



Peter McDonough

April 1, 1940 - November 17, 2021

Peter was born in Galt Ontario, very appropriately on April Fools Day 1940 to James (Kingstown Ireland) and Elizabeth/Bessie Ewing (Westport) but by the time Peter became a full blown trouble maker (age 12), they relocated their family to Nova Scotia.

Peter is survived by his brothers Kevin and Brian, his first wife Alexa, his current overly accepting and forever patient wife Suzanne, his two verbal punching bag sons -- Justin (Heather) and Travis (Margaret), his step daughter Susie, and his nine loving grandkids, AKA the nippers. In preparation for the next ice age, Peter also left behind 875 rolls of toilet paper, 400 boxes of Kleenex and 300 bars of soap all stashed in the basement in his favorite place on earth -- Fox Harb'r.

Proud of his Irish heritage, Peter somehow lacked both dancing and / or music skills but made up for that by inheriting an extra affinity for Irish whisky and Guinness.

If there was a Hall of Fame for trash talkers Peter would top the list. He was the self-crowned Muhammad Ali of verbal sparring. Nobody knew this better than his golfing buddies who were the frequent casualties of his razor-sharp humour and mental acuity.

Peter's version of Wally's World, otherwise known as the family home, hosted dozens of children from all over the city. Sleepovers, basketball games in the driveway, NFL in the living room. Peter was in his element when surrounded by the anarchy and energy of pimple-faced teenagers.

Peter was a terrific athletic supporter. He loved Dalhousie sports and boxing matches, especially when he wasn't directly involved. Peter's idea of technology was a Texas Instruments calculator. He was an expert at burning a steak and nobody could massacre a rendition of 'Dark Island' better than Peter. He could make Denis Ryan weep at the noise.

Peter single-handedly kept both the local Canadian Tire and Costco stores in business by his fascination with deal hunting. The only thing bigger than Peter's whiskey collection was his collection of air fresheners and obscure BBQ parts.

Peter was a storyteller and a jokester like no other. He loved talking with everybody, whether with the guys at the gas station or with Sidney Poitier. After his third glass of white wine at a party, look out. Peter had never heard the term 'pulling punches.'

Peter's dashing looks, youthful energy and magnanimous personality allowed him to deflect any label of 'old man.' He saw himself as a combination of Benjamin Button and Clint Eastwood. One old bartender in Lahinch thought of him as "Halifax's oldest living teenager."

Peter had the attention span of a mosquito on crystal meth and the patience of a Rottweiler with rabies. Nevertheless, he served the board of Halifax International Airport with distinction and, by the time he was done, he actually thought he knew how the baggage carousels worked.

Don't mistake Peter's modesty for a lack of confidence. He would win a stare down against Connor McGregor.....but just not tell anyone about it. And, as his colleagues at McInnes Cooper, where he practiced law for half a century, will say, only the unwise lawyer would ever under-rate his wisdom or his wit. Those were fatal mistakes for the other side.

He loved golfing with his buddies, salmon fishing on the Upsalquitch (although we don't believe he actually caught a fish in over 30 years) and, more than anything, family meals and a Saturday visit with his kids and grandkids

Peter thoroughly enjoyed spending time at the YMCA however after 25 years of monopolizing the steam room, they had to tear it down to finally get rid of them.

The only thing Peter loved more than his own jokes were his nine grandkids, each with a nickname that Peter bestowed. And the only thing Peter hated more than tomatoes and compliments (both of which would cause him to break out into a full-blown rash) were funerals and obituaries. He'll get his wish on the former, but not on the latter.

When Peter asked, 'How are you doing?', he actually meant it. He genuinely wanted to know. This was not a rhetorical question in his mind. He listened because he wanted to understand, not just to respond. That said, he sometimes responded with sarcasm.

Peter's emotions were more complicated than a 20-sided Rubik's Cube but the one feeling that he wore on his sleeve was his love for his family, and especially for Suzanne, his wife of 30 years. She was the one person who was spared from his witty verbal jousting. Nobody was a better cook in his mind, not even, his previous favorite, Colonel Sanders.

Although Peter was not a fan of hospitals, we know he would have thought differently after the incredible care he received in the regional hospital in Truro, and especially the empathic and professional folks in the ICU department

If you're thinking of sending flowers, Peter would prefer that you donate to Special Olympics, Dalhousie, or a charity important to you.

Peter would also be happy if you went to your local booze store and bought a nice bottle of whisky to be split with your 10 closest friends.

Funeral Arrangements entrusted to Harbourside Regional Crematorium www.harboursidecremation.ca/

Tribute Wall

TB

“ After finding a letter from Ted and Lynn to my parents (Art and Marg (Foster) Brown) on their fiftieth wedding anniversary, I searched for your names, knowing that after the Tivoli chain was bought out, that you had moved to NS. Alas, I fell first upon Peter's obituary. Kevin and Brian, I am so sorry that you have lost your brother. I remember when you used to visit us in Ancaster and I think you were living in Dundas at the time, although I was so young, my memories might be faulty.

