

# BRIGHTON Independent



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## Brighton loses a hero

By Joyce Cassin  
News - Brighton - Everyone who knew Bill Dunk, knew him as a man of integrity, and one you could turn to for help in pretty much any situation. "His heart was everywhere," said his wife Sandra after Bill's death on Sunday morning. "Even after he was no longer on council, people still called him to ask him for help."

Bill was born on December 17, 1936, and died on April 26, 2015, less than three weeks before his and Sandra's 51st wedding anniversary.

Sandra met Bill at a dance hall in Colborne and loves to tell the story.

"I, and a bunch of girls, went to the dance hall, and Bill ended up going there with a bunch of his friends," Sandra said.

One of those friends was Bill Rorabeck, and at the end of the

night, something happened that both Bills didn't have a ride home, so Sandra offered to drive them home.

"So, I had to drive two Bills home to get one," she said with a chuckle.

Bill was the son of the late William Albert Dunk and Edna Jessie Post and is survived by Sandra (née Turney), his children Janine and Brett (wife Alexandra) and granddaughter Brandy Williams. Brother of Jim Dunk of Brighton (wife Sandy and children Tracy, Trisha and Trevor) and the late John Dunk (wife Barb and children Mark and Tammy).

Bill retired in 1992 after a 36-year career with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

"He loved his job with the highway," Sandra said. "He was devoted to it."

He began as a snowplow driver in Grafton and ended up as supervisor of Port Hope and District, which covered an area almost up to Algonquin Park, she said.

Prior to that, he was partly responsible for putting in the trails at Presqu'ile Provincial Park as his job with the Ministry of Lands and Forests.



The flags are flying at half-mast at the Brighton Municipal Centre in honour of Bill Dunk, a 23-year member of Brighton Town Council. Mr. Dunk passed away April 26.

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He was very active in Brighton throughout his lifetime, serving as a fastball and hockey coach, a 23-year town councillor, board/committee member of Quinte Access for 20 years, Northumberland County Accessibility Advisory Committee, Lower Trent Conservation Authority and, from 1992, a Waterfront Regeneration Trust board member that brought the Waterfront Trail from Toronto through Brighton.

Bill was also well known for his skills as the Brighton and District Curling Club ice maker, always earning much praise over the 14 years he was involved with the club.

In 2010, Bill received the Provincial Community Sports Hero Award for his contributions to sports in the community, and in 2008, Bill and Sandra received Brighton's "Mr. & Mrs." civic award for outstanding service and contribution to the community.

His hobbies included curling, shuffleboard, fishing, golf, woodworking, playing cards and spending time with family and friends.

Sandra said he was quite the

craftsman, making up a board game, and carving large life-like animals. He made several bears for people, but didn't finish his latest one for himself. Sandra said she's going to get someone to finish it for her.

Bill was a great family man, believing in the saying, "Take them, and don't send them."

"Bill always had time for the kids, no matter how busy he was," Sandra said. "We've been from one end of Ontario to the other with both kids. We always went everywhere together."

Sandra said she's lost her potato-peeler, dishwasher, and the bill-payer.

Over the close to 51 years of their marriage, this past month was the first time Sandra had to pay the bills while Bill was in the hospital.

"He left me a detailed list of things I had to do, and I paid them," she said, her son Brett repeating what Bill said at the hospital when he was told.

"He said I knew you could do it," Brett said.

The family will receive friends at the Brighton Funeral Home, 130 Main Street, Brighton on Friday, May 1, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m., and at the Brighton & District Curling Club (85 Elizabeth Street), on Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. A celebration of Bill's life will follow at the Curling Club at 12 noon. Cremation with interment at Salem Cemetery at a later date. The family would like to thank the caring and compassionate medical staff in the intensive care units of Kingston General, Belleville and Trenton Hospitals. Memorial donations may be made to the Municipality of Brighton (Curling Club re: new plant) in memory of Bill Dunk, by cheque, or to Quinte Access Transportation.

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