



Brian Hayman

October 10, 2018

Passed away peacefully on Wednesday October 10, 2018 in hospital in Oakville, Ontario.

Brian was born in Montreal on April 29, 1939 to Bill and Olive (Street) Hayman. He was married to his high school sweetheart Sue (Sheppard) Hayman until her death in 1982. He had a loving relationship with his children Brent (d. 2012), Debbie, and Scott, and their spouses Cori, Ted, and Brenda. Brian was always so proud of his grandchildren Luke, Andrea, David, Jackson, and Jenna. Brian will also be missed by sister-in-law and brother-in-law Angela (Roo) and Dave Schaffelburg.

Brian lived a full life and was passionate about family vacations in Popham Beach, having great discussions with friends, and his lifelong love of jazz music. In particular, Brian enjoyed the community created by Jazz Vespers at St. Jude's over the past 10 years.

A memorial service will be held at St. Jude's Anglican Church, 160 William St, Oakville on Sunday October 21st at 7 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations in Brian's name to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated. <http://convio.cancer.ca/goto/BrianHayman>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **21**. 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Jude's Anglican Church
160 William St
Oakville, ON L6J 1B3 (CA)

Tribute Wall

MM

“ I cannot begin to tell you how very sorry I was to learn of Brian's passing. This news came as a most unpleasant and unwelcome surprise.

I first met Brian when he was VP of Human Resources at Royal Trust, and I was a newly-minted Human Resources employee at one of Royal Trust's subsidiary companies, Computel Systems Limited.

Brian's professional influences were legion, and the very positive professional environment he engendered has stood me in good stead in all the years since then.

I remember an occasion when I had the opportunity to see and work with Brian for an extended period - it was during a week-long retreat at the Grey Rocks Hotel in the Laurentians, just north of Montreal.

Brian was the group leader, giving daily lectures to me and the other 15 participants; lectures that were at once informative, inspiring and which in later years proved over and over to be thoroughly valuable.

And in the evenings, as we all gathered about the bar in the "Piano Lounge", Brian was there, at the piano, playing constantly from his rich and resourceful repertoire,. At the time, he was also in the midst, with a colleague, of being busy composing his Church Vespers, which consisted of haunting and memorable melodies. In the years afterwards, during which we kept in touch, I asked him if he had ever considered recording the Vespers, as I would very much liked to have had them as a part of my recording collection. His response was, "No, not yet. Perhaps some day."

And of all the countless TED Talks now available on the Internet, Brian's discussion of jazz is one of the few that stands out for me.

This is sad news. To Brian's family, none of whom I have met, but have come to know vicariously, my sincere condolences to you for

the loss of a very special person. I regret very much that I will never have the opportunity to communicate with Brian again.

Sincerely,

Michael MacNeil

Michael MacNeil - November 02, 2018 at 06:31 AM

RD

“ *Scott, Debbie, Brenda and family: I was so very sad to hear that your father had passed away. During high school & college, when I knew him best, he always treated me as a daughter. He was fun to talk to, and had an amazing zeal for life. As I read through these tributes I realized that he touched so many lives with his intellect, love for music, and infectious laugh, and wish I had known him more.*

I pray that God will give you his peace and comfort knowing that Brian is by His side.

René deHooge (nee VandenDool)

René deHooge - October 31, 2018 at 10:58 AM

KP

“ Dear Scott and Family,
I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Brian. I had the pleasure of meeting Brian in my high school days being a friend and classmate with Scott, and later being a university roommate with Scott. Though I only met him a limited number of times in those days, he left an impression on me that I will not forget. I always remember his warm personality, and that very hearty laugh. We also shared a love of jazz, though I was a neophyte and more into fusion jazz at the time (not sure if he really liked that Pat Metheny album I gave him). Always open for discussions on any matter of topic, much like his son Scott, I recall talks with him about jazz and improvisation while he was starting his Getting into the Groove adventure. In hindsight I wish I could have spent more time with him. I am sure I would have learned a lot from his wisdom and humanity.
My sincere condolences to the Hayman family and friends. Brian will be sorely missed.
Ken Pittens

Ken Pittens - October 21, 2018 at 11:42 AM

TG

“ Dear Scott and Family,
It was with great sadness that we learned this week of the passing of Brian. As a friend of Scott since high school, I met his father many years ago. The other remarks on this page about Brian's warm character I wholeheartedly agree with. He is definitely someone I have always had a great deal of respect for. My wife Leslie only had the pleasure of meeting Brian once but has a distinct memory of the meeting. I have no doubt that Brian left a very positive impression on many people he met, even if only briefly. He will be greatly missed. Our condolences to you and your family.
Terry and Leslie Gerritsen

