

## Donald Joseph O'Hearn

February 20, 1928 - November 17, 2024

Donald "Don" O'Hearn (96) It is with heavy hearts that we, his grandchildren, announce that our grandfather, Donald "Don" O'Hearn passed away peacefully, at home, November 17th, 2024. Born February 20, 1928 in Dartmouth, Don was the son of the late Martin and Monica (Ryan) O'Hearn.

With his family home just steps to the #2 tee, one could argue that Don O'Hearn was born with a golf club in hand. Brightwood would become a place that would provide him with stories and memories, countless lifelong friendships and accomplishments that he would share with his family. These experiences would eventually earn him the title "The Legend" .

While working as a caddy at age 9, Don played his first few holes by sneaking back on the course with his buddies after work. He became a member of the club at age sixteen and won the club championship at thirty; in fact, between the O'Hearn brothers, the O'Hearn name was on the Club Championship board three times between 1956 and 1960. Don played his first Nova Scotia Amateur in 1957 and in 1963; he won, setting a Brightwood course record.

As a senior golfer, Don played in the Nova Scotia Men's Senior Championships numerous times, taking the number one spot in 1983 and 1991. Don and his brother Gabby were the first brothers to ever win the Nova Scotia Senior Four Ball Championships when they teamed up together in

1989.

After retiring from the provincial government as a pipe and steam fitter; Don had more time to enjoy his passion and continued into his nineties, playing three times weekly with friends.

There were two things that could always be counted on; lots of laughs and a little cash being on the line. Don had a quick wit and a great sense of humor.

Don is survived by his wife of 31 years Jeannine (Raftus); grandchildren Krista (Demetrius), Jason (Katie), Jeffrey, their father Bill (Barb). He is also survived by Bill and Barb's children Josh (Becky) and Liam (Shataya), siblings; Lawrence "Butch", Janet Feener (Keith), Rosemarie Masters (Alfred), Monica Nightingale, Theresa Orton and sister in law Cecelia along with many nieces and nephews. "Grampy with the stripes" will also be missed by his great-grandchildren Taylor, Bronwyn, Maddux, Iris, Braden, Ryker, Hollie and Tucker who always enjoyed their visits with Great Grampy and Nanny Jeannine.

Don was also very close with Jeannine's children; Colleen, Richard (Holly), Louise, Stuart (Tracey), Jeannie (Les), Michelle and all of their families, with whom he shared many happy memories

Besides his parents; Don was predeceased by his first wife, our grandmother, Dorothy (Malay); brothers Clarence "Gabby" and Bernard, sisters Joan, Dorothy and Catherine.

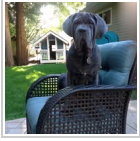
To us, his grandchildren, words can't express what Grampy meant to us; he was a mentor, father figure, and always there with a listening ear to provide guidance and support.

We would like to thank personal caregivers Harpreet Kaur, and Samson Dosu as well as the doctors, nurses and staff at the Dartmouth General hospital. In

lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations to First Tee- Atlantic to help to grow the game that Don loved so much! Donations in Don's memory can be made online at <http://firstteeatlantic.ca/giving> or to a charity of your choice.

Cremation has taken place. A funeral mass for Don will be held Tuesday, November 26th at 11 o'clock at St Peter's Catholic Church, 10 Maple Street, Dartmouth, NS with Archbishop Martin Currie officiating. We would like to invite friends and family to a reception to celebrate "The Legend" at Brightwood Golf and Country Club from 1- 3pm following the service.

# Tribute Wall



“ *My condolences to the family.*

*Some of my fondest childhood memories were playing golf with Jason daily in the summers at Brightwood. Don's door was always open for us after a round or if we had gotten rained out. Numerous times he would walk the front 9 with us and practice only scrambling shots while sharing his approach and mindset to playing these shots. Thank you for treating me like one of your grandchildren*

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**George McNeill** - December 04, 2024 at 09:34 AM

RM

“ *Uncle Don.*

*Sincere condolences to all of your family. With Aunt Dorothy and later with Jeannine, they were focused on the immediate and extended family in their lives.*

*Quick with his wit, Uncle Don had a lifetime attachment to golf and was known both to his peers and to fans as a capable competitor. Perhaps lesser known was his fascination with antique pendulum clocks. It was always time on the hour somewhere at 8 Frederick St.*

