



## Donald James Heber

September 24, 1948 - March 27, 2026

Don passed away suddenly at the Cross Cancer Institute on March 27, 2026 at the age of 77 years after making a valiant effort to battle cancer. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Debbie, their children Donnie (Claudia) Heber and Danielle (Vern) Sroka as well as 5 grandchildren Camila Heber, Maya Sroka, Lily Sroka, Lorenzo Heber and Hali Sroka.

He is Also survived by his siblings; Eileen (George) Merik, Jean Hendrickson, Arthur (Betty) Heber, Walter Heber, Carol (Ron) Marion, Ronald (Bonnie) Heber, Kenneth Heber and numerous nieces and nephews.

Don was predeceased by his parents Joseph and Mary Heber as well as his twin brothers Douglas Heber and David Heber. His brother-in-law Ron Hendrickson had also passed.

Don was born in Viking, Alberta on September 24, 1948 to Mary and Joseph Heber. Don grew up in Bruce experiencing many mischievous adventures as well as making numerous lifelong friendships.

As Don matured, he continued his mischievousness and practice of making new friends

wherever he went. He was a hard worker and tried his hand at many things before settling on a career in hotel management.

In 1975, Don married Debbie Rae Szakacs and went on to have two children, Donnie and Danielle.

Don and Debbie spent their first year of marriage in Lamont where they had met when they both worked for Lamco Gas Co-op Ltd. In 1976, they moved to Onoway to manage the Onoway Hotel. They remained in Onoway raising their family and running the hotel for 23 years, selling the hotel in 1999. After that, they spent almost two years in Rainbow Lake managing the Rainbow Inn. From there, the next stop was the Park Hotel in Wainwright until Don retired in 2011.

Don spent his retirement in Edmonton the same way he spent his youth; being mischievous, making friends and being sociable.

Our thanks to all of you who visited, who checked-in and who helped keep his spirits up. All of you provided Don with the socializing he always loved. We owe special gratitude to the doctors, the nurses and the staff of the Cross Cancer Institute. The kindness and care we received was extraordinary. They are true angels of care. Thank you.

The Celebration of Life will be celebrated at the Bruce Community Centre on April 25, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. with interment to follow at the Bruce Cemetery.

If friends so desire in lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made directly to the Canadian Cancer Society or a charity of their own choosing.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR **25**. 1:00 PM (MT)

Bruce Community Hall  
404 Main Street  
Bruce, AB T0B 0B7 (CA)

# Tribute Wall

DH

“ 1 file added to the album *A\_Tribute\_to\_Don*

A TRUE SPORTS FAN:  
FLAMES AND CHIEFS



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**Dhamo** - April 23 at 12:57 AM

VE

*We miss him so much, he truly was a wonderful person. Going through the album, we could deeply feel his absence. Thank you for capturing such beautiful memories and sharing this heartfelt tribute with all of us.*

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**Veena** - April 23 at 08:06 PM

GI

“ *So sorry to hear about Uncle Donny. Even after all these years, I still think about how much fun visits with him and Auntie Debbie were. They were such generous people and he meant a lot to me as an Uncle. My thoughts are with you all. He will be missed. Niece Gillian*

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**Gillian** - April 09 at 11:21 AM

EM

“ *Eileen:  
Donnie my little brother was a kind caring man always around helping out. He did this all his life. Our family lost someone who was a great fellow. We had a lot of fun growing up and getting into mischief. I will always have a special place in my heart for him. PS We will be together one day.  
Eileen & George Merik*

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**Eileen Merik** - April 07 at 05:44 PM

BE

“ Art and I would like to send our sincerest condolences to Debbie and the kids. Art will always remember Donnie for the yearly visits to see another old timer from Bruce, Bernie Franus. I will always remember Donnie because he would stop by My Pizza Place at least three or four times a week to visit and I would see him at Walmart quite often. He really did make the best perogies. We will always miss Donnie and our thoughts will always be with you Debbie. Art and Betty Heber

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**Betty** - April 06 at 05:54 PM

MD

“ Offering our sincerest condolences to Debbie and the kids. We understand fully when it is said that Don was full of mischief as being a part of the Monday night volleyball team we would venture out to the Onoway hotel pub to visit when Don managed the bar and quench our thirst. One night of many we wanted to stay longer than Donnie wanted to be there and begged for just one more round he agreed but with one condition that we made it worth his while and we ordered a double, we looked at each other and decided ok your on order us a double then. He was surprised and said we were as crazy as he was and we laughed at that ever since! Donnie had a great smile and sense of humour and could be a grump at times when we got there but he always snapped out of it and treated us like a best friend in the end., so cheers Don heres to a double for you, may you smile down upon us when we do and may you rest in peace now.

Martine and Dale ( and Im sure the Monday night Volleyball group ).



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**Martine and Dale** - April 06 at 01:39 PM

CM

“ Ron and I have lots of memories of Donnie. Every New Yearsday Donnie and Debbie put on Hugh meal for families and friends. Talking of Donnie's pyrogies every year at Christmas time Donnie would bring us 10 dozen the best ever. our coffee times together we shared many laughs. Donnie was so kind and thoughtful We shall all miss him very much Ron and Carol Marion

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**Carol Marion** - April 06 at 09:25 AM

DM

“ I have many memories of Uncle Donnie. Meeting Debbie and her family in Lamont many many years ago. Visiting Donnie and Debbie at the Onoway hotel before they had their children. So much fun playing shuffleboard. After their children were born, I remember eating the best pyrogies ever and playing outside with their 2 and us 3. We were pretty loud. Later, I had my first beverage in a bar at the Onoway hotel. Only good memories. A kind and hospitable uncle. I am sorry for your loss.

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**Desiree MacArthur** - April 04 at 10:46 AM

GM

“ Sending our condolences. We are so sorry for your loss. My fondest memories of Uncle Donnie were at the Onoway Hotel. He and my Auntie Debbie always made our visits special. My sisters and I “helped out” in the hotel during closed hours, and always enjoyed great food and fun for the rest of the stay! They were always so generous to all. Sending our love and prayers, George and Linda Merik and Family.

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**George Merik** - April 04 at 10:14 AM