



## Donald Bell

November 3, 2022

With great sadness, we announce the loss of Donald Bell. After a difficult year fighting cancer, Don passed away peacefully at the age of 64 at Michael Garron Hospital in Toronto surrounded by his loving family on Thursday November 3rd 2022. Don is survived by his loving wife Tonnie (Maria), their children, son Jeff and daughter Michelle, his son-in-law Allistair, his brother and sisters, in-laws, nieces and nephews and cousins.

Born and raised in Lethbridge, Alberta, Don moved to Toronto in 1978 to pursue his music career. In his early years, he started drumming with Lilian Zlamal, Manon Luxenburg, Bob Johnson and Douglas Virgin known as Skyliner. They formed friendships that lasted a lifetime. Also, for many more years, he enjoyed drumming for “Dave Whalen and the Starlite Band.” Although music was his passion, Don also worked numerous day jobs to help support his family. Don married Tonnie in 1992 and had 30 wonderful years of making lasting memories. Together they travelled to the Netherlands (wife’s birthplace) on numerous occasions. He fell in love with the country and even took it upon himself to learn the language. Don was a role model to his kids and an amazing father figure. He loved his children unconditionally, encouraged them to follow their dreams, and helped them believe they could achieve anything. Don was a rock of stability and a source of strength for the whole family. Don was best known for his selflessness, his love of music and his dry sense of humour. Those who knew him considered him a true

gentleman. Don will be missed but never forgotten by those who loved him.

On behalf of our family, we would like to thank everyone who sent their condolences. We have received countless phone calls, texts, flowers, meals, visits and thoughts and prayers. They have been very comforting during this difficult time and have been a reminder of the impact Don had on so many others. Don was firm on his “no funeral, no service” wishes. We encourage everyone who is missing him to gather with family and friends, raise a glass and remember the good times you shared with Don.

The family would also like to thank the hospital staff at Michael Garron Hospital for Don’s care in his final days.

# Tribute Wall

MH

“ Happy Birthday my love. Today would have been your 65th. We love and miss you today and every day. In honor of your special day, we will be enjoying one of your favourite things.....sitting on the patio having a cold beer. 💕💕



Maria Harris - August 24, 2023 at 10:46 AM

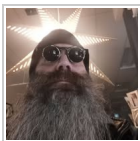
MH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

without you. We know how much you loved our house [so we decided before saying our final goodbye we'd lay you to rest in the garden. A new chapter begins and you will be there with us every step of the way! 💕💕💕



Maria Harris - June 18, 2023 at 05:25 PM



“ Just found this after Don didn't answer my Xmas text. Don was hands down the greatest supervisor I have ever worked with. We worked at Brunswick Bierworks together for about a year in a very tumultuous time in my life, and he was able to get me through it. That was only two and a half years ago, and it's very hard to accept that we won't be having a beer together any time soon. Question for the family, where is he buried (if anywhere)?

Scott Fitches - December 29, 2022 at 11:51 AM

MH

“ *There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in my heart.* ”



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**Maria Harris** - December 15, 2022 at 03:44 PM

SD

*Don was such a wonderful man and I was so happy for Tonnie when they met each other and fell in love. They were a great couple together and very supportive of each other. Don's passion was playing the drums and he did it every weekend but they also traveled together. He was a wonderful father to Michelle and Jeffrey. He never had a bad word to say about anybody and was such a gentleman. Anyone who met Don liked him, he was just that kind of guy, one of the good ones. We will miss Don and I feel privileged to have known him. My deepest condolences to Tonnie, Jeffrey, Michelle and the their families. Don will be forever missed but not forgotten.*

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**Suzan Deeder** - January 21, 2023 at 04:07 AM

MH

“ *Dons grade 9 Valedictory speech.* ”



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**Maria Harris** - November 16, 2022 at 06:56 PM

MS

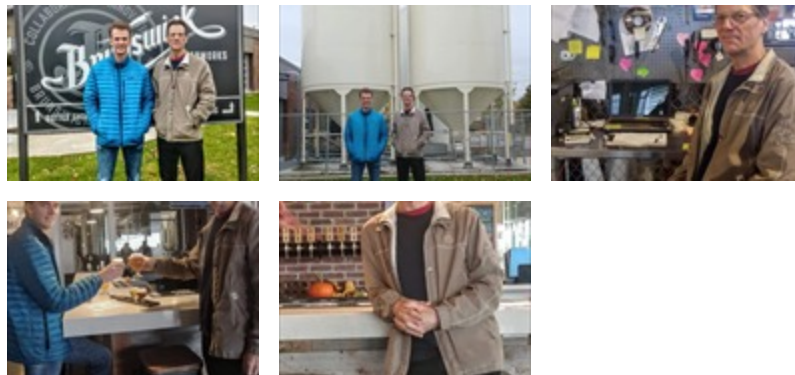
“ A couple more....an animal lover at heart and definitely not allergic!  
We all miss you!



