



Victor William Phillips

March 31, 1937 - March 18, 2021

Victor Phillips – Vic – passed away peacefully on March 18, 2021, at Joe Brant Hospital in Burlington, ON, at the age of 83. Vic was the much-loved husband of 57 years to Elaine Phillips (Harris) and father of Katherine (Kate) Borthwick (Phillips), and Stuart Phillips. Vic was also father-in-law to John Borthwick and Maureen MacDonald and proud grandad to Hayden, Logan, Glen, Shannon, and Evan.

An immigrant from the UK, Vic bravely took on the role of Director at Howson-Algraphy Canada and brought his family to Canada in 1980. He led a dedicated team of H-A workers before the company was taken over by DuPont, where he completed his career. He plied a tradesman's certificate as a printer combined with charm, charisma, a genuine love of people, and his uncanny ability to tell stories and jokes.

Vic's passions in life were his wife and his family. He enjoyed cheering and supporting his grandkids in all of their ventures on the ice rink, sports field, or at a concert. On occasion, those passions would be replaced, albeit temporarily, by rugby and an occasional beer.

Vic will be remembered by many in Canada as the perennial touch judge running the sidelines in his Wellies at Oakville Trafalgar High School, the Oakville Crusaders, or McMaster's back 40. As many players do, Vic slowed with age and gravitated from the backs to complete his rugby career, where all good rugby careers end in the tight-five. After getting his 'new' heart in 2003, Vic graced McMaster's Physical Activity Centre of Excellence (PACE) with his wit and mirth. Vic made friends, teased a few people mercilessly, and adopted a few young Mac Kin folks with whom he would share his pearls of wisdom. Some say that Vic may have spent as much time 'working out' after his PACE visits at Tim Hortons as he did at PACE, but Vic enjoyed the social as much as he did the physical.

Vic Phillips left this world on his terms, with dignity, respect, and without pain or suffering. He leaves a big hole in the hearts and minds of all who knew him; he will be missed.

In lieu of flowers, Vic's family ask those wishing to honour Vic consider donating to the Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation <https://jbhfoundation.ca/> or McMaster University PACE <https://pace.mcmaster.ca/support-pace/>

Comments



“ My condolences to Stu and the family of Vic - he will be missed by the Crusader and McMaster Rugby family - i got the opportunity to spend time with Vic and Stu talking rugby and the association of Wellie Boots on the sidelines of the Back 40 with my Mom..Friends through rugby..friends through life.

Grahme Walsh

Grahme Walsh - March 23 at 11:17 AM



“ Sorry to hear of Vics passing. I will miss his many stories and jokes. Pace will not be the same. Rest in peace

Gord Humphries

Gord Humphries - March 21 at 09:48 PM



“ Thank you for the words Gord. He will be missed at PACE and elsewhere.

Stuart

Stuart Phillips - March 23 at 07:27 AM



“ Heartbroken to hear of Vic’s passing, my deepest condolences to the family. During my time working at McMaster Kin, my mid morning coffee chats with my fellow Brit, Vic (and his crew), were a real highlight. I can attest to his warmth, great humour and humility. A great story teller indeed and good friend to me in my time there. Rest easy mate.

Leigh Breen - March 20 at 11:57 AM



“ Hi Leigh,

Thanks so much for your message. My Dad asked after you often to catch up and was duly impressed by your midwife skills! He leaves a big void and will be greatly missed.

Take care mate!

Best,
Stu

Stuart Phillips - March 20 at 03:07 PM



“ I am very sorry hearing of Victor’s passing. With McMaster closing down Pace because of Covid 19 I have not seen him since February of 2020.. he will be missed, I know I will miss seeing him and Elaine arriving at Pace. He was a very kind happy polite man that had to come up and knock fists with us all after changing but before starting his work out. He always approached me to either tell me stories of soccer or rugby , past or present and enquire about any of my activities and how I did ,,,,in my work out, at curling, or golf. He made sure everyone’s work out was a social one. He was one of the members that brighten up your day making you feel welcome to me in my 9 years of being there. He was very proud of his family which obviously should be. My condolences go out to Elaine and the rest of his family. God bless him and may he Rest In Peace.

George Perrett

George Perrett - March 20 at 08:26 AM



“ Dear George: COVID has messed this all up, on that I think we can agree. It is not the way my Dad would have left things that’s for sure. He would be giving everyone a high five or a fist bump!

Thanks so much for reaching out. Stay well and we will see you back at PACE and celebrate his life then.

Best regards,
Stuart

Stuart Phillips - March 20 at 03:05 PM



“ Vic was always such a ray of sunshine. He immediately captured your attention with his loud spirit and his cheeky smile. He never missed a fist bump with anyone who came in his path at PACE. He definitely made an impact on my life. My deepest condolences to Elaine and the rest of the family. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers.
Meg

Meg - March 20 at 08:09 AM



“ Meg, Thank you so much for reaching out. My Dad would be so pleased to hear that he made a difference in your life.

Take care,
Stu

Stuart Phillips - March 20 at 03:03 PM



“ Sorry to hear Vic passed away . He was always one of my dads favourite people and would always go out of his way if you needed something . deepest condolences to Elaine and the rest of the family . From Stuart, Lexi, Ramsey & Cooper Charlesworth

Stuart Charlesworth - March 19 at 09:55 PM



“ Thanks so much for reaching out Stuart. It's great to hear from you and I hope that you and the family are well.

Best,
Stu

Stuart Phillips - March 20 at 07:32 AM



“ Always had unique greeting for everyone at PACE. Will miss his old British humour and point of view. Svend

Svend - March 19 at 07:38 PM



“ Hi Svend, Thank you for your note. Yes, his presence in PACE will be missed for sure.

Stuart Phillips - March 20 at 07:34 AM



“ So very sorry to hear of Vic's death.... lovely friendly happy man. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family....sincerely, Lynn Ivatt.

Lynn Ivatt - March 20 at 07:18 PM



“ Hi Lynn, thanks for your generous and warm words.

Stuart

Stuart Phillips - March 23 at 07:32 AM



“ It was Vic Phillips who brought our family to Canada with his persistence with the Canadian Emigration and the offer of a good job transfer from Howson-Algraphy in Leeds, England to H.A. Canada. Vic & Elaine went out of their way to make our transfer painless, and to welcome and help us settle into Canada. We loved his wit and humour and you felt you had known him for years as a friend and that is how he was with all of his employees, they just loved him

Vic & Elaine were a rock for me and my boys in later years and they will never be forgotten. So sorry for your loss Elaine & family.

June Charlesworth - March 23 at 09:37 AM