Terry Gerritsen - October 20, 2018 at 04:50 PM

PS

“ Dear Debbie and Scott
The family and I want to send our love on the loss of your Dad.
Brian and I met in our early twenties in Candiatic and ended up so
many years later just two blocks apart in Oakville.
We kept in contact over the years and have so many great
memories. So Brian will never be forgotten by Andy, Scott, Mark or
myself. with our love, Patricia Sinclair

Patricia Sinclair - October 19, 2018 at 02:00 PM

AS

A beautiful service. Lots of music as Brian would have wanted
Andy Sinclair

Andrew Sinclair - October 21, 2018 at 09:10 PM

BF

“ My soul broke when I heard this news. We met several years ago
through consulting and church networks and became fast friends
very quickly. He was part of the Jesus, Jazz, and Worship Project
we are doing out here in Vancouver at Brentwood Presbyterian
Church. He enriched my life beyond measure with his wisdom, his
humour, and his devotion to the Commonwealth of God. Gruff,
scruffy, and wise - O so very wise! As in the picture below, always
attentive and thinking through what you've just said. I will miss our
calls and our beers. But that jazz ensemble that plays for the dance
that is the Holy Trinity just got a little better and a whole lot smarter
in understanding the intricate dynamics of working well together for
the common good. Prayers for a good mourning surround all Brian's
family and friends . His legacy inspires deep delight.



Brian Fraser - October 19, 2018 at 09:58 AM

DR

Better late than never! I just thought I'd Google my old high-school friend yesterday and came upon his obit. Brian and I were classmates at Chambly County High School. We also were in a jazz band Brian cobbled together in the mid 50's: Brian on piano, the famous Joe Sealey on vibes and piano, a couple of guys on drums and trumpet whose names I forget. Brian was, also, married to my childhood friend Susan Sheppard. Our band always practiced at Brian's house in Greenfield park and I had the singular pleasure of meeting his parents as well. I played rhythm guitar and our gigs were at unpaid local dances. Our music was 30s, 40s pop such as In the Mood, Moonglow and so on. After graduation we went our separate ways and I only saw Brian and Sue at St Barnabas church in 1969/70 while I was posted to Montreal in the Navy and lived in St Lambert. Brian was just a super guy, always cheerful, helpful and accommodating. I should have looked Brian up sooner after I moved to Toronto in 2011, but time passed and I was sadly too late. He and Susan were a marvellous couple and both their lives were cut short far too early.

Dennis Reilley - September 10, 2025 at 02:56 PM

JG

“ Brian was a joy to be with, who challenged my thinking about leadership, made me laugh, taught me much about listening and shared many wonderful ideas through his Getting in the Groove newsletter. I was privileged to sometimes be a colleague that he bounced ideas and drafts off.

While I'd only known him since 2010, he always felt like a long-time friend to be around, and I so regret that our spring plans for getting together again never worked out. He always seemed to know the most interesting people! When I introduced him to some of my online international family of governance practitioners, they benefited from his fresh and irreverent approach. I never met his family but he spoke often and lovingly of them, especially Scott. It mattered a great deal to Brian to be there for those who needed his help and friendship. I know his passing is a great loss to his community.

I wish I could hear his laughter at least once more.

Jane Garthson

Jane Garthson - October 19, 2018 at 08:49 AM

BT

“ I was deeply saddened when I heard of Brian's death. I first met Brian when I was a curate at St. Judes in Oakville, at the time of Susan's sudden death. His strong faith and steadiness in those tragic days, profoundly affected and intrigued me. As he was to so many, he was to me a kind friend and mentor. Brian was a remarkable intellect with a wry sense of humour which he used to great effect. - so much so that he was at the top of my list when I was asked to form a team to lead the Young Adult conferences at Canterbury Hills. It was one of those gatherings that I learned of his great gifts as a jazz pianist when, at the home of the Director – Gavin Barnett, another Montrealler - we spent most of the night with one of the young delegates, Kevin Barrett. It was so magical, that over the years, I've tried very hard to never miss hearing them play together. Brian's setting for the Lord's Prayer, was composed for a Jazz mass at All Saints in Hamilton, when, as rector, I was trying to build a link between the parish and the Hess Village Jazz Festival. Our lives connected in other less happy ways as we mourned the deaths of our respective sons. My life has been greatly enriched by my friendship with Brian – he will be missed, but never forgotten. As his journey continues, "may he forever enjoy fair winds and following seas." as we sailors say. And to Debbie and Scott and their families, my sincere sympathies and condolences.