My note will surely arrive late, but please know how much our family enjoyed visiting with Auntie Bess and Uncle Jim and the three of you boys.

*My deepest sympathies to you both,
Trudi Brown*

Trudi Brown - January 27, 2022 at 03:35 PM

MO

“ Justin, Travis, Suzanne, and other family members
We are so sorry to hear of your sudden loss and our thoughts are with you all. Sounds like he had a great life that was so well described in your hilarious obituary. I remember him well when I was spry enough to run around on the Waeg tennis courts. I just donated to Dal so will try to put it in his name.
All our best wishes
Mary-Jane, Dan, Ben, and Matthew O'Halloran

Mary-Jane O'Halloran - November 28, 2021 at 06:47 AM

BA

“ Picture

Betty Anderson - November 26, 2021 at 07:02 AM

JG

“ Dear Suzanne, Justin, Travis and Family,
We were very saddened to learn of Peter’s sudden passing, but know that his wonderfully unique spirit will live on through you all.
Our sincere sympathies,
Jim & Susan Gould
Halifax

Jim & Susan Gould - November 25, 2021 at 04:15 PM

JH

“ Justin & Travis: My condolences on the passing of your father. My dad was a very important person in my life (and remains a force many years after his death), and it is clearly the same with you. May your happy memories of your dad give you comfort. Outstanding obit! - Jim Houston. (p.s. "Small world" -- my late mom was born & raised in Galt.)

Jim Houston - November 24, 2021 at 03:59 PM

SN

“ Justin, Travis and all the family,
Please accept our sincere sympathy for the loss of a very special man. And thank you for sharing your happy and funny memories of him.
Slavko and Linda Negulic

Slavko and Linda Negulic - November 24, 2021 at 09:17 AM

JC

“ Dear Suzanne,
I have been thinking of you and Peter and the great love that you found together. I feel privileged to have seen the way you lit up each other's lives. I hope that the light you brought to each other's lives will help you in the upcoming days.
With love,
Jill Ceccolini

Jill Ceccolini - November 24, 2021 at 07:56 AM

TS

“ Justin, Travis, Suzanne and Family.

I only knew your father/husband in passing at the Waeg, but I know that by knowing the boys that Peter must have been a force to be reckoned with! The obit was so funny and revealing, such a treat to read.

What a presence he must have been at dinner and socials! I know the Irish way "Sullivan" is my surname, and my family has similar flair (that's what I call it). I wished that I had met him, but know that I know how your loss feels. Love and Light!!

Buffy Sullivan

Tracy Sullivan - November 23, 2021 at 05:57 PM

AS

“ Justin, Travis and family. Such sad news to hear. I remember Peter well from my childhood. His booming voice and lively smile made me feel he was trustworthy. When such a person exits our lives it's tricky to navigate without them. All my best from me and our family.
Xxoo
Anne Simms

Anne Simms - November 23, 2021 at 11:32 AM

AS

“ I don't know who wrote that obituary, but they **MUST** be a descendant of Peter's -- or picked up his sense of humor by osmosis. Peter would have loved it I am sure. I didn't count myself a close friend, but there was a time when I saw quite a bit of him as a particular friend of my friend and colleague, George Burpee Hallett, now also golfing in the great golf course in the sky. I trust that they are exchanging appropriately amusing remarks about "dear sweet little Andy" at the bar of that celestial golf course this very minute. That was Burpee's nickname for me -- he had an appropriately damaging nickname for everyone, and Peter didn't hesitate to pick up on "Dear Sweet" just to tease me a little. You know, I don't remember Burpee having had a nickname for Peter though. I don't think he dared -- he knew he had met his match! It was all meant in good fun though. To be teased by either of them was a complement -- they were saying that they trusted you to have a sense of humor too. I have the fondest memories of Peter's great good humor, kindness and genuine humility -- and he had a knack of remembering something important to you and asking you about it. You knew he cared. My deepest sympathy goes out to his whole family -- such an irreplaceable loss!

Andy Seaman - November 22, 2021 at 06:14 PM

DR

“ Suzanne , Justin , Travis & Families :

A one-of-a-kind has passed on , leaving a wide circle of friends & families to not only mourn his loss ; but to celebrate the unique life we were all so blessed to know. That extraordinary & unique obituary published in the Herald sure did capture his essence ; & demonstrate "in spades" his pride in his profession , his community , & most of all his family.

We will be forever grateful to have been counted among his golfing buddies , his fishing mates , & travel companions & dear friends of he & Suzanne.

We share your grief & know that you are in our thoughts & prayers. Our heartfelt Sympathy.

