

My GTO

By Mike Ewens



My interests in GTO's began on Easter Sunday 2005 when my grandpa brought home a 1966 GTO from Wisconsin. I was 18 years old and totally into cars. He previously owned a 1931 Ford Model A pick up truck which had been made into a hotrod. It paled in comparison to this GTO. It was finally what I wanted him to get a "MUSCLE CAR"!

I started attending Lewis and Clark Tech School in my junior year of high school. I took classes in auto mechanics, welding and auto body, I couldn't get enough knowledge to satisfy my infatuation with cars. Because of my interests in cars I was always in the garage with my grandpa fixing and modifying anything we could.

My first car was a 1991 Ford Escort black with one blue front fender and a 1992 engine. It was a "BEAST". Unlike my grandpa I did not share his enthusiasm with Ford and promptly blew out the transmission. The escort was traded in towards a new truck for my dad and I became the proud owner of a 1995 Dodge Ram pickup truck with \$3000 worth of hail damage. It was my baby and first project. I did numerous repairs and modification witch included fixing all the hail damage, lowering the truck, installing a custom flamed headliner and untold amounts of audio work all with a helping hand from my grandpa.

In the summer of 2007 I purchased my first band new vehicle. It was a 2007 Dodge Ram (my

first V8). I didn't waste anytime adding my own personal touches to it. Which included new wheels and tires, lowering, a shaved tailgate and as many performance parts as I could afford. 4.56 gears, intake and tune were just a few of the many things I improved. This truck was my pride and joy. In 2008 I attended my first official GTO Club outing it was the First Annual Drag Day. This was the first time down the track for my grandpa and I. Not only was it his life long dream it was mine as well. We even got to race against each other. Although by no means were we the fastest



there that day in our eyes we had the most fun. I even got my mom to take my truck down the track but little did I know she was a gear head from way back. After the drag races grandpa and I had more work to do on his car because it was never up to his standards.

In March of 2009 after a long struggle my grandpa passed away. This was the most difficult time of my life. Grandma almost immediately started talking about selling the GTO, which upset the whole family. We couldn't stand the thought of not having the GTO in the family or being a part of the GTO club because it meant so much to him. I began my search for a newer GTO since it would become my daily driver. It took me 2 weeks to find the only red 06 within 100 miles. On April 15th 2009 I purchased a 2006 GTO in arrest me red (torrid). Not long after that I became a member of the Gateway GTO Club.

The very same week I purchased the car I had it in the shop getting the windows tinted. Since then I have only done mods within my budget. The first upgrades I did on the car was the rear springs and the exhaust but then there was something I had to get out of the way before further modifications would be allowed. On November 24th 2009 while sitting in the driveway at my house in my beloved GTO I asked Kathleen to marry me. She of course said yes. I think the car had something to do with her answer. In the months since I have installed a cold air intake, upgraded pads and rotors all around and I finally got my Dyno Tune done. After seeing the satis-

fying results I still have many modifications and big plans for this car. But I have two more minor details to take care of first one of which becoming a new homeowner and the second getting married. Since joining the Gateway GTO Club my mom has also become a member driving my grandpas 1966 GTO. We thoroughly enjoy spending time at club events with our family and other members. We look forward to many more years with the club and that grandma forgets about selling the 66.

