness he shared so freely. He will be remembered in these places, and in the hearts of all who knew him.

As a family, we cannot adequately express our gratitude to our "Rehab Family" on the 3rd floor of the Chatham Kent Health Alliance. Your

compassion, your care and your love for dad meant the world to all of us. You will forever hold a special place in all of our hearts.

Family and friends will be received at Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home, 409 Nelson Street in Wallaceburg on Monday December 29th from 4-6 and 7-9. A funeral service will be held at Sacred Heart Church, Port Lambton, on Tuesday December 30th at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Jay's honour may be made to the Sacred Heart Food Bank or the Chatham Kent Hospice as a reflection of his generous spirit and lifelong commitment to helping others.

Cherished stories and tributes may be left for the family at www.CavanaghFuneralHome.ca

“May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand. “

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **29**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home
409 Nelson Street
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4G9 (CA)
(519) 627-3231
contact@cavanaghfuneralhome.ca
<https://www.cavanaghfuneralhome.ca>

Visitation

DEC **29**. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home
409 Nelson Street
Wallaceburg, ON N8A 4G9 (CA)
(519) 627-3231
contact@cavanaghfuneralhome.ca
<https://www.cavanaghfuneralhome.ca>

Mass of the Resurrection

DEC **30**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
466 John St.
Port Lambton, ON N0P 2B0 (CA)

Tribute Wall

TD

“ *One of a kind! Thinking of Jay's family and the beautiful memories they hold close to their hearts!* ”

Theresa Van Damme - January 12 at 12:33 PM

AJ

“ *Claudette, Tammy, Jen, Syd, Avery, and Cameron; sending my most heartfelt condolences to you all during this time.* ”

Aimee Johnston - December 31, 2025 at 05:51 PM

BS

“ *Brad and Joanne Stanlick lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston* ”



Brad and Joanne Stanlick - December 31, 2025 at 10:47 AM

SC

“ *My condolences to the Jay's family. I knew Jay through the union hall and he was always a nice gentleman. RIP brother. Sue couture* ”

sue couture - December 30, 2025 at 01:14 PM

JF

“ *So sorry for your loss. Joyce and John Feher* ”

Joyce Feher - December 30, 2025 at 08:08 AM

SA

“ My deepest condolences on the passing of Jay....he leaves a wonderful legacy through his family and all those whose lives he touched....I pray that you all will feel Gods love wrapping around your hearts during this difficult time...

Steve Arnold - December 30, 2025 at 07:10 AM

MC

“ Maureen & Colleen Clancy lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston



Maureen & Colleen Clancy - December 29, 2025 at 11:41 PM

BS

“ Our Heartfelt Condolences to Claudette and All the Family, we are so sorry to hear of Jay's passing. What a beautiful Obituary, you all have many fond memories to keep him close in your hearts, he will surely be missed!



Brian and Elaine Shaw - December 29, 2025 at 09:36 PM

FF

“ Sending our heart felt sympathy and prayers to the family. May the many wonderful memories of your husband, father and grandfather give you comfort at this difficult time.



Frank, Cathy Johnston and family - December 29, 2025 at 08:52 PM

WC

“ Dear Claudette, Tammy, Jennifer, Sydney, Averey and Cameron, What a beautiful tribute to a wonderful husband , father and papa. Jay was a great neighbour and we always appreciated the many times he picked up our mail for us. You have been in our prayers and we will continue to pray for your family. We will miss his smile and friendly wave when he passed our home. May Jay rest in peace.

□ Willie & Marnie

Willie and Marnie Coene - December 29, 2025 at 07:26 PM

BW

“ My condolences to the Johnston Family. I never had the pleasure of meeting Jay, but brother Pete had lots of stories to share when we were at golf. Also knew Sherry and Bill V quite well. What a great obituary written for Jay, he sounds like quite a man just as Pete had shared. We have some purple martin houses also and Pete and his learned brother Jay had lots of information for us. Again my condolences to the Johnston family and quite a remarkable family it is!.

