



## Dr. Paul Henry Benns

August 19, 1946 - May 15, 2014

Dr. Paul Benns of High River, Alberta passed at the High River Hospital on May 15, 2014, at the age of 67 years. Paul is survived by his daughter Nevada, son Tanner, and wife Sherrill, as well as his sisters; Janet, Jackie, Ruth, Donna, Suzzie, and brothers; Neil, and Rod.

Paul came in to Alberta from Ontario at age 11, and went to school in the Atlee - Jenner area. In the beginning he worked as a groom for the Canadian Olympic Dressage team alongside Barbie Simpson and travelled to Europe. Paul attended Olds College, U of C, U of A, and then graduated from WCVM in 1979. He started practicing at the Okotoks Animal Clinic, then went to Hastings race track, Northlands race track and settled into a local area practicing with Pete Farran, before he joined Province Livestock and the CFIA. Paul was recognized for his 35 years of active services in veterinary medicine this year. His career as a veterinarian led him across the world to places including Australia, USA, Japan, Nunavut, and Africa.

A Celebration of Paul's Life was held on Saturday, May 24, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at the Highwood Golf & Country Club in High River. To send condolences and view Paul's tribute page please visit [www.lylereeves.com](http://www.lylereeves.com). Caring for the family is Lyle Reeves Funerals of High River, 403-652-4242.

# Events

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**MAY** **Celebration of Life Service** 01:00PM

**24**

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Highwood Golf & Country Club

400 7th Street NW, High River, AB, CA

# Comments

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“ My Brother Paul, I always remember when you were little you loved to play with farm animal toys. It didn't surprise me that you became a vet. I remember meeting your Professor and her telling me you were a good student. I was glad to meet all your friends on your birthday. You will be really missed by all. Love sister Suzie and family.

**Suzie Van Egmond** - July 01, 2014 at 09:11 AM

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“ Uncle Paul will be sadly missed by my self and my family ! He was wonderful to us when we did get to visit ! Love Natalie and mark Kyle Wyatt and Grayson (suzzies daughter )

**natalie huson** - June 26, 2014 at 10:44 PM

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“ To Tanner, Nevada and Sheryl;  
Too many sets of horse and cattle papers to count that Paul did for us going to the US and never a problem. Always enjoyed visits with Paul and he will be missed. He was a great vet and a great guy. Our thoughts are with you.

Mark, Ashli, Ty and Makena Wright

**Ashli Wright** - May 26, 2014 at 12:42 PM

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“ I did not share any memories at the funeral today, given so much that was shared by fellow vets. I do want to share , so here goes.

I met Paul through the friendship he had with my father, Morris Hanson, who was a horse vet. Paul was 8 years older than me. He was a hard working groom for the Simpson family jumping horses, he had not finished high school but was very smart and was interested in the veterinary work my Dad did at Simpson's ranch north of Cochrane. I would go there on calls with my Dad or to shoot gophers with my friends in the summer.

I was in high school at the time. With all the distraction I so easily succumbed to, Paul impressed me with his drive and tenacity, going back to finish high school and then taking pre-vet courses in an Agriculture program in university. I was a couple of years behind him in university and I was also trying to get into the vet school in Saskatoon. He kept applying and doing another year in university and then got into vet school. I never did and ended up a lawyer.

When my Dad retired in 1973, he bought a farm southwest of High River and Paul came to help drive the old machinery and put in the crops in May of that year.

My family had not yet moved from Calgary and there were four of us, sleeping in sleeping bags on foams on the floor and cultivating and seeding all day. We ate alot of cheese sandwiches and macaroni and cheese and it was then that I really got to know Paul and appreciate his with and sense of humour. With our hair the way it was, having him along with us, when we went to the bar to play pool in High River, is what saved us from being beaten up during such excursions.

About this time is when the horror movie "The Exhorsist" came out and we all watched it

together. It scared the poop out of all of us, including Paul. Because of his argumentative style, I began calling him "Devil Roar" to remind him of the movie and get a rise out of him, but he did the same to me. I know of know of no-one else in the world who has ever had this nickname but it was our special thing, every time we saw each other, for more than 40 years, until he died.

Paul got into the vet school and I was jealous. I transferred out to UBC and took marine biology. Then I went to law school. Listening to all of Paul's veterinarian friends and his daughter Nevada at his funeral today, I am reminded of how gifted Paul was with horses. It really would have been nice to have gotten into vet school and had him as a mentor.

