

Moore mourned

Posted 1 day ago

Though he was only 27 years old, Brian Moore could change hats from brother to boyfriend to buddy to teammate to father figure in an instant. Sometimes, he was all the above.

"He is, hands down, without question, the best person I have ever met," said Johnney McDonnell, a friend of Moore's for nearly 20 years.

Now, McDonnell and many others are mourning the Orillia man's death. Moore was killed Monday morning after a collision on Highway 400.

The OPP said Moore was driving a one-tonne flatbed truck, owned by Watson's Building Supply of Barrie, when it crashed into a rock cut at Georgian Bay Road at about 9 a.m. Moore was pronounced dead at the scene after firefighters extricated him and his passenger, 46-year-old Collingwood resident Timothy Vincent, who was treated and later released from hospital.

The incident is being investigated.

Everyone who spoke to The Packet & Times about Moore had so much praise for his character, they sometimes had trouble finding the words.

"He was the responsible one," McDonnell said. "He had a good head on his shoulders and was just a terrific human being."

McDonnell spoke about playing sports -- especially baseball -- with Moore since they were about eight and nine years old, respectively.

Moore played for the Barrie Red Sox before joining the Ivy Leaf's, the team for which he played until his death.

Even more affectionately, McDonnell recalled Moore's open-door, and open-heart, policy.

When McDonnell got a job in Barrie a couple of years ago, he had no place to stay. Moore had a place in Barrie and "was almost offended that I hadn't asked to stay with him," McDonnell said.

He stayed at Moore's house and even borrowed his clothes -- a friendly order from his pal.

McDonnell was at a shopping mall with friends when he got the call informing him of his childhood friend's death.

"At first, I didn't believe it," he said. "When it fully sunk in, I sort of collapsed onto a stool at the mall."

The close network of friends then converged on Moore's mother's home in Orillia.

Moore was to stand as Matt Bylow's best man at his wedding.

Both Moore and Bylow, who is also 27, proposed to their girlfriends on the same day -- Dec. 24, 2009.

"I can't say enough good things about the guy," said Bylow, who was friends with Moore for 17 years. "He was a brother to me. We were really close."

Moore often "stepped into the role" of father to his younger siblings -- a brother and sister -- while he was still, in a sense, a kid himself.

"He would give you the shirt off his back and his wallet at the same time," Bylow said.

Nicole Parkes, a close friend to both Moore and his fiancée, Lindsay Fox, was to be Fox's maid of honour.

Parkes met Moore while working at Zehrs in Orillia. She shared Bylow's connection to Moore.

"He was like a brother, and he's like that to a lot of people," Parkes said. "He was absolutely wonderful to his fiancée."

Moore was an active and outgoing guy, "not a do-nothing type of person," Parkes said.

"He'll be sadly missed by a lot of family and friends," she said.

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