



## Phil Colwell

March 28, 2025

Philip Dennis Charles Colwell of the Isle of Arran, UK, and formerly of Wallaceburg Ontario, passed away peacefully at the age of 68 on March 28, 2025 at the Arran War Memorial Hospital with Jackie Colwell and his three beloved daughters Emily, Kristina, and Alyssa all at his side. He was a son of the late Hugh and Pauline Colwell and loved brother of Lorraine Moffat and husband Don Moffat (pre-deceased), Janet Blondeel and husband Norm Blondeel, Paul Colwell and partner Kym Morrow, Mark Colwell, and Michelle Hellewell and husband Wayne Hellewell. He will be missed very much by several nieces, nephews, cousins, and very close friends. Phil grew up in the Wallaceburg area, graduated from Wallaceburg District Secondary School and then Wilfred Laurier University. He was an exceptional athlete all through school, excelling in both track and football. As a record breaking running back for the Wilfred Laurier Golden Hawks, he also represented Canada at the annual Can-Am University Bowl. He would go on to play in the CFL for Toronto, Saskatchewan and Hamilton, playing in the 1980 Grey Cup. An injury forced Phil into retirement in 1982 and he would go on to become a strong advocate for CTE research. Following football, he worked for Square D as a Project Manager on a Toronto Airport expansion, then moved in 1991 with his wife Jackie to the Isle of Arran on the west coast of Scotland. He and Jackie raised three daughters on Arran, working for the Royal Mail until his retirement a few years ago. A family ceremony was held on Wednesday April 9th at the Clyde Coast and Garnock Valley Crematorium with cremation following.



# Tribute Wall

DR

“ I realize that this is terribly late... and I feel horrible about that. I unfortunately only just stumbled across the news of Phil's passing. He and I had managed to maintain a low level of contact for the last 20 plus years but we were in-touch annually and I appreciated that we did. He and I were roommates the year Phil ended up with the Saskatchewan Roughriders... I was just a rookie, and he was the veteran just acquired from the Tiger Cats. Phil ended up getting his jaw broken during camp that year and eventually we found ourselves members of the 1982 Roughriders.

We ended up getting an apartment together and I can honestly tell you that we had a great time hanging out and him showing me the ropes... and I can't tell you how much I enjoyed our friendship and time together.

I was very sad when I heard of his passing but I would like to extend sincere condolences to his wife, daughters and his surviving family, he was a great guy. I know he is being missed.

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**Dave Ridgway** - September 18, 2025 at 11:17 AM

LD

“ Luanne Dubuque lit a candle in memory of Phil Colwell



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**Luanne Dubuque** - April 23, 2025 at 02:50 PM

AT

“ We are deeply sorry and send sincere condolences to Phil's family. Phil was one of a kind athlete as well a dear friend and we have many fond memories during Phil's years in Wallaceburg. We often reminisce of our visit to the Isle of Aaran and their visit with us back in Chatham. We will miss him dearly but will cherish all the memories we made together.

*Al and Melonie Thibert*

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**Al Thibert** - April 21, 2025 at 09:47 AM

FD

“ I always enjoyed the conversations we would have and the good times. On occasion when Phil returned to Canada he would look me up and I really enjoyed those tours. My condolences to all of Phil's family.

*Rest in Peace*

*Francis Dobbelaar*



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**Francis and Janice Dobbelaar** - April 20, 2025 at 12:09 PM

JB

“ I attended WDSS with Phil. He was a rare athletic talent, head and shoulders above the rest of us in track and in football. He never took himself too seriously, he had a great sense of humour and he was always a good friend. More recently, I'm thankful that I was able to reconnect with Phil and some old friends for a few annual get togethers during WAMBO, at Paul and Kym's place in Wallaceburg. We relived old memories, laughed alot and had a great time. Thanks Phil. We'll miss you.

*John Barg*

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**John Barg** - April 19, 2025 at 12:18 PM

BS

“ Our Sincere Condolences to All the Family and Friends of Phil, may he Rest in Peace!



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**Brian and Elaine Shaw** - April 19, 2025 at 11:08 AM

RC

“ Condolences to the Cowell Family.....Bob Copeland

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**Robert Copeland** - April 18, 2025 at 03:12 PM

PG

“ Phil was always so kind to me. Went to high school with him. Steve, Cameron and I were able to visit him , Jackie and the kids in the Island of Aaron. Phil will be miss. He will always be remembered. Condolences to Jackie and the girls and Phil's siblings.. Peggy & Steve

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**Peggy Gillis** - April 18, 2025 at 10:24 AM

RW

“ Randy and Wendy White lit a candle in memory of Phil Colwell



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**Randy and Wendy White** - April 18, 2025 at 08:41 AM

RC

“ Paul and family, my sincerest condolences.

