



# LET'S RIDE THE 66

AN INITIATIVE BY MARTIN MARCHAND

For the benefit of



La Maison  
Adhémar-Dion  
Centre de soins palliatifs

My name is Martin Marchand. The project to ride Route 66 was a dream. To show just how much I had accomplished over the past 50 years. Never had I thought that it would become a fundraiser instead.

## **Our Story**

On September 11th, 2023, my better half, my love, the mother of our four kids passed away due to raging brain cancer. Nothing had led us to predict such a scenario.

Even if a few months prior, life had already started throwing obstacles our way, getting us ready to conquer any challenges to come, our love was and will always be unconditional.

On the morning of June 3rd, 2023, we agreed to plant flowers together. At that moment, we had to bring evidence that something was very wrong. In the months prior, our family had started noticing behavioural changes, but at the time, we always had a reason that explained those changes. It's at that time that, out of precaution, we decided to head to the hospital for a check-up. Throughout the evening, the bad news hit : glioblastoma tumor had spread throughout the brain. It was around midnight when her left side was completely paralyzed, which would forever make her unable to walk. The prognosis was 24 to 48 hours. I immediately asked for her to be transferred to CHUM, where she would benefit from the best specialists, receive the best care, and have every possible maneuver needed for her specific situation.

Despite everything and without having spared any efforts, life brought us back to reality and its destiny. The doctors from the CHUM then admitted her to palliative care.

Being a resident of Terrebonne, we had to travel day and night. It is safe to say that it took us approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes to be by her side. That is when we decided to take a load off our shoulders and face the long waiting list for "*La Maison de Soins Palliatifs Adhémar-Dion*".

Once admitted, she received the best care and attention possible. Being their mission, our families were also able to count on the unwavering support from all the staff members and volunteers. I was surprised and touched to see so many people involved and committed. It's thanks to this incredible establishment offering a family-friendly and Zen environment that we were able to benefit from their knowledge and comfort to accompany my wife on her end-of-life journey.

Prior to her departure, Geneviève and I had discussed my intentions to use Route 66 as a pilgrimage. It was then that I promised her she'd be with me the entire trip in the form of a jewel. Our discussions were also often focused on being grateful towards her care home, Adhémard-Dion. That's when I came up with combining the two.

### ***The Project***

*"Let's ride the 66"* was born in Geneviève Beausoleil's memory. I decided to do my part, my way, in order to help others benefit from the home the same way we did. The Adhémard-Dion home is a private and busy care home filled with hard workers and volunteers that need donations, fundraisers and charitable events in order to keep offering such amazing care.

Both passionate of Harley Davidson, in 2020, Geny and I joined the HOG association in Repentigny. (Harley Owner Groups) This international association aims to promote fraternity, group relationships and security. Each year, HOG Repentigny endorses multiple causes and this year, *"Let's ride the 66"* is one of them.

*"Let's ride the 66"* has for goal to make the round trip from *"La Maison de Soins Palliatifs Adhémard-Dion"* in Terrebonne, Quebec, Canada to Santa Monica California, riding Route 66. Riding approximately 13 000km in a month and counting multiple detours on my way back home.

To promote this activity, I plan on stopping in a few Harley shops, as well as three firehouses. (Chicago, Oklahoma and Los Angeles) as I am myself a firefighter for the city of Terrebonne, Quebec and it's meaningful for me to meet them on this long journey as they are fully aware of this project.

### ***How to Help***

The concept is that people can join me virtually by donating.

(1\$ = 1km) The total amount of donations will be directly generated by the Adhémar-Dion website. No money from these donations will be used to finance my trip.

- ★ Donations exceeding 10\$, will get an income tax receipt from the care home.
- ★ All donations are welcome from corporations and first responders stations of all regions. (Your logo will be shared on the "Let's ride the 66" facebook page)
- ★ Anonymous donations are also possible.

### ***During my trip***

For those who would like to follow me on my trip, my location as well as pictures, videos and stories will be posted on the "Let's ride the 66" facebook page.

### ***The Departure***

On August 25th, 2024, I will be leaving the Adhémar-Dion home, followed by my fellow HOG members to the American border, where I will then make my way to Santa Monica alone.

There will be a facebook live the day of the departure.

I want to thank everyone who took the time to read these lines and hope to meet you all personally or virtually.

Thank you,

Mart.

