



Dr. William "Brian" Kirkham

January 16, 1947 - May 5, 2026

Peacefully, and under the loving care of his wife, Dr. William "Brian" Kirkham passed away on Tuesday, May 5th, 2026, at the age of 79. Born in Montréal to parents Larry and Francis Kirkham, Brian and his brother, Lawrie, grew up dividing their time between England and Canada. They were raised by their mother, Francis ("Manny"), her sister, their beloved Aunt Helen (affectionately known as "La La"), and their grandparents.

Brian pursued a path in science, earning a Master's degree in chemistry from McGill University in Montréal. He worked as a chemist before returning to school to complete his medical degree and eventually open a family practice in the Ottawa area. This was accomplished with the loving support of his first wife and lifelong friend, Lynda, mother to his children Kevin (Julie) and Andrea (Donnie).

Later, Brian married his second wife and the love of his life, Noella. They moved with their two children, Jaymes (Amanda) and Taylor (Carolina), to Ephrata, Washington, where he cared for many patients as a physician at Columbia Basin Hospital. Over the years, he worked alongside many talented healthcare professionals, including Dr. Alex Brzezny, a trusted colleague and friend who provided Brian and Noella with dedicated care and support during the final months of Brian's life. Brian loved the home he built with Noella in Ephrata and took great joy

in watching Jaymes and Taylor thrive. He attended their games, helped with homework, and delighted in having a home full of their friends—even when it meant enduring paintball battles, high-school rock band rehearsals in the basement, and an astronomical grocery bill.

He cherished visits and phone calls from Kevin and Andrea in Canada, always spoiling them—and later their spouses and children—with food and ridiculous dad jokes. Brian and Noella remained close friends with Lynda, affectionately referring to her as the “sister wife,” until her passing in 2015.

Brian was the sweetest, silliest, and most devoted “Poppa” to his six grandchildren: Cole, Heather, Beatrice, Maggie, Flynn, and Sophie. Although he often debated his brother who was their mother’s favorite, and tried to convince him that he was adopted, Brian treasured his time with Lawrie and his wife, Kass. He enjoyed traveling with them to far-flung places such as Vietnam, Spain, Portugal, and Morocco. He proudly embraced his role as the “weird uncle” to Lawrie’s children, Christopher (Margaret) and Heidi, and their children Jacob, Aiden, Lily, and Scarlett.

Brian remained close with his cousin Kenny (Anda), his last link to his beloved hometown of Montréal and to the Crosbie side of his family. A Canadian to the end, Brian loved watching hockey and never gave up hope that his beloved Montréal Canadiens would one day bring home another Stanley Cup. He introduced all four of his children to Monty Python and terrible B-movies. He always had a dog by his side and is predeceased by dogs Lady, Whiskey, and Charlie, as well as several cats he pretended not to like. A doctor who should have been an artist, Brian sketched and painted whenever he had time. He loved pattering around the house, building “creative” (and sometimes questionable) projects—often at the expense of his own safety. Ever frugal, he drove vehicles long past their logical lifespan, famously

holding together his favorite van, the “Babe Magnet,” with duct tape and shoelaces. In later years, he was happiest sitting outside, working on a puzzle, and barbecuing far more food than anyone needed.

Brian was loved by everyone who knew him for his humor, warmth, and genuine interest in helping others.

A private family memorial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a contribution to the American Heart Association, and take a moment to hug the people you love.

Tribute Wall

TE

“ Wonderful man and doctor, always spent extra time when taking care of my kids as a doctor and always had a smile on his face when waking the hallways at CBH. It was a pleasure working with him, sending prayers to the family in this time of loss.

Tanya Escure - May 13 at 04:18 PM

KT

“ What a wonderful life he lived. He was always such a positive, friendly, and intelligent man. Loved his smile and giggle. Our condolences to all of your family on his loss.

