



William (Bill) Edwin Charters

May 8, 2026

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of William (Bill) Edwin Charters (age 62), on May 8th, 2026, at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto, ON. His partner Vanessa, and children Kimberly and Kyle, were by his side to say goodbye.

Bill was first and foremost a family man. He loved his children and would do anything for them. He got immense joy from the times they spent together and was so proud of the confident and successful adults they had become. Bill was thrilled to be there when Kimberly got married, enjoyed his canoe trips with Cameron and loved listening to live music with Kyle. Bill was deeply committed to his partner Vanessa, with whom he enjoyed traveling, cooking, enjoying a glass of wine or watching a Blue Jays game. He loved the outdoors, and spent much of his time cycling, walking, hiking, sailing, canoeing and camping. Even living in the heart of the city, Bill wanted to feel connected to nature. He always looked out for others, often putting their needs in front of his own. He was a deeply caring and genuinely kind man, who will be missed by many.

In September 2025, Bill was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Though Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, he was fortunate to have access to world-class care including a clinical trial which provided very promising early results. When Bill became resistant to treatment, with great strength and bravery, he elected to turn his focus to spending quality time with family and friends, for as long as he could.

Bill is survived by his partner Vanessa, his father Peter, and his children Kimberly (Layne) and Kyle. He is predeceased by his mother, Betty Jean (Thompson), his brother John and his son, Cameron.

An intimate Celebration of Life will be held for close friends and family. Details will be shared soon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Bill's name to either the Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation (where he received the best of care right to his last day) or to Campfire Circle (a charity which sends children with cancer to camp and was very special to his son Cameron). We have also set up a Memory Wall at <https://bill.charters.page> where the family invites you to share memories, stories and photos so that we can reflect on many of the special times, fond memories and wonderful people in Bill's life.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Bill's name are appreciated at:

Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation

<https://thepmcf.ca/ways-to-give/give-in-honour-and-celebration/>

Campfire Circle

<https://give.campfirecircle.org/page/169506/donate/1>

Tribute Wall



“ (Part 2)

My family had a cottage, and Bill's did too. I think it may have become his home later on. I remember when my family went to the cottage, Sunday after lunch we'd pack up, head for home (along with all the traffic) and be back in Scarborough just before dinner. One weekend I went to Bill's cottage with him. His was cool because it was on a fairly private lake, with a dune buggy that his older cousins drove us down to the water in. On Sunday, it was different than my family's cottage. I was expected to pack up after lunch. But no, down to the lake for another swim. After that? No, they started to cook dinner. Must be time to head back home right after we ate. Nope, out came the cards and the cribbage board. Around bedtime we packed up, headed out and slept in the car on the way home. It was such a good way to enjoy the whole weekend, pretty much getting most of an extra day to enjoy things. That lesson from Bill and his family lives with me still, and on the times I've taken my own family out to the East Coast. We tended to travel at night so the kids could sleep in the car and get an extra day doing the fun things on both ends of the trip, rather than spending daylight hours in the car.

At the end of high school, my family moved away. I went to Queens, Bill went to UofT. He visited Queens a few times, not me, but his girlfriend Lynette at the time. We'd get together those weekends, and I'd visit him in Toronto (as in, I'd crash on the sofa in his parents' basement) between semesters. But still, we drifted apart. I have so many memories. I could easily go on.

Bill, your passing came as a shock. I had intended to write when I learned of Cameron. Damn, your family has had such awful luck. I have missed you, and will always miss you. And I will think of you specifically when I get into the backcountry myself this fall (because I finally made it too), and I will carry all of those memories of an amazing childhood with you, when I do.

You left your mark on this world.

Rest in peace, my friend.

Ashley Preston - June 02 at 01:43 PM



“ I knew Bill very well. To a large degree, we grew up together. I lived three houses away. We went to most of public school and most of high school together. We were really good friends. I knew him long enough ago that I also knew his brother John.

We had a great childhood growing up as kids, and then as teens. There are very few days in those years that we didn't do something together. We lived backing onto a large park, on the other side of the park was both the public school and high school. The park was always there for baseball, football, sledding on the hill in the winter, and across at the school, skating when the weather was cold.

On the street, it was street hockey. We lived on a good street for that, straight, flat, very little traffic. When it wasn't on the street, it was in his double driveway, shared with the neighbors. In the driveway, it was almost always Hockey Showdown (based on the NHL penalty shot competitions which were the thing at the time. Bill was almost always in net, with sometimes newspaper or magazine or foam rubber pads, and a baseball glove. When the shots got harder, he got a mask as well.