*I met Phil at Benn Iron Foundry where he was a Charger. He always had a good attitude and was easy to work with.*

*May he RIP*

*Bob Copeland*

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**Robert Copeland** - April 17, 2025 at 02:51 PM

BB

“ I'm so very sorry and heartbroken! Phil was a wonderful friend and teammate who I will never forget. No words can help but please know we're thinking of your family. Much love Bill and Denise Burke



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**Bill Burke** - April 17, 2025 at 02:17 PM

MM

“ *Condolences to all of Phil's family. We grew up across the street from each other and spent endless hours playing together. He was a really good friend and a good person. He will be missed.  
RIP my friend.*



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**mike miles** - April 17, 2025 at 12:24 PM

DL

“ *Don & Kris Lee lit a candle in memory of Phil Colwell*



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**Don & Kris Lee** - April 17, 2025 at 11:46 AM

LG

“ *Laurie Goetz lit a candle in memory of Phil Colwell*



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**Laurie Goetz** - April 17, 2025 at 10:37 AM

AH

“ *So sorry to hear of Phil's passing. Sincere condolences to his wife, daughters, family and friends. Peace be with you.*

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**Anne Hazzard** - April 17, 2025 at 10:21 AM

BK

“ *Paul and Family,*

*I have good memories of Phil getting me Tigercat football game tickets when I occasionally could give him a ride to Hamilton in the early 1980's.*

*My sincerest condolences.*

*Bill Klyn-Hesselink*

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**Bill Klyn-Hesselink** - April 17, 2025 at 09:32 AM

MH

“ *Merle And Shelly Hazzard lit a candle in memory of Phil Colwell*



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**Merle and Shelly Hazzard** - April 17, 2025 at 09:21 AM

LC

“ *Sincere condolences to family of Phil. I have many happy memories of times shared back in high school days. RIP friend.*

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**Laurel Cammaart** - April 17, 2025 at 08:39 AM

“ I met Phil when we entered Wallaceburg District Secondary School in the fall 1970. Phil attended elementary school at W.T. Laing and I entered high school from St. Thomas Aquinas Senior Elementary, now both just memories, replaced by housing.

I got to know Phil through sports. We both played football and ran track at WDSS. In grade 10 our Junior Tartan football team went 7-1, losing to John McGregor in the championship game. The following season Dave Watson and I decided to move up to the Senior Tartans even though we were eligible for a third season on the juniors. Phil stayed with the juniors and playing running back along with Kevin Barnet ran wild almost leading the team to the championship, losing a close game against Chatham Kent Secondary School. From there Phil became the most feared half back in Kent County. In his first season playing for Wilfred Laurier University Phil was the top rookie in Eastern Canada and almost lead his team to a win in the Vanier Cup against The University of BC. Phil played in the CFL but his career was cut short by injuries and concussions.

Phil moved to Scotland with his family in the 90's but I always looked forward to his visits to Wallaceburg during the summer. The last time I saw Phil I lamented about my teenage son (young enough to be my grandson) and my attempts to encourage his vocational interests and uncertain

job prospects. Phil, always the rational one said "Bernie my parents always encouraged me but they had nothing to do with my decision to play professional football". Right there, in that moment this great friend put my mind at ease and gave me a moment of clarity that just being there for my son would help him to be successful no matter what he decided to pursue. I knew Phil was struggling with failing health and the effects of CTE and somehow I knew that I might not see him again when he, Paul, Bill, John and Andy got together on WAMBO weekend in 2023. After our traditional weekend shenanigans I told Phil that he was the best friend that I could ever have. His kind and self-effacing nature is something that I have always admired and will miss. Even though Phil was an exceptional athlete he never thought that he

*was anything special. He just did his job putting the team first not expecting any accolades or ada boys. My condolences to the entire Colwell family and all of his friends. I know that you are at peace now Phil. Til we meet again may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

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**Bernie Kearns** - April 17, 2025 at 12:35 AM

DG

“ *To the entire Colwell family, our deepest sympathy on the passing of Phil. He was a wonderful friend, roommate and teammate. Phil was such a gifted athlete but what stays with us was his sense of humour and loyalty. We will forever be grateful to him for surprising us at our wedding reception.*

*God speed our friend,  
Dave and Janet Greenwood  
Sarnia, Ontario*

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**Dave and Janet Greenwood** - April 16, 2025 at 08:24 PM

GF

“ *Gerry Flynn lit a candle in memory of Phil Colwell*



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**Gerry Flynn** - April 16, 2025 at 05:04 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Haycock-Cavanagh Funeral Home** - April 16, 2025 at 04:11 PM