Bill Thomas - October 18, 2018 at 05:07 PM



Michele
Drake

“ *Brian was always a welcomed being in my life. Always smiling - kind - rich in stories and so supportive. Besides a great visit in the hospital recently (which I must mention - he was so calm, peaceful and stated comfortable - with no pain to mention - which is something we can only pray for, for someone we care about!) He and I ran into each other last year at the same hospital - only I had just been put into shock by a social worker in the mental health unit where my son had been for a week dealing with a manic episode and diagnosis of bipolar. Brian ran into me and comforted me as I was in a daze and beside myself with the feeling of helplessness. He showed up like a guardian angel and really made that day better! He made many days better and will be missed!!*

I'm only so sorry that I never did make it out to witness the St Jude's Vespers before now - as I did often receive the invites and had intentions of making it - a true push to appreciate the moments you don't take action!

Healing energy out to all of those grieving - He was a very special man!

Michele Drake

Michele Drake - October 18, 2018 at 11:46 AM

AN

“ *When I first moved to Canada from the UK in 1991, Brian was introduced to me by my husband's grandmother, Punch Nairn. Brian reached out and connected me to the Community of the Sister's of the Church which at that time were on Burgundy drive in Oakville. Once a week Brian would pick me up early on a Wednesday morning and we would attend early morning Eucharist in their glorious little chapel followed by breakfast with the Sisters. It was a special time and I will never forget the kindness and support offered by Brian and the Sisters as a newcomer to Canada.*

Andrea Nairn - October 18, 2018 at 10:43 AM

“Feeling a bit sad and shaken - I've just learned in the past hour of the passing of a longtime friend, Brian Hayman Those of you reading this message who have a St.Lambert connection, and especially if you were at St. Barnabas Church back in the day (aka the 1960s and 1970s) will remember Brian. We were good friends in those days (as I was with everyone there, we had a strong close knit church family back then - I hope it still is today). After both of us moved up here to the Toronto area, I lost touch with Brian for many years until we reconnected in the late 1990s via our mutual love of jazz music. By that time, Brian was doing Jazz Vespers one Sunday afternoon a month at an Anglican church in Dundas (just outside Hamilton). I think it was in 2007 when Brian moved the service over to St. Jude's in Oakville, where it has stayed ever since. Jazz Vespers allowed us to rekindle our friendship, we even found time to get together for a beer every once in a while. A chance to relive old memories and catch up on new ones. My mother would often join me at St. Jude's and of course Brian was always eager to chat with her and since Mum has always kept in touch with St. Barnabas people not only in St. Lambert but also folks like us who have moved to various places across Canada, she was always eager to keep Brian up to date, which he enjoyed too. It was at the Jazz Vespers in September when I first learned he had been diagnosed with cancer. And at the most recent service on October 7, the back of the Vespers bulletin had a so-called "farewell" message from Brian. I'm glad I kept it, I will always read it now with a heavy heart. Earlier today, I received an email with the official notice of his passing on October 10.

God willing, I hope to attend the special Jazz Vespers memorial service this Sunday night at St. Jude's. It will be an emotional send-off for a wonderful friend. I will miss you Brian, rest in peace my brother. See you in heaven. Thank you for touching so many lives and for making our world a better place. I was one of those lives. To those of you from Brian's family who may read this message, my sincere & heartfelt condolences. I guess this is another sign of aging, when someone you've known for decades no longer walks

this earth. God bless you buddy - see you in heaven!

Greg Brown - Hamilton, ON

Greg Brown - October 18, 2018 at 10:03 AM

SM

“ A Beautiful Friendship

Brian and I had just that. He introduced me to that song and many others over the course of time that we played music together. He sent me the chart for the song, along with a lengthy list of his favourite novels he thought I would enjoy. I believe it was the entire body of work from Elizabeth George. He was always willing to share things that inspired, educated, and made him happy.

We played gigs at bars, supper clubs, bathtub races, festivals, and weddings, including my own.

Together we travelled through rain, snow and even sleet, to senior's recreation centres, long-term care facilities and retirement homes across Ontario, with our concert of jazz and smile inspired tunes, for Smile Theatre. I could have skipped my University education and replaced it with the knowledge I learned during our road trips. The most important thing I will take away from my friendship with Brian, and the thing I hope will give me comfort, is his belief in humanity. He didn't just talk to people; he truly engaged them.

To his family and close friends, I offer you my deepest sympathies on your loss. Although I've been living on the other side of the planet these last 12 years, please know that Brian has been and always will be, a very special part of my world.

