

In Memoriam: Carole Brawn

Calgary lost a treasured daughter when Carole Brawn passed away. Born and raised in this vibrant city—save for her first three years in Didsbury—Carole embodied the spirit of community service and genuine warmth that defines the best of our hometown.

A Central High School graduate, Carole's love story began with a serendipitous knock at the door. When her family's paperboy asked if she'd accompany his friend Bob Brawn to the Stampede, neither could have imagined that blind date would blossom into sixty-eight years of devoted marriage. While Bob completed his degree, Carole earned her teaching certificate and supported them both, touching young lives so profoundly that several students attended her wedding—a testament to the affection she inspired in everyone she met.

The early years brought adventure and challenge. Mobil Oil transferred them seven times in two years, including three winter months in a Swift Current motel. Through it all, Carole's resilience and good humor never wavered.

Together, Carole and Bob built a beautiful family—four children and nine grandchildren who were the pride of their lives. In 1980, they founded the Brawn Family Foundation, channeling their shared values into meaningful support for health (with a large focus on youth mental health), education, sports, and recreation initiatives throughout Calgary. Carole (and Bob) was also a passionate advocate for the Calgary Zoo, proudly sponsoring the Panda Exhibit in 1988 and 2016. Their support has benefitted countless other programs that have significantly enriched our community.

For over forty-nine years, Carole a cornerstone of Calgary Rotary Partners, serving as President in 1977-78. She helped establish enduring traditions, including financial support for Sarcee and the beloved Rose Tea. Whether hosting social functions at their home, participating in bridge club, sharing laughter with her book club friends over lighthearted reads, or engaging with the investment club, Carole brought infectious joy and unwavering commitment to the club.

At home, she nurtured beautiful gardens, delighting in visits from the local moose and deer who seemed to sense a kindred spirit. Together with Bob, Carole demonstrated what true partnership means—supporting Rotary through time, talent, and treasure, always giving generously of themselves.

Carole showed us that a life well-lived is measured in relationships cherished, communities strengthened, and moments of shared laughter. Her legacy of kindness, service, and that wonderful sense of humor will continue inspiring all who knew her. Calgary has lost a remarkable woman, but her spirit remains woven into the fabric of this city she loved.

Funeral service for Carole is scheduled for Saturday, February 14 at 2 p.m. at Eden Brook Funeral Home.

