



Deacon William MacNeil

November 21, 2025

Deacon William MacNeil

May 26, 2005 – November 21, 2025 It is with profoundly heavy hearts that we share the passing of our beloved son and brother, Deacon William MacNeil. Surrounded by family, he passed on November 21st at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center at age 20.

Deacon was incredibly proud of the work he did as a Tire Installer. As a manifestation of his passion for cars, this work was especially meaningful to him. He was always more than willing to share his knowledge with others and to help his teammates learn things as he had. He had an incredible work ethic and could always be counted on to step up. Unfortunately, due to his Epilepsy he was unable to truly realise his dream of driving.

His first love was cars, his second love was music (“Mom, why is your music sooooo much better than ours?!”), followed closely by “The Simpsons” television show. He had great musical intuition and feeling and loved listening to a very eclectic mix of genres and generations.

Deacon had a truly infectious spirit, a laughter and joy like no other. He was the most incredible and reliable friend. It was his second nature to put the needs of others before himself. This care expressed itself readily in the deep and profound friendships he cherished so greatly, finding exceptional fulfillment in simply being the best friend he could be. His generosity of spirit and care for others carries past his mortal presence on this earth. His #giftoflife allowed him to save the lives of four other people. His generous

donation means that four other young adults have received the #giftoflife and will go on to lead fruitful and productive lives when they would not otherwise have been able to. Honouring Deacon's unbridled compassion for others, please consider becoming an organ donor and speak with your family about your wishes.

Deacon leaves behind his sister, Madison MacNeil; his cherished parents Kathy Duncan and Paul Demy; his father Michael MacNeil, his grandmother Marlene (Norm), his aunts Jean (Wayne Doan) and Debbie (Brett Mitchell) and his beloved friends Emily and Ray Rietveldt; as well as his many extended family, friends, colleagues and teachers.

A Celebration of Deacon's life will follow at a later date.

Donations in Deacon's name may be made to Epilepsy York Region, Trillium Gift of Life, or Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

Tribute Wall

DN

“ Deacon was an amazing boy and one of a kind. He had the biggest heart and always put others ahead of himself...an old soul I had the privilege of working with him and supporting him at Regency Acres P.S. No matter what was happening in his life, he always had a hug and a smile for me. Deacon would come into the kindergarten pen while I was on duty and help with the little ones, who loved him. He would stand between me and Mrs. O and sing, "clowns to left, jokers to the right, here I am, stuck in the middle with you". It became our theme song. Mrs. O and I had been transferred before his graduation, but we made sure we came back, just for him. He sang that for us one last time. He also wrote a beautiful letter to us, which I still treasure today. Deacon will be greatly missed, but God has gained another angel. Debbie Nichol McDonald

Debbie Nichol - February 11 at 11:40 AM

KD

Thank you so very much for these lovely thoughts regarding Deacon Mrs. McDonald
Kathy

Kathy Duncan - February 12 at 10:13 AM

RM

“ I had the honour of teaching Deacon in elementary school, and was lucky enough to be able to offer him a safe space to hang out with friends, and to develop and explore his love of technology. Even at a young age, Deacon loved to help others and share his vast knowledge of music, robotics, cars.... There were many great conversations in the schoolyard, classroom and library. I'm heartbroken to hear of his passing, and know that everyone who knew him, will miss him dearly.



Robin Morrison-Claus - January 22 at 07:39 PM

KD

Thank you for these lovely words Robin. He certainly enjoyed the conversations with you!

Kathy Duncan - January 23 at 11:14 AM

RM

“ I'll forever be grateful for being best friends with Deacon since childhood. From kindergarten to adulthood, Deacon was always so caring. He was truly an amazing friend and my favorite birthday twin, and I'll never forget our friendship. I send my prayers and love to his family and friends.

Rylyn Munro - December 16, 2025 at 05:50 AM

KD

Our hearts go out to you Rylyn. Thank you very much for sharing your remembrance of Deacon. Kathy (Deacon's mom)

Kathy Duncan - December 16, 2025 at 10:20 AM

AM

“ *Sending my sincere condolences Kathy, to you and your family at the difficult time.*



Andrea Macdonald - December 09, 2025 at 08:19 PM

KD

Thank you so very much Andrea.

Kathy Duncan - December 10, 2025 at 05:33 PM

AG

“ *On behalf of the Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School Staff, I want to express my deepest condolences to Deacon's family. Deacon was a wonderful young man who had a great sense of humour and a warm personality. He brought positivity and laughter to those around him, and his outlook on life left a lasting impression on both his peers and teachers. We will always remember him and the genuine care he showed for his friends. Deacon's presence in our school community was truly valued, and his memory will continue to inspire us. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time.*



Andrew Gazaneo - December 08, 2025 at 11:24 AM

KD

Thank you so very much for this tribute to Deacon, Mr. Gazaneo.

