

LEGACY PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM

A love story, captured in photos



When Mary Ev talks about how she met Cliff, she remembers the exact date: April 23, 1972.

She was 19, finishing her first year at McMaster University and supposed to be home studying. Instead, she decided to take the night off and go play cards on Hamilton Mountain.

That night, she boarded the Upper Wentworth bus. Cliff was driving.

He was a fairly new bus driver at the time and did not have a regular route yet. They talked on the way up the mountain, then crossed paths again when Mary Ev caught his bus on the way home.

"There was just something about him," Mary Ev said. "I felt like I'd known him for a long time already."

By the time they reached Gage Park, Mary Ev worked up the courage to ask if he would like some company for a little while. "He always says, when he tells the story, 'I nearly fell out of my seat,'" she said.

She called her mother so she would not worry, then rode around on the bus with Cliff until his shift was done. Afterward, he walked her home.

That was the beginning.

Fifty-four years later, Mary Ev and Cliff are still together, still holding hands and still marking the date they met as something special. While their wedding anniversary is in September, Mary Ev said they have always celebrated their "busversary" more.

"It was more special to us," she said.

Cliff, a resident at Dr. Kemp's House, and his wife, Mary Ev, have become the first family to take part in the new Legacy Photography Program.

The program gives residents and their loved ones the opportunity to take part in a photography session at no cost. The goal is to create meaningful keepsakes that capture connection, love and presence during an important time.

For Mary Ev, the session was beautiful because it gave them a chance to look back.

"We got to relive a lot of memories," she said. "Then and now." Mary Ev and Cliff also looked back at photos from different moments in their life, including Cliff's years as a bus driver and the day he retired 28 years later. The new photos now become part of that same story.

When asked what the photos will mean to their family, Mary Ev said she hopes they will be something loved ones can look back on with gratitude.

"Pictures are precious," she said. "I love looking back at pictures. They bring back memories, especially then-and-now ones." The session was coordinated by Kayla Dennahower, with photography provided by volunteer [Lisa MacIntosh](#), who brings experience in legacy photography and a gentle, compassionate approach to each session.

For Mary Ev and Cliff, the photos captured something simple and lasting: a life together, built through many years, many memories and the comfort of still being side by side.

When Cliff was asked what he loves most about Mary Ev, he did not need many words.

"All," he said.

For Mary Ev and Cliff, that love has been held with care at Dr. Kemp's House. They said they are deeply grateful for the kindness and support they have received, and for the staff who have helped make a very difficult time more bearable. Cliff feels forever blessed that he and Mary Ev have been able to spend this final chapter together in such a beautiful home.

The Legacy Photography Program is one more way Kemp Care Network supports residents and families through serious illness, end of life and remembrance, helping them hold onto connection in a way that feels meaningful to them.