Bill and Betty Watson - (Mooretown)

Bill Watson - December 29, 2025 at 03:07 PM

RD

“ Dear Claudette, Tammy, Jennifer and Family
So sorry to hear of Jay's passing I have many fond memories of working with Jay on many pipeline jobs. He was always well respected on the job or in everyday life. He will be missed

*My sincere condolences to the Johnston Family
Ray Ducharme Rest In Peace My Friend*

Ray Ducharme - December 29, 2025 at 01:53 PM

DH

“ So sorry to hear of Jay’s passing. I had the pleasure of working with Jay and have some great memories of those days. My condolences to the entire Johnston family.

Dale Hiemstra

Dale Hiemstra - December 29, 2025 at 01:31 PM

MI

“ Mike&EdiemMcNaughton lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston



Mike&EdiemMcNaughton - December 29, 2025 at 12:47 PM

CA

“ Crissy Aarssen lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston



Crissy Aarssen - December 29, 2025 at 11:21 AM

GW

“ Gerry and Pat Waring lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston

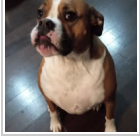


Gerry and Pat Waring - December 29, 2025 at 09:10 AM

PF

“ *Condolences aunt Claudette, Tammy and Jennifer uncle Jay will be missed by many. He was always a great person to talk to.*

Patrick Flenniken - December 29, 2025 at 08:37 AM



“ *Lynne Hooper lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston*



Lynne Hooper - December 29, 2025 at 08:33 AM

LD

“ *Claudette, Tammy, Jen, Sydney, Avery and Cam. What a beautiful tribute for a wonderful person. We are sorry for your loss and Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. May Jay rest in peace. Mike and Liz Dunlop*

Liz and Mike Dunlop - December 28, 2025 at 07:53 PM

MJ

“ *Sorry for your loss ❤️ Your dad was an amazing man. He will forever be remembered*



Mary Kay Johnston - December 28, 2025 at 07:44 PM

DP

“ *Darlene Partridge lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston*



Darlene Partridge - December 28, 2025 at 07:12 PM

JW

“ *Janet Wade lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston*



Janet Wade - December 28, 2025 at 05:24 PM

EL

“ *Sorry for your loss*



Edith & Reg Lucier - December 28, 2025 at 04:29 PM

BI

“ *So sorry for your loss Claudette and girls but I know he's at peace.*



Betty & Bill Innis - December 28, 2025 at 03:51 PM

LP

“ *Lola and Matt Pamer lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston*



Lola and Matt Pamer - December 28, 2025 at 03:20 PM

HD

“ *Claudette, Tammy, Jennifer and families,
We were so sorry to hear that Jay passed away. We have been keeping him and all of you in our prayers at this difficult time and will continue to do so. We hope that all your great memories will give you strength and peace.
With our condolences,
Harriet and Ernie Daye*

Harriet Daye - December 28, 2025 at 02:52 PM

JB

“ *I am so very sorry to hear that Jay passed away. I will miss him. He had a great smile 😊.
Sending love to all of his family.
Jackie (nurse - rehab)*

Jackie Blazukiewicz - December 28, 2025 at 02:29 PM

CF

“ *Our heartfelt sympathies and prayers are with Jay's family*



Clarence & Cindy Feddes - December 28, 2025 at 02:02 PM

CM

“ I am so very sorry for your family's loss, sending hugs and prayers.

Chrissy Mahu - December 28, 2025 at 01:50 PM

CM

“ Chrissy Mahu lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston



Chrissy Mahu - December 28, 2025 at 01:49 PM

CV

“ Dear Tammy and Family - thinking of you at this sad time -your special memories of your dad will always be in your heart-Connie Vermast



connie vermast - December 28, 2025 at 01:45 PM

JJ

“ Condolences to the Johnston family. You are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May he rest in peace Joe and Jeanette Johnston



Joe and Jeanette Johnstn - December 28, 2025 at 01:29 PM

CB

“ We were so sorry to learn of Jay's passing. He was such a wonderful man and a bright smile welcoming us at Church on Sundays. He will truly be missed. Our prayers are with the family at this difficult time.

