

MEMORIAL SERVICE

CORNERSTONE FUNERAL HOME
2825 32ND STREET SOUTH, LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021, AT 2:00 PM

ANNE BROWNE OFFICIATING
SOLOISTS - DANIELLE KNIBBE & CONNOR WALSH

ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME - ANNE BROWNE
SPEAKER - CLARE CUMBERLAND
MUSICAL SELECTION - ALL OF MY LIFE
SPEAKER - STAN DAVEY
SPEAKER - KEITH OGLE
MUSICAL SELECTION - FRESHLY FALLEN SNOW
SPEAKER - BRENDAN WALSH
SPEAKER - CARMEL WALSH
MUSICAL SELECTION - THE PARTING GLASS
SPEAKER - BRENDAN BROWNE
SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION
FAREWELL

HONOURARY PALLBEARERS

KIERAN WALSH CONNOR WALSH
AOIFFE WALSH CALLUM WALSH
ROWAN WALSH LIA WALSH
ETHAN BROWNE LYDIA MCKEOWN
PATRICK MCKEOWN



Honoured to serve the family of Philip Browne
To send a condolence, please visit our website at
www.cornerstonefuneralhome.com | 403-381-7777 (24/7)

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



*Philip Michael
Browne*

MAY 19, 1955 - NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Dr. Philip Michael Browne, BA (Geography), BSc (Biology), MD, CCFP, FRCS(C), and a diploma in renewable resource management. He would never show off, but we include his accomplishments to share our pride in this industrious and passionate man.

Phil was born May 19, 1955, in Nantwich, Cheshire, UK to Nancy and Bill Browne. He was their middle child and is survived by his older brother Paul (Cathy) and his younger sister Carole (Kevin). Growing up in England, he found his love of birds and conservation - one of the many diverse interests that he passionately pursued throughout his life. Phil left England in 1975, three days after marrying his wife Anne, and immigrated to Canada. First settling in Edmonton, Alberta they then moved to Ponoka where he briefly worked at the Psychiatric Hospital. Following that short time, he and his family moved to Lethbridge where he completed a diploma in Renewable Resource Management at Lethbridge College. From there, he took a duck-counting job with Ducks Unlimited in Regina, Saskatchewan. After 10 years of helping to manage and conserve wetlands across the prairies, he chose to pursue his life-long goal of becoming a doctor.

Phil began his MD training at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon in 1989. Four years later, Phil graduated as the valedictorian of his class. He completed his CCFP and an extra year of Obstetrics, then worked for two years as a family physician in Kindersley, Saskatchewan. But he wasn't done yet and returned again to the University of Saskatchewan and completed his training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. After a year of practice in Saskatoon, he was called by his dear friend, Allyson Adolph, to continue his career in Lethbridge, Alberta where he practiced for almost 17 years. Phil was guided by this simple belief: be useful. This understated philosophy underpinned his exceptional work ethic as a medical practitioner.

While his professional accomplishments are significant, what drew people to him was his unpretentious, honest, and forthright manner. He had a quick and sometimes irreverent wit. No matter the occasion or audience, academic or neighbourly small talk, he always found a way to reach people. He modelled this approach after his father-in-law Denis Walsh, who he admired immensely.

Phil was a man of boundless energy and wide-ranging interests. He loved an eclectic mix of music and enjoyed it in a wide variety of ways. Every year for over forty years, he attended the Edmonton Folk Music Festival with his family, the Walsh's. He had a penchant for Irish traditional and Old Time music, in particular, claw hammer banjo. This love motivated him to learn how to play the banjo! He had a great singing voice that he didn't often share. However, he did share his whistling and no one can whistle like that without having a great ear! He admired people who could sing and play an instrument at the same time - a skill that he worked on. His dancing was enthusiastic and he was willing to step out from time to time especially if, as Stan observed, the ceiling was high enough.

Many of Phil's interests involved getting outside. Every year for twenty two years, he flew in to McAvoy Lake in northern Saskatchewan with a group of close friends whom he met at various stages of his medical training. It is reported that he was immediately at ease there and was usually the first to lay out his new fishing lures on the picnic table.