Kathy Duncan - December 08, 2025 at 01:32 PM

KJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



KJ/kallen - December 07, 2025 at 12:09 AM

KD

Thank you very much for adding this lovely photo KJ. Kathy (Deacon's mom)

Kathy Duncan - December 08, 2025 at 07:45 AM

BM

“ *I had the pleasure to meet Deacon in high school. He was a great friend and he helped me a lot in auto class. My condolences to his family and friends.*

RIP Deacon ur gonna be missed by lots

Blake Mcconnell - December 06, 2025 at 11:53 PM

KD

Thank you Blake. These are lovely words. Kathy (Deacon's mom)

Kathy Duncan - December 08, 2025 at 07:44 AM

KA

“ I was fortunate enough to become close with Deacon in High School. We met in class in grade 9 and have been friends ever since. Deacon was always there for me when I needed a friend. Whether it was making me laugh with a joke he heard or hearing me out and consoling me when I was down. He was the most thoughtful, caring, and friendliest person around. Nothing stopped him from always trying to make people around him laugh. He was truly one of a kind, and I will forever be grateful for the memories I have with him. My deepest condolences to his family and friends. We love you, Deacon. Rest in peace.

Kani - December 05, 2025 at 04:54 PM

KD

Thank you for sharing these beautiful memories of Deacon. Kathy (Deacon's mom)

Kathy Duncan - December 05, 2025 at 06:29 PM

KD

Thank you Kani for those lovely memories. Kathy (Deacon's mom)

Kathy Duncan - December 06, 2025 at 05:44 AM

HM

“ I am devastated to hear about the passing of Deacon so suddenly. My son Colin grew up with Deacon since they were little. Both had a passion for cars and many other things. Please accept our family's heartfelt condolences.

Heidi Marsh - December 05, 2025 at 12:36 PM

KD

Thank you so very much for these wishes Heidi. Kathy

Kathy Duncan - December 05, 2025 at 06:29 PM

KD

Thank you very much Heidi.

Kathy Duncan - December 06, 2025 at 05:43 AM

PA

“ *I went to both elementary and high school with Deacon. He was truly one of the kindest people, and my heart goes out to his family.*

Parina - December 05, 2025 at 11:47 AM

KD

Thank you Parina for these wonderful words about Deacon. Kathy (Deacon's mom)

Kathy Duncan - December 05, 2025 at 06:30 PM

KD

Thank you for your beautiful words Parina. Kathy (Deacon's mom)

Kathy Duncan - December 06, 2025 at 05:44 AM

AK

“ *I'm truly saddened by this devastating loss... Dec was one of my guys at Canadian Tire Aurora, I liked him and mentored him, he expressed a real desire to join my race team this coming summer.. I send my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends, he will ride with me in spirit!!!*

Alan Kranczoch - December 04, 2025 at 09:57 PM

KD

Thank you Alan, for offering Deacon this wonderful opportunity and for keeping him close.

Kathy Duncan - December 06, 2025 at 05:45 AM

RR

“ Ray and Emily Rietvelt lit a candle in memory of Deacon MacNeil



Ray and Emily Rietvelt - December 04, 2025 at 06:01 PM

KD

Thank you Ray and Emily.

Kathy Duncan - December 06, 2025 at 05:45 AM

KM

“ I had the pleasure of knowing Deacon when he started high school. He was such a bright student with so much potential. Deacon would often drop by my office just to say "Hello" and have a quick chat about his day.

I am so sorry to hear of his passing. My thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.

Katrina Morrison - December 04, 2025 at 12:51 PM

KD

Thank you Katrina. He loved working with you.

Kathy Duncan - December 04, 2025 at 01:34 PM

PN

“ Kathy, Paul, Madison and Michael, my heart and prayers go out to all of you on the loss of a bright star in your lives. Deacon always had a way to make the day easier, funny and he was charming. Hold those memories close and find comfort in the love you all shared. With deepest sympathy, Patti and Natasha.

Patti-Lynn Nadrofsky - December 04, 2025 at 11:51 AM

KD

Thank you Patty and Natasha.

Kathy Duncan - December 04, 2025 at 01:34 PM

KD

“ *Kathy Duncan lit a candle in memory of Deacon MacNeil*



Kathy Duncan - December 03, 2025 at 03:32 PM

JH

Dear Cathy, I am so sorry for your loss. May God surround you with his blowing arms and hold you tight during this difficult time in your life be assured of our prayers for you and your family. I should grieve 'a life your loss.

John Harlton - December 04, 2025 at 10:09 AM

KD

Thank you so much for those words John.

Kathy Duncan - December 04, 2025 at 01:48 PM

HM

*Dear Kathy,
I am so sorry for your loss of a most sweet and caring son Deacon. Our boys grew up together. Please accept my heartfelt hugs and deepest condolences.*

Heidi Marsh - December 05, 2025 at 12:39 PM

KD

Thank you Heidi, for your beautiful words.

Kathy Duncan - December 07, 2025 at 08:15 AM