Vince and Carol Bryden

Carol Bryden - December 28, 2025 at 12:45 PM

DT

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. Sending lots of love and prayers 💙



Dave, Kristy and Luke Toulouse - December 28, 2025 at 12:13 PM

MJ

“ Sincere condolences to all the family

Marlene Judson - December 28, 2025 at 11:08 AM

JN

“ Julie nemeth lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston



Julie nemeth - December 28, 2025 at 10:30 AM

MW

“ Claudette, we are so sorry to hear of Jay's passing. Many a time when we visited Mom, we sat behind you at Sacred Heart in Port Lambton and each year watched Tammy, Jennifer and Cameron grow up (and it made the mass brighter). Our thoughts are with you and your family. Love from Jim & Marian Walsh (Bill's sister).

Marian Walsh - December 28, 2025 at 09:49 AM

SO

“ Sandy Ouellette lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston



Sandy Ouellette - December 28, 2025 at 09:47 AM

DC

“ Deep condolences in the loss of such a beautiful family man. Thank you for sharing such a great tribute to a life so well lived. I pray that you find comfort, knowing that he is with Jesus experiencing a love and joy that we cannot comprehend. God bless you all in your sorrow.

Diana Cornelis - December 28, 2025 at 09:45 AM

DL

“ My condolences 🙏



Dave Low - December 28, 2025 at 09:36 AM

LH

“ Claudette, Tammy, Jennifer and family
We are so sorry for your family’s loss What a beautiful tribute to Jay
He definitely had passion for family and living life fully. A great man
he was and will be missed by many
Thinking of you all at this difficult time
Lorrie and Stuart Handsor and family

Lorrie Handsor - December 28, 2025 at 09:14 AM


George
McGaffey

“ George McGaffey lit a candle in memory of
Jay Johnston



George McGaffey - December 28, 2025 at 08:43 AM

CA

“ Sending deepest sympathies to the entire Family . Your love and
care for your Dad , Papa was an exceptional display of what Family
is. Go forward with wonderful memories and laughter of the man
you All cherished. The Frys

Caroline - December 28, 2025 at 08:28 AM

JC

“ My deepest sympathies to the entire Johnston
clan. Your sharing of the past months journey
is a witness to the love and faith you all have
for your husband, father, grandfather, brother,
uncle and friend. May he rest in eternal
peace.



Janice Conway - December 28, 2025 at 08:05 AM

BW

“ *Brenda Wilson lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston*



Brenda Wilson - December 27, 2025 at 09:12 PM

SI

“ *Please accept our most sincere condolences to all of Jay's family*

susan innis - December 27, 2025 at 07:25 PM

BA

“ *Bunny and Dave Atkins lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston*



Bunny and Dave Atkins - December 27, 2025 at 05:48 PM

TL

“ *Sending our deepest sympathies and much love to Claudette, Tammy, Jennifer, Sydney, Avey and Cameron. Thinking of you all during this difficult time.*



Trevor, Lori, Paige and Noah Lefler - December 27, 2025 at 05:41 PM

PP

“ Tammy, Sydney, Avery and Cam, my sincere condolences on the passing of your Dad and Pappa. Such a kind soul, always had a smile and a wave when he drove by. God bless you all.

Patricia Pamer - December 27, 2025 at 05:23 PM

SR

“ Condolences to family and friends; Jay will be missed in the Port Lambton community. Take Care

Sue & Ron - December 27, 2025 at 05:16 PM

CV

“ Connie Vermast sent a virtual gift in memory of Jay Johnston



Connie Vermast - December 27, 2025 at 05:12 PM

MA

“ Melodie Avina lit a candle in memory of Jay Johnston



Melodie Avina - December 27, 2025 at 04:49 PM

PB

“ On behalf of the Rehab family, please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers. We are sorry to hear of Jays passing. Sending you all lots of love during this time. ❤️🕊️



Paige Babcock - December 27, 2025 at 04:28 PM

CP

My deepest sympathy. He will be missed....Sincerely Cindy Pearson

Cindy Pearson - December 28, 2025 at 08:44 AM