Paul never tired of telling me what scum lawyers were and all the wrongs with our justice system. This did not interfere with my being his lawyer for more than 30 years. One time, after his heart attack in the early 1980s, after he and Sherrill had bought the farm from my parents, we were building a chicken coop there, while having a heated argument about the evils of the justice system. His heart was still weak and he would

start to pass out when bending over to hammer staples to attach the chicken wire. He would not let that stop him - and he would turn blue in the face making his point about the justice system, to the point that I just let him win the argument, for fear he would give himself another heart attack.

I am proud that, all these years, when Paul had a problem, he would consult me, regardless of how deficient he may have suggested that my profession and I was. I knew how to take his jabs.

We remained friends all these years, through all the changes in our lives.

Goodbye Devil Roar,

I will miss you.

Harris Hanson

**Harris Hanson** - May 24, 2014 at 06:40 PM

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“ Myself and my husband are very saddened by Paul's passing. He has given us many memories to which we hold very dear to our hearts. We were both extremely blessed to have this man come into our lives and cherish every moment spent with him over the last six years. You will be greatly missed "old fella" and will be thought of often!  
Tyler and Tammy Costen

**tammy costen** - May 24, 2014 at 01:37 PM

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“ Kim Dyck Jaster lit a candle in memory of Dr. Paul Henry Bennis



**Kim Dyck Jaster** - May 24, 2014 at 10:39 AM

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“ Paul was one of those rare individuals who you always felt better with after having a visit. His laughter, his stories and his wit will be missed. Paul wore a few different hats over his career, however he was excellent at them all and relished the challenge. I will miss Paul. Condolences to the family.

Doug Myers DVM

Doug Myers - May 24, 2014 at 09:44 AM

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“ We are Saddened to here about Paul's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Maureen & Ray Moncrieff

Maureen & Ray Moncrieff - May 24, 2014 at 08:36 AM

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“ Nevada, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. Take care.  
Tara Schaw



Tara Schaw - May 23, 2014 at 10:59 PM

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“ I was very sad to hear of Paul's passing. to Nevada, Tanner & your Mom my thought's and prayers are with you. I will always remember Paul's ability to "explain" things clearly! Paul you will be missed!!  
Sandy Stafford

Sandy Stafford - May 23, 2014 at 04:14 PM

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“ I was sad to hear of Paul's passing. I did not always agree with Paul but respected the fact that he had an opinion which he was always prepared to defend.  
Respectfully, Peter Martin DVM

**Peter Martin** - May 22, 2014 at 09:12 PM

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“ I met Paul at WCVM and worked briefly in practice with him in Okotoks. Over the years we had many short encounters that provided an opportunity to catch up with each other's lives. He appeared to have endless energy and commitment to getting a job done. Very saddened to hear of Paul's passing and wish to express my sincere condolences to his family.

Dr. Rob Allison

**Dr. Rob Allison** - May 22, 2014 at 02:50 PM

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“ Nevada and Tanner, know that I am thinking of you and your family. Please extend my sympathy to your Mom.



**Scott Forbes** - May 22, 2014 at 01:48 PM

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“ Paul was always a pleasure to be around . A high energy caring individual. We would like to extend our sympathy to Paul's family. The Veterinary profession will miss Paul.  
Dr.Ted Shacklady

**Dr.Ted Shacklady** - May 22, 2014 at 01:18 PM

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“ I worked with Paul at CFIA. He was always cheerful and loved to react with people. Geat guy. My sympathies to the family. Dr Eldon Hall

Eldon Hall - May 22, 2014 at 11:57 AM

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“ Gord Wagner lit a candle in memory of Dr. Paul Henry Benns



Gord Wagner - May 22, 2014 at 11:16 AM

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“ As a veterinarian working for the CFIA Paul never forgot what it was like to be in practice and would always go the extra distance to help out. Shortly after the border reopened to live cattle following BSE we had a mix up in some export cattle sent to the US that arrived at the plant with one too many animals for the paper work. What looked to be a very messy situation was quickly resolved by Paul going the extra distance to get a birth certificate for the extra animal, making up an export certificate and sending it to the plant. It wasn't his problem but he was always willing to help out. Our sincere sympathy to his family.

M. Jelinski DVM

Dr.Mike Jelinski - May 21, 2014 at 10:59 PM

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“ I was saddened to hear of the passing of Paul. While we did not get together often, I always looked forward to our visits and talking about veterinary "stuff". My thoughts and prayers are with the Benn's family. Dr. Lloyd Keddie

Lloyd Keddie - May 21, 2014 at 09:07 PM

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“ Sharon And Bill Wegener lit a candle in memory of Dr. Paul Henry Bennis



**Sharon and Bill Wegener** - May 21, 2014 at 07:13 PM

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“ Bonnie And Morgan Wilson lit a candle in memory of Dr. Paul Henry Bennis



**Bonnie and Morgan Wilson** - May 21, 2014 at 02:45 PM