

Louis Knavs Obituary

Peacefully, surrounded by his family, Louis Knavs passed away on January 19, 2024 after a brief illness at the remarkable age of 95.

Predeceased by his wife Mary (nee Sircelj). Loving father of Anne, Alex and his wife Elaine and Doris and her husband Jeff Plunkett. He will be sadly missed by his grandchildren Erin (Travis), Michael (Sarah), Stellan (Michael), Kristen, Amy (Anthony) and Jaclyn, five great-grandchildren and surviving sisters Angela (Cleveland) and Vera (Slovenia).

Dad grew up in Hrib-Loški Potok, Slovenia, the eldest son of twelve children. He loved taking care of the family's horses and other animals, but at the age of twelve was forced to leave home to work as a stable boy for a family in Cerknica. When the war ended in 1945, he fled to Austria where he spent his prime teenage years in a refugee camp. Although the hardships were many, he developed his skills and education, and formed friendships that would last a lifetime.

He eventually boarded a ship to Halifax in 1948, arriving at Pier 21 to begin his new life as a Canadian citizen. For the first two years, he worked on the railroad in Quebec where he enjoyed working outdoors and regular meals. Eventually he made his way to Toronto, where he kept close ties with the Slovenian community, married Mary and started a family. He first worked as a barber, but was happier working in construction. In the early years he also often spent his evenings and weekends cutting his friends' hair and fixing their plumbing. He went on to become an accomplished plumber who led many large projects as a foreman.

Dad was a weekend carpenter, electrician, and mechanic who could build anything and fix anything. He could usually be found in the workshop or garage, busy on his current project. If he didn't know how to do something, he would learn. A good steak and a glass of wine was always appreciated after a day's work.

He enjoyed time spent with family and friends, whether at church events, at the Slovenian Summer Camp, or vacationing in Florida for the winter. He eventually bought a special place of his own, an island property on Kahshe Lake in Muskoka, where his knowledge and expertise was invaluable to Alex while building the family cottage.

Dad, despite the many challenges in your life, you worked hard, provided us with a good life and enjoyed every day passionately. Thank you. You will be dearly missed.

Special thanks to Dorothy, Louis' caregiver, who was so important to his health and happiness in the past year.

A donation to a charity of your choice would be appreciated in lieu of flowers.

Anne, Alex and Doris

Family and friends are invited to Ridley Funeral Home on Thursday, January 25th from 4pm to 8pm for visitation. A Funeral Service will be held on Friday, January 26th at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church at 11am, followed by a reception at the Trident Banquet Hall (145 Evans Ave. #200, Etobicoke, ON M8Z 5X8). Burial at Assumption Catholic Cemetery will follow the reception.