*He will be well remembered.*

*Robert and Avril Malay.  
Sydney NS*

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**Robert and Avril Malay** - December 04, 2024 at 08:32 AM

SL

“ Michelle my thoughts are with you and your family today. I only met him a couple of times but in those times he was such a "gentleman".  
Sheila

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**Sheila Lacey** - November 26, 2024 at 08:20 AM

MS

“ I always loved seeing the Legend coming across 16 fairway to watch us play out on 10 green!  
Guaranteed recent news and a good chuckle!! -RIP "Da"  
Our sincerest condolences to the O'Hearn families..  
Donna Smith, Brian, Gordon and Ian and families

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**Moon Smith** - November 25, 2024 at 10:11 PM

LH

“ Our condolences to the O'Hearn family on Don's death. He was someone you could always have a nice conversation with. He lived a good long life. RIP Don.

Lyndell and Mike Hornby

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**Lyndell and Mike Hornby** - November 25, 2024 at 08:33 PM

RW

“ We only knew Don since coming to Brightwood, but knew of his "legend" status before 2011. I was lucky enough to play golf with him and was better off for the time spent. So many stories and always with kind intent. Someday we'll all ketch up to you. Please keep spots open for the rest of us Don.

Betty and Richard Wile

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**Richard Wile** - November 25, 2024 at 01:31 PM

PR

“ Our sincere condolences to all of Don's family. He was a pleasure to play golf with and a true gentleman. Yes he will be missed.  
Janet & Peter Randall

Peter Randall - November 25, 2024 at 01:13 PM

JL

“ So very sorry to hear of Don's passing and sincere thoughts and prayers to all the family. We share many enjoyable memories of times spent in his company. Dave always said he could still remember his “64” in the “Amateur” He and Jeannine will always be thought of with love in our hearts. Dave and Joyce Larisey

joyce larisey - November 25, 2024 at 09:52 AM

TO

A terrific golfer and fine gentleman. When you think of Brightwood Golf Club I don't think anyone could shoot their age as long as Don did. Truly a legend  
Tom Osborne  
Tom Osborne

Tom Osborne - November 25, 2024 at 11:45 AM

JO

“ Dear Jeannine and Family: We were so saddened to hear of Don's passing. Aside from being a cousin, he was a friend and it was always a treat to meet up with him and his pleasant witty personality. He will dearly be missed.  
Sincere Condolences  
John and Estelle



John O'Hearn - November 24, 2024 at 04:30 PM

BW

“ At a junior clinic in the ear ly 60s dow showed me how to grip a club . A great fellow to play golf with and be around.rip leggie.

Bob webber - November 24, 2024 at 10:19 AM

MC

“ So sorry to hear of Don's passing... A true legend at Brightwood !!

Mike currie - November 23, 2024 at 09:18 AM

LD

“ My sincere condolences to the O'Hearn family. I always enjoyed running into Donald out doing errands and having a chat and a laugh. He always had a smile.  
I hope Donald includes my husband Earl in a game of golf with some old friends.

Lorraine Davis

LORRAINE DAVIS - November 22, 2024 at 08:18 PM

RF

“ Condolences to the OHearns and extended family ..Ron Fagan

Ron Fagan - November 22, 2024 at 03:30 PM

SM

“ I have many memories of Uncle Don. His since of humour was always welcome. I remember his visits to Sheet Harbour to visit family with Aunt Dorothy. He always had a club or 12 stached in the truck of his car so he could tee off from the back yard and launch a ball or two into the harbour. He will be remembered.

Stephen J. Malay - November 22, 2024 at 10:09 AM

KF

“ So sorry to hear the passing of my Godfather Don. We had lots of laughs at the Fagan household over the years God Bless him. Keith Fagan

keith fagan - November 22, 2024 at 08:56 AM

JO

“ Sending love and prayers to Don’s extended family! Don was a pleasure to spend time with! Ron and Joanne

joanne - November 22, 2024 at 06:41 AM

BB

“ Don was always smiling. He was so kind visiting when Mom was sick and also when I worked at Motor Vehicle. He would always say something funny. RIP

Babs Berger - November 21, 2024 at 07:56 PM

JB

“ My sincere condolences to Don’s family. Such a sweet man, always with a smile and something happy to say. Enjoyed running into he and Jeannine.

