

## Flying Phil Memorial Project Q & A

### **Whose project is this?**

*The community's!* Phil lived in many areas of the region outside Parksville and his name is well known on the island. If you knew Phil and wish his story and spirit recognized, then this project is for you! If the public raises the funds and designs the memorial, it could be installed on City land and maintained. A standing committee was formed to report to Parksville Council. A community volunteer stepped up to create a double signor trust account to centralize and safeguard funds raised by you/the community.



### **Why is Phil worthy of a public memorial?**

While many may know Phil for walking along the highway, impromptu chats, or a honk and wave, he was so much more. Phil was an accomplished Special Olympics athlete, a keen supporter of local sportsmanship, an advocate for fair and respectful inclusion of people with developmental disabilities and generous volunteer for the food bank, fire department, North Island Wildlife Recovery Centre, SPCA, and therapeutic riding, just to mention a few. Hearing stories, it is clear Phil's larger presence was of an eager and encouraging friend to all. Despite his challenges, it was always two thumbs up attitude, cheering on others.

### **How can I support this project?**

*Spread the word, hold a fundraiser and donate!* There's an exceptional small volunteer group raising one dollar at a time, creating momentum. *We can't do this alone!* Ideas are endless; organize a fun-run, host a perogy dinner, a silly walking competition with friends, or hold a day-off lottery for your staff. Whatever works for you is what we want you to do!

### **When will we see a memorial?**

Funds need to be raised by Canada Day 2024. Once funding is clear, we will look at ideas put forward by the community and best fit. A report recommending a chosen memorial project will go to Council for consideration and the project will proceed. So, likely late 2024 or early 2025.

### **Have a story about Phil? How can I share what he was in my life?**

Email [Flyingphilmemorial@gmail.com](mailto:Flyingphilmemorial@gmail.com). We're hearing how residents and visitors knew and remember Phil. We value these stories and encourage you to share. When the project is finished Phil's remaining personal items, documents, and other bits of memorabilia will be given to the Parksville Museum.

### **Is this for a statue?**

*Yes and No!* A bronze statue project, proposed and developed in 2017, is now being built on. However, the mandate of the standing committee is to report to Council with a recommendation on what the community wishes and can fund. We have a quote of \$80,000 (actually very low!) for the installation of a full-sized solid bronze statue. That said a memorial could end up being a carved bench, series of murals, bust, alternate piece of art or you name it! We need to hear from you and receive support whatever the outcome. *The goal is to install a fitting and permanent reminder of Phil's presence in the community and what he represents in many of our lives.*

### **We heard Phil didn't want a statue/memorial**

We've heard that too but not firsthand from Phil. He never objected and was "thrilled" and "tickled pink" at the concept when first considered in 2017. There's a video interview on the Facebook fan page where Phil is asked and seems keen. Donors remarked at how disappointed they thought he'd be when the project was shelved. In the end, it may not be a statue, but we know Phil deserves to be recognized and we believe its important for us who remain to be reminded of the two thumbs-up spirit to keep it going!

### **How can I contact the project?**

You can submit ideas at <https://letstalkparksville.ca/celebrate-phil-stluke> or by emailing [flyingphilmemorial@gmail.com](mailto:flyingphilmemorial@gmail.com) to reach project volunteers.