In early high school, it was long bike rides in the summer. I don't know if we ever told our parents where we were going, things were different back then. We'd head over to a park in Pickering (this was before the Rouge River pedestrian bridge beside the train tracks), ride around the extended neighborhood to a different park, or head to Bluffers Park. Yeah ... four or five of us on ten speed bikes pedaling down Lawrence Avenue to ahem ... illegally climb up and down the bluffs for the day. I guess there was a reason we didn't tell our folks some days.

Then it was big stereos, in our bedrooms, at home. Bill had a part time job, so he had a bigger stereo. And driving around in our parents' cars later in high school. We'd head off to watch the latest movie at some distant cinema. Sometimes it was the Go-Train into Toronto. We saw “The Empire Strikes Back” premiere at the University Theatre downtown. And “The Song Remains the Same” at the Danforth Music Hall. Other times we visited Steve's Music shop downtown. Or went to the CNE in late August.

We were also in the scouting movement for many years. Cubs,

Scouts, Venturers. We were fortunate as our scouting groups camped quite a bit. Later on in Venturers, we sometimes helped staff large jamborees. I think there was one in the US, in the winter, that we helped out at. Maybe that was in part where his love of camping came from. Or perhaps it was more. I remember him and his dad, Pete, planning a big Algonquin excursion. I remember at the time wondering how one undertook such a big adventure, and I remember wanting my dad to do the same thing. Our family camped, from our car, but Bill did backcountry, even though I didn't know what it was called back then, it was just so cool. I remember our camping trip up to Restoule, to visit Nigel when he was a Junior Ranger there. Bill and I were well equipped and ready for that. That was an amazing weekend.
(End of part 1, continued in part 2)

Ashley Preston - June 02 at 01:42 PM

TA

“ *Our deepest condolences go out to the family of Bill Charters, especially Vanessa, Kim, and Kyle. We were truly saddened to hear of his passing.*
Bill was always a gentleman in every sense — consistently positive, active, and full of life. It is still hard to believe he is gone. He brought energy and optimism into every environment he was part of, and his presence naturally lifted those around him.
Bill's positivity, professionalism, and human warmth left a lasting impression on everyone who knew him.
Alvin and I send our prayers and heartfelt thoughts to the entire family during this difficult time. Bill will always be remembered with great respect and gratitude, and we feel privileged to have known him.
Tugba&Alvin

Tugba & Alvin - May 25 at 07:58 PM

RM

“ My condolences to all of Bill Charters' family, especially Vanessa, Kim and Kyle. So sad and surprising to hear of Bill's passing as he was so full of life - always active and always smiling. Bill was my boss for many years and one could not wish for a better person to work with. He was supportive and kind and always seemed to get the best out of people. Bill's energy and positivity inspired others to do the same. A more honest, caring and positive person one could not expect to meet. I feel very fortunate to have had the pleasure of knowing Bill Charters. I am a better person for his example, guidance and influence.

Russell McGowan - May 23 at 01:37 PM

EJ

“ Shocked to read that Bill has passed away. Sincerest condolences to Vanessa and his family Bill gave me my first deal - on a handshake- when he was at TD Waterhouse in the early 2000's. We worked on many other projects together over the years. He was a true mensch. May you find strength in his memories.

Elise Jankelow - May 22 at 11:11 PM

RM

Thank you for sharing this Elise J. Bill was a person of such great character that a handshake was more than enough upon which to base a future business relationship. We are so fortunate to have known him.

Russell McGowan - May 23 at 05:00 PM

GB

“ OMG I just saw this on Face Book. Bill and I worked together at Capco and he was the kindest, nicest colleague. I was always hoping our paths would cross again but they never did. My sincerest condolences. So very sorry for your loss. Gayemarie Brown

gayemarie brown - May 22 at 02:04 PM

JS

“ *Bill and I go way back to university days. We have done a lot together during university and after. We did camping at Grand Bend, at his parents house, and many provincial parks. He loved the outdoors, sharing stories, and a good drink. Always happy and always willing to give wisdom. In many ways he was like another brother to me. Through our connections our wonderful UofT group formed, I met my other best friend Lynnette, I saw his wonderful children grow so beautifully and then recently getting to meet the Vanessa. All of our connections will miss you Bill and I will dearly miss you. You are always in my heart and memories.*



Joanne Stone - May 19 at 07:02 PM