Judy Boutilier - November 21, 2024 at 07:32 PM

PF

Lawrence and Family,  
So sorry for your loss.  
Don was a true gentleman.  
Paul Finlay

Paul Finlay - November 22, 2024 at 11:20 AM

ST

*As a next door neighbour to Don for most of my life, I have many stories and fond memories. He was a very kind person, great friend and a wonderful story teller. So sorry to hear of Don's passing. My condolences to Jeannine and family. I am sure that Don, by now, has already shot his best round ever in heaven.*

*Stephen Taggart*

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**Stephen Taggart** - November 22, 2024 at 02:36 PM

JD

*Sincere condolences to all the family as along time member of Brightwood I knew Don and partnered with him in the Provincial four ball a few times Don was a great person and a great student of the game he will be missed by all.*

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**Jerry Daniels** - November 22, 2024 at 05:55 PM

MC

*I have known Don for over 25 years at Brightwood Golf Club. I played many games of golf with him and really enjoyed the experience especially when you missed a shot or putt Don would say "that's a shame" . He was a great person and will truly be missed.*

*Mike Cousens*

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**Mike Cousens** - November 22, 2024 at 09:18 PM

LC

*Sincere condolences to the O'Hearn family. Please know that others are thinking of you at this difficult time.*

*Larry & Dawn Cullen*

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**Larry & Dawn Cullen** - November 23, 2024 at 10:44 AM

BW

*I am so sorry to hear of Don's passing. He was a great friend and a wonderful golf companion through the years. I will greatly miss him*

*Brian Watkins*

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**Brian Watkins** - November 23, 2024 at 01:53 PM

CB

*Condolences to the O,Hearn family. Fond memory of Don when he was crossing 16th fairway at Brightwood on his way home.I told him on the tee I was going to hit a 4and one half wood and 7 iron and eagle the hole.DON followed to the top of hill and he watched as I EAGLED THE HOLE. GREAT GUY. Charlie Baldwin*

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**Charlie Baldwin** - November 23, 2024 at 02:46 PM

VB

*Sad to hear of Don's passing! I have such fond memories of Don, the man with the forever smile. Always so genuine! My sincere condolences to all the O'Hearn family. - Veronica (Clarke) Brown*

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**Veronica (Clarke) Brown** - November 23, 2024 at 04:22 PM

JR

*Don was a great guy and it was always a treat over the when I would see him at Brightwood. I remember him shooting 64 in the Ns Amateur back in the 60s and his chuckle and good humour contributed greatly to his Legendary status!*

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**john randles** - November 23, 2024 at 06:14 PM

BD

*We were so sorry for your loss of a very old friend of ours for close to 60 years. Always a True Gentleman. Seldom changed he pleasant personality. Our Very Sincere Condolences to all the O'Hearn's Families.*

*Bill and Sharon Duncan*

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**Bill Duncan** - November 23, 2024 at 10:52 PM

AK

*As a cousin and friend of Donald's it was always a delight to meet and chat with him. Condolences to Jeanine, sisters and all O'Hearn family.He was a good man.*

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**Agnes Keeler** - November 24, 2024 at 11:39 AM

LA

*My condolences to the Ohearn family.I knew Don years ago when i was a Brightwood member and when we both played golf provincially and Nationally.Better still my late wife,Barbara{Smith{Marsh and Don grew up on Thistle St in Dartmouth and whenever they met he was so gracious to her and spoke to her with gentleness and kindness and she liked that.Rest in peace Don, your in God"s hands now.*

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**LarryMarsh** - November 24, 2024 at 06:26 PM

JM

*To know Don was to love him. Always happy to see you, he was witty and wise. He will be missed but those of us who were lucky enough to know him have lots of fond memories. Our sympathies to those who loved him best.*

*Frank and Janice Mason*

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**Janice Mason** - November 25, 2024 at 03:13 PM

JD

*Don was always a pleasure to play with and Brightwood has lost our true Legend..He will be missed by many.*

*Condolences to the O'hearn family.*

*Jack and Connie Driscoll*

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**John Driscoll** - November 25, 2024 at 06:27 PM