There he also untangled the mess in his tackle box which reverted to a tangled mess by the end of the week. Apparently, the massive amount of gear he brought with him thwarted his attempts at organization. His friend, Keith, said "He suffered our relentless teasing with grace and good humour, and got in a goodly amount of comical return barbs. And the stories: he was a raconteur extraordinaire. The best ones were often repeated yearly - with sufficient lubrication and subtle embellishment, they were just as entertaining second or third time around." Phil enjoyed fine whiskey and was generous about sharing new tastes with the McAvoy crew.

He fly-fished the St. Mary's, Livingstone, Crownsnest, Castle, and Old Man rivers with Julian, Brendan, and Scott. He always said Scott was a much better fly fisherman than he was, because Scott was far more patient. Although he was not too keen on ice fishing, he did so to be with his dear friend, the late Julian Raphael. He had many hunting buddies: Blaine, Johann, Brendan, Stan, Patrick, Bill, among the many. His family was treated to venison almost every year. Hunting to Phil was a spiritual and moving experience. He lay his hand on the animal and thanked it for providing him with food.

Golf he took up later in life and loved. It appealed to his meticulous nature, was part of many travel plans and gave him a whole new interest to shop for - he has a hat from most golf courses he visited! There are friends who kept him golfing as his strength was failing. His last golf game was with Anne and at the fifth hole he said, "If this ball goes into the water, we are going in." Sure enough, they both went into the clubhouse for dinner.

The other greatest collection of sporting paraphernalia Phil collected was anything Manchester United FC. Manchester United was his team. Like many, his love for The Reds both delighted and vexed him - often in the same game. He had his virtual fan friends in Brendan Walsh, Martin, and Carole with whom he shared texted commentaries.

Paramount among his passions was photography. In particular, he loved to capture the natural world: the Fauna and Flora and the landscapes. When he stopped working, he filled his time with bird watching trips with Stan, camping trips in his new "Glamper Van" with his family, and just tramping around the coulees, all the while looking for birds, flowers, and views to photograph.

And for every passion and interest he enjoyed or planned on taking up next - there was a book about it to buy. Books were important to Phil and he had an expansive library. Although, they were not necessarily arranged by any particular system known to library science, he knew where every book was. He read every day. His daily reading included international and national newspapers he subscribed to, and all the books Amazon could send him. He always had a pile of books by his favourite chair and he had many books on the go at one time, mostly non fiction. This resulted in him being conversant in a wide range of topics. From books, he gathered the insights of others and used what he found pertinent to him. For example, he found an anonymous quotation in a book by Ted Grant about Sir William Osler that Phil believed summed up what he was supposed to do as a doctor:

To cure sometimes,
To relieve often,
And to comfort always.

A common thread through all Phil's personal and professional pursuits, is the relationships he built with people. He drew people to him. His big laugh and constant whistling were part of his significant presence but it was his warmth and willingness to engage with others that attracted people to him. He was genuinely interested in the others' experiences and perspectives. The interest he showed in others made those he engaged with feel valued, heard, seen. This is a common theme in the messages of condolence. Another common theme when talking about Phil, is his humor. One of Phil's friends described him as wickedly funny. His wit could be scathing and his observations piercingly accurate. He did not temper his vocabulary. His nieces and nephews got world class tutorials in swearing at a young age. His humour was contagious and motivated many of us to elicit one of Phil's signature guffaws. One of his nephews, Kieran, put it best: "I for one have wilfully made an ass of myself on countless occasions throughout my life with the sole hope of getting one of Phil's notorious raised eyebrows, side mouthed looks.... Or better yet a booming laugh."

To Phil, passionately was the way to live. It was important to him to care about our world, our environment, and people. He was in every sense what we would call a good man. He was unapologetically firm, in his beliefs about caring, being a friend, a father, a grandfather and husband. His legacy will be carried by those who loved him, those whose lives he touched, his wife Anne, his children Clare and Brendan, their partners Scott and Heather, and his grandsons, Samson, Liam, and Deaglan.