Dan & Carolyn

Dr. Dan Reid - November 22, 2021 at 02:21 PM

JH

“ *I think Peter would have been very happy to read the fantastic obituary which captured his essence wonderfully. I was always so impressed by his joyful spirit every time I saw him, even as he suffered with mobility issues in his later years. His wit and humour were emblematic of a lively, highly intelligent mind which was prone to mischievousness but never meanness. I wish I had the opportunity to spend more time with him to build on the many happy memories I already have. Sincere condolences to Suzanne, Justin, Travis and all family members. I hope the grandchildren will retain nicknames Peter gave them !*

*Best wishes,
Jim Hawkins*

Jim Hawkins - November 22, 2021 at 12:00 PM

,M

“ Dear Suzanne, Justin; Travis, families.
Very sorry to hear about Peter's passing. He was great friend of ours and we are very grateful for his friendships. Our thoughts are with you and with your families. We are going to greatly miss him. Our sincere condolences to you all. Great obituary, if one should have one, it should be as the one you've written .
Deepest sympathy Zdena & milo

,milo - November 22, 2021 at 11:59 AM

JA

“ While I have not seen Peter for a number of years I certainly remember him with great fondness and was delighted to read the obituary which captured Peter's essence so well. Peter adored all his family . Your loss is huge and it is hard to fathom how you will cope . Please know that many people admired and liked Peter tremendously and share in your sorrow.

Jane Archibald - November 22, 2021 at 11:58 AM

TM

“ I was so saddened to hear of the passing of Peter. One of my fondest memories of my decade long employment at Duggers were Friday evening visits from Peter. He'd stop into the store for a beer and entertain us with one of his fascinating stories and have us all in stitches. He had the gift of storytelling, but also a great gift of making you feel heard and genuinely interested in how you were doing. Sending my sincere condolences to the family and close friends.
Tracy Mahoney

Tracy Mahoney - November 22, 2021 at 10:39 AM

BR

“ Justin, Travis and families. So sorry to hear of the loss of Peter and my condolences to all for your loss. From the fantastic obituary it sounds like he was a heck of a guy and will be greatly missed by all fortunate enough to know him.

Bob Milne (K. Rideout) - November 22, 2021 at 08:08 AM

MM

“ Dear Suzanne I was both surprised and sad to read of Peters' passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Yesterday and today there are a lot of good memories coming to mind.
Fondly
Marilyn Montgomery

Marilyn Parsons Montgomery - November 21, 2021 at 01:18 PM

LA

“ Justin & Travis
My Mom was Mamie Penny & although I never met your Dad, I know from my Mom, how thoughtful & caring a man he was. Know that my thoughts & prayers are with you both.
Hugs, Liz Acres, Calgary

liz Acres - November 20, 2021 at 08:18 PM

LR

“ Justin and Travis - your dad was one of a kind. I remember how kind and generous and supportive he was of me way back when I was a cellar dweller. So sad to hear of his passing.
Much love- Lara

Lara Ryan - November 20, 2021 at 07:28 PM

LM

“ Although I never worked directly with Peter, I have fond memories of him from my many years at McInnes Cooper. He was definitely "one of the good guys", and will be missed by his many friends and colleagues. Justin and Travis, your Dad was so very proud of both of you. My sincere condolences to the entire family.

Liz McCoombs - November 20, 2021 at 08:29 AM

DB

“ One never worked for Peter as much as you worked WITH him. He understood what teamwork was all about, And it was my great pleasure to have been a part of that team for 32 years, during which time we accomplished some significant feats in the world of real property and became good friends. Everything said in his obituary is so true.....he was extremely funny, kind, generous and above all, loved his family passionately. One had only to mention his boys and Peter would beam with pride. We took great pleasure in teasing one another, and I always knew that if we disagreed on an issue, respect between us would not suffer. We shared many a joke and some very serious moments. When I was in the local cardiac ICU, Peter was there making sure that I had whatever I needed.

I am going to miss him a great deal and I hope that you, the family, will in some small manner be comforted, knowing how much he contributed to the lives of everyone fortunate enough to have been his friend. He will be missed but not forgotten.

*With deepest sympathy
Don Brown*

Don Brown - November 20, 2021 at 08:12 AM

DH

“ *Justin and Travis*

Many memories of your family and your close relationship with Matt for so many years

You will have lots of memories and some great times to reflect upon.

Will be thinking of you

David Hills

David Hills - November 20, 2021 at 07:13 AM

HW

“ *Travis and family,*

Sorry to learn of your fathers passing, a remarkable man indeed.

May you cherish the beautiful memories you have.

May it ease this difficult time to know others are holding you in their thoughts and prayers

Harold White - November 20, 2021 at 06:39 AM

RD

“ *I was so very blessed to have worked with you over the years. It is hard to believe that you are gone xo*

rhonda dill - November 19, 2021 at 11:31 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Harbourside Regional Crematorium - November 19, 2021 at 05:15 PM