

“Flying Phil” Day - Poll launch for new project proposals

Happy Flying Phil Day! A day to take a walk, give someone a Thumbs-up of encouragement, and remember Phil St. Luke! Also a chance to vote on how to commemorate him!

With size 15 boots and standing 6’7” “Flying Phil”, as he was most commonly known, had a developmental age of a good hearted 9-year-old making him remarkable to begin with. However it was his friendliness, thousands of hours of volunteering, and joy in helping others in the community that really set him apart.

In the early 90’s he was called “A Parksville Landmark” and in 2008 his birthday, March 7th, was declared “Flying Phil day” in the city of Parksville.

St. Luke passed away from cancer in January of 2023 after 40 years of living in the Oceanside area

A project to create a memorial for St.Luke has changed a fair bit since launching with a Go fund me one year ago today. Those spearheading the initiative say they heard back from the community that a pricey bold bronze statue didn’t fit the humble and complex person Phil was. Inflation and changes to a committee structure that was set up to support a bronze sculpture also played a part in changes to the direction of the project.

Four new options are now being explored and Islanders and Phil fans from afar are encouraged to check them out and vote for what they believe would be the most fitting memorial.

Options include a mural series, carved statue bench, and unique driftwood art.

The project update and poll can be found at <https://flyingphil.ca/poll>

The accidental champions of the project to create a lasting memorial are two members from the public who knew Phil in life, Doug Giebelhaus and Jennah Stavroff.

Go Fund me creator Stavroff says “The project will be different but it’s definitely still going ahead. I’ve heard some really incredibly touching stories about Phil since getting involved and am committed to seeing something created to mark his contributions to the community. We’ve used Phil’s attitude as inspiration through the ups and downs of the project so far- stay positive, be kind, and put one foot in front of the other as you keep going.”

To date over \$16,000 has been raised mainly from small individual donations. Funds will continue to be raised through out the summer with the a costed and detailed project proposal for final approval going before council in the fall.

Any surplus funds raised for the project will be donated to Oceanside area charities.

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