Michelle Sweetzer - November 13, 2022 at 06:12 PM

MH

“ Don is giving his nephew the tour of Brunswick Brewery. This is  
where Don was employed until he became ill.



Maria Harris - November 11, 2022 at 06:33 AM

MH

“ I'd like to thank you all for the sympathy and kindness you have  
shown me and my family during this difficult time. I have finally had  
a chance to read all the messages and seen all the photos you have  
shared. Just know it gives me much comfort to know Don was loved  
by so many. ❤️

Maria Harris - November 09, 2022 at 07:26 PM

MH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Maria Harris** - November 09, 2022 at 05:26 PM

SH

*Just as I remember him from my years in Alberta...*

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**Sharlene Haussmann** - November 11, 2022 at 11:22 AM

MH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Maria Harris** - November 09, 2022 at 05:24 PM

RO

“ I met Don in the music program at Humber College and shared a condo rental with him for a time. I couldn't figure out how he could eat so much pasta and yet never gain weight. We would talk about life as a gigging musician and how tough it was to make a living - Don would often say to me "I just want to play drums". And he did. Very, very well.

I've met only a few so easy going and so deserving of a beautiful family. Over the years I didn't see him often but when we did we could pick up without missing a beat - no surprise. Our Charlie Watts of the Great White North - solid tempo, solid man - proud to call him a friend.

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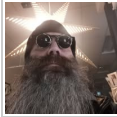
**robj** - November 09, 2022 at 12:58 PM

JR

Tonnie & family, So sorry to hear of Don's passing! Sending you our heartfull condolences. Cherish the precious memories you have. God bless you all! Jean & Don

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**Jean Roberts** - November 09, 2022 at 05:02 PM



Don and I would talk about Humber when he would help the stackers at the brewery. It was so great to reminisce. I am going to miss him.

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**Scott Fitches** - December 29, 2022 at 12:56 PM

MS

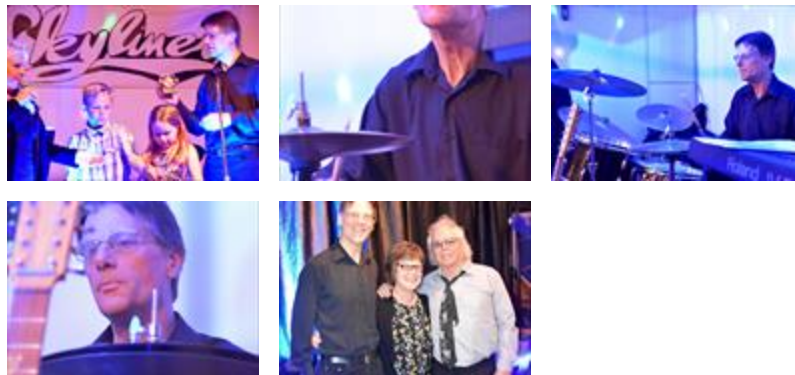
“ So many memories over the past 36 years I called this man dad! I wish I could share them all! ❤️👉 I miss you so much already ❤️👉



Michelle Sweetzer - November 08, 2022 at 11:52 AM

DV

“ Don was like family to Val and I. We will miss him dearly and send our love and prayers to Tonnie and the family!



Doug and Val Virgin - November 07, 2022 at 08:47 PM

MH

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



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**Maria Harris** - November 07, 2022 at 06:04 PM

NP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Nick Prozzo** - November 07, 2022 at 05:56 PM

SC

“ So sorry to hear about your father Michelle. Debbie and I send you and your family our deepest condolences. Sam and Debbie Crisolago.



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**Sam and Debbie Crisolago** - November 07, 2022 at 05:02 PM

MS

“ Hard to announce the passing of my Dad Donald Bell. Not my dad by birth but truly the dad I needed in life. The smartest and most selfless man I've ever known and losing him and the ability to turn to him for anything hurts the most. He was my rock. He was my Don Don. Love you more than more ❤️



Michelle Sweetzer - November 07, 2022 at 02:38 PM

MW

*I am so very sorry for your loss. My deepest condolences to your whole family and friends. I knew your dad for over 25 years, he was a kind caring soul. Rest in peace my friend*

Maggie walsh - November 07, 2022 at 05:43 PM

MN

*such a shame that Don has lost the battle against cancer, but on the other hand also glad that he was spared further pain. Don was a loving person to others, sometimes way too sweet... We will miss him and Tonnie, know that we are always there for you, always! Rest in peace Don and Tonnie, my deepest condolences on the loss of your loved one. Lodewijk & Margit*

Margit te Nijenhuis - November 09, 2022 at 10:02 AM

MH

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



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**Maria Harris** - November 07, 2022 at 10:23 AM

MH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Maria Harris** - November 07, 2022 at 10:19 AM

MH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Maria Harris** - November 07, 2022 at 10:17 AM

MH

*Rest in Peace my Love. You have earned it. ❤️*

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**Maria Harris** - November 07, 2022 at 12:34 PM

MH

“ 24 files added to the tribute wall



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**Maria Harris** - November 07, 2022 at 10:16 AM