Kim Thomas - May 13 at 03:52 PM

LE

“ What a kind beautiful soul! Always a smile for you when you saw him. I remember passing him on the road when he had just picked up his daily Pepsi.... at least I think it was a Pepsi! 😊 Dr Brian was a great doctor and our family enjoyed him as our doctor until his retirement. Loved working with him at the Lions Club fair booth.... he was always willing to put in a shift or two. Noella, you and your family will always hold a special place in my heart. Hugs and prayers to you all. 🙏❤️

Linda Ebberson - May 13 at 03:28 PM

DG

“ I knew Brian because I am best friends with his son, and he was always warm and welcoming. I spent quite a bit of time talking to him about all sorts of topics, including my health. He was always happy to see me, and always asking after me. While I only rarely saw him in person, he was still a great conversation and losing him is not just a loss for the Kirkham family, who are losing a father, husband, and grandfather but also this world.

He really was a light in the darkness, and when I heard my heart broke. I'm going to miss hearing his laugh and jokes.

Dave Gregory - May 13 at 12:29 PM

AG

“ I only knew Brian a short while as he was a client of mine. I quickly grew fond of him and Noella as they were both so happy and welcoming. I loved hearing his accent when he spoke. We had some great and in depth conversations. I am blessed to have known him on a personal level. You will be missed Brian. My thoughts and prayers are with Noella and the family.

Amanda Goodnight - May 13 at 12:26 PM

VB

“ I loved Dr. K. Besides saving my life, he was a joy to talk with. When you left his office it was with a smile on your face. Rest in peace my friend.

Victoria Bittle - May 12 at 11:29 PM

DM

He will be missed. He was my doctor and I had the pleasure to also work at CBH with him. Great man, he will be missed.

Deborah Mandeville - May 13 at 09:49 PM

KC

Brian, my dear cousin, left the world a better place. He was a caring, compassionate and fun person who was a loving husband, father and friend. Moreover, his character, values and personality could have not been more suited to being a doctor, his lifelong profession.

Kenneth Crosbie - May 26 at 02:50 PM



“*Went to Dr Kirkham for several years. He was a very nice man, was great with my kids. He will be missed. Prayers for the family.*”

Pam Judkins - May 12 at 08:44 PM

JG

“*Brian was the best doctor I have ever had. His expert and early diagnosis he performed for me even before I had any symptoms meant my outcome was excellent. I was fortunate to have also known his wonderful family.*

One surprising thing most people who knew him probably wouldn't know about him was his skill at laser tag. Myself my partner's kid and his kids headed to Spokane one Saturday to experience a new large facility.

Laser tag involves moving through a complex set with walls, stairs, buildings, car bodies, and hiding places. We wear a vest with sensors, and we carry guns that shoot laser light. The point is to shoot the sensors on the other players. Many players play defensively by hiding and sniping, or running around and keeping moving. Brian instead walked slowly and with purpose shooting his laser sparingly and creating no attention to himself, but with lethal efficiency.

At the end of the half hour sessions, everyone's score goes up on the electronic board at the end. His score always beat everyone who was playing with a huge margin. This included me, the kids, and every kid, teen, and parent who were in the game, many who played regularly and knew every hiding place and vantage point.

Brian loved life and knew how to make the best of any situation, especially when he could leverage his vast knowledge and skill to help others. We have moved away, but I am proud to have known him and miss him. He left us way too soon.

John Glassco - May 12 at 07:19 PM

DS

“ I will always appreciate the care Dr. Kirkham provided for our mother while she stayed at Oasis Assisted Living until the time of her passing. I also worked for the business office during the same time and will remember him for his gentle smile and caring demeanor.

Debra Still - May 12 at 03:46 PM

NT

Dr Kirkham was the best Dr I ever had.

Nona Tiger - May 12 at 07:28 PM

JT

It was nice to get to know him at Brad and his stay at McKay. Was very smiley and personable..RIP you sweet man.

JoAnn Taylor-Rushton - May 13 at 12:23 PM

RM

I'm so sad to hear about Dr. Kirkham's passing. He was such a good doctor and he was such a kind person. Sending my thoughts and prayers to his wife and family.

Ruth Mina - May 13 at 01:12 PM