



*"If you ever plan to motor west,
Travel my way, take the highway that is best.
Get your kicks on Route sixty-six."*

Donnie was a car guy. To him cars had a life, a soul, a living being. After Donnie met his wife, Debbie, 17 years ago, he purchased his first dream car, a 65 Impala SS in an evening orchid colour, then came the rebuild of a 1955 Chevrolet Belair.

Donnie would spend hours on his cars. He used this time to connect to his stepchildren. He was a wonderful mentor to them and, as Debbie describes him, "a beautiful stepdad to my children."

Many of you have probably heard of Route 66, one of the original highways from Chicago to California. To Donnie, this would be the ultimate cruise. He always kidded with Debbie that he'd want to grab a pair of shorts, his Route 66 shirt and a pair of moccasins and take that ultimate cruise.

In January of this past year, Donnie went to the hospital with flu-like symptoms. This began a 6 month stay in the hospital. On July 3, 2014, Don took his last test drive and left the track for his next divine cruise.

Debbie prepared a Celebration of Donnie's life and wanted to let us know how they celebrated Donnie's life. As he loved, adored and mostly understood the almighty car and Chevrolet in particular, Debbie had a theme of Route 66 since he wanted to go, sometime. He left Credit Valley hospital in a beach shirt, shorts, moccasins, and his Panama Jack hat to be ready to cruise down the highway in his favourite car wearing his comfy clothes. How lovely it was to make Donnie happy.

Debbie received support from Heart House Hospice during this season. When asked about her experience with hospice, Debbie was quick to say that asking for help isn't a negative or belittling thing. To her, it was about getting assistance to help her get through what she was going through. "It was so nice to have someone listen to me and to guide me in the ways that I needed. Anna visited with me once a week and helped me when I needed it. I feel truly blessed to have such a wonderful and loving lady be there to talk and cry with. I feel I did the best thing to have asked for help and have support. Thank you so very much for all that you have helped me with. It is so appreciated. You were one of my angels!"



Hospice is all about making the most of every moment. Our dedicated team of staff and volunteers offer care and support to individuals on their end of life journey so that they fully live during their end of life.

By supporting Heart House Hospice you can help other families like Donnie and Debbie's to get the support they need when they need it most.

Your gift goes immediately to work, helping other families cope with the suffering, confusion, doubts and fears that surrounding a palliative diagnosis and the death of a loved one.

Every gift is appreciated...and will do real good.

Will you please consider making a gift today in the enclosed envelope? Or, if you prefer you can make your gift immediately online at www.hearthousehospice.com.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Greer".

Theresa Greer
Executive Director
Heart House Hospice

**“One of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth doing
is what we do for others.”**

~ Lewis Carroll ~