I will miss you, Brian. – Sandra Margolese

“So, what's left to say? Not much really. I can say that we have all, every one of us, had conversations of the sort I've been talking about here; conversations where we brought the best of ourselves – our intelligence and goodwill; our respect for others and a willingness to listen; our imaginations and curiosity; our courage and compassion – to talk about something that was important to us.” – Brian Hayman – Getting In The Groove

Sandra Margolese - October 16, 2018 at 04:14 AM

PS

“ The only way to make this sad time seem better is to think back on all the happy moments spent with Brian over the years. I was initially charmed by him as an 11 year old who was so thrilled to be asked to be a bridesmaid at his and Sue Sheppard's wedding, along with 'cousin' Roo. I remember many happy times spent in St. Lambert over the years, and being introduced to jazz and Brian's amazing talents on the piano. I have enjoyed jazz and piano ever since and owe my enthusiasm almost entirely to Brian. Over the years he kept me connected with his inspired postings on Getting in the Groove. And the family connection stayed firm as Brian rarely missed an opportunity to visit with my Mum, Margie (Margo Skelton) in Stanstead, en route to/from Popham Beach. It will be hard to forget Brian's talents on the keyboard, ability to bring like-minded musicians together and a most endearing smile and kind heart. He will be missed by many friends and family.

Penny Skelton - October 13, 2018 at 03:33 PM

JM

“ *Debbie, Scott, sorry to hear of the loss of your Dad.*

Brian was 2 years older than I was, which was quite a spread when growing up, however, we would see each other at the Hayman family gatherings. Brian always seemed to me to be very smart and interesting.

We, like Brian lived on the South Shore of Montreal, different towns, but close enough to see each other at a few house parties during high school. Brian was the chatty guy you would love to be with as he could circulate around the party and meet the crowd, always with a big smile and a quick comment on any subject.

Brian got his first big position (I believe) with Royal Trust, now that really impressed me. Working in Montreal for a large Financial Institution - Wow! I remember the family talking about Brian's position around the dinner table. Now that was pretty cool.

Brian will be missed.

Jim McLean Toronto.

James McLean - October 13, 2018 at 07:54 AM

IS

“ We are very saddened to hear about the passing of Brian Hayman. He has had a wonderful impact on the community through bringing people together with his gift of music. He was a very good friend of the studio and holds a very special place in all our hearts. It was an absolute joy to hear him perform jazz at many concerts and venues, as well as in our studio. However, his level of expertise was not limited to music as he proved to be a wonderful live model for the artists at the studio. On behalf of all of our Studio family and Community, we extend Our condolences go out to his family and friends.



lxchel suarez - October 12, 2018 at 06:46 PM

LS

“ Brian was a gentleman and scholar, he was an extraordinarily talented man and a wonderful friend and colleague. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Lynda Shephard

lynda shephard - October 12, 2018 at 06:10 PM

CA

“ When Brian was in about grade 5 his family moved to Greenfield Park and he and I saw a lot of each other. we are only a year apart in age. They lived across the fields from us, and I would go and pick him up and we would take our dogs out in the fields and woods, pick blackberries, build little secret hideouts in the tall rushes along the creek, and make wonderful plans. All of which were shot down by our parents.

We decided we should get a horse, share it, and convert their woodshed into a stable. Parents were horrified. I used to get the Dog World magazine at the newsagents, and in it someone had advertised puppies for sale, from some breed imported from Eastern Europe, purported to be the largest breed. Again, pool our resources and get one. Again, parents horrified. So we contented ourselves with Chipper, my Sheltie, and Captain, his tiny terrier.

In high school he talked to me one day about an upcoming school dance, he wanted to go but didn't have a girl friend. We pored over the school annual at the possibilities and I suggested he invite Susan Shepherd. He said she was really cute and nice but he didn't think she would accept. Give it a go, I said. She said yes, they became an item and the rest is history.

When Scott told me Brian was ill I phoned him, about every two days, and we had wonderful conversations. He was struck by the idea that I was the only person now who had known him his entire life.

I loved him, and he me, they were our last words to each other early this week. I am glad we had a chance to say goodbye. What a wonderful man.

Carole Steels Adley, Qualicum Beach, BC.

Carole Adley - October 12, 2018 at 02:26 PM

DL

“ Brian meant so much to me and my family spending lots of wonderful time at Popham Beach together. My siblings grew up at Popham with Brent, Debbis and Scott. In the last few years I got to work with Brian professionally and learned a lot from him. He will be missed!!

David Libby & Phyllis Gamache

David Libby - October 12, 2018 at 01:35 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss. The Desrosiers

Denis Desrosiers - October 12, 2018 at 01:19 PM

DJ

“ Very sorry to hear this. My deepest sympathies.

David Johannesson - October 12, 2018 at 12:34 PM