

Osredkar Frank Eulogy

Good morning,

On behalf of our mother, Miriam & myself, and our families, we would like to thank you all for your support. It means so much to us all, and would have meant a great deal to our father. Our father was born January 15, 1925 in Skofja Loka, Slovenia. He lived there until he was 15 years old. He began to study engineering in Maribor, then later in Ljubljana. With the onset of WW2, Dad was captured and imprisoned many times; he was lucky to survive typhoid and other devastations of war. He made the decision to come to Canada and in 1950 travelled by ship across the Atlantic. While crossing, he met his best friend for life, Ludvik Stajan. They landed together in Halifax at Pier 21 and journeyed to Kapuskasing, Ontario, where they worked as lumberjacks. Our father often mentioned that they could eat all the bacon and eggs they wanted. After being hungry so many times ... this was heavenly. Ludvik's girl was in Toronto living with her sister. He introduced Dad to Mara Tratnik and the rest is history. They were married by Father Kolaric in 1953. In 1954, Miriam was born, and I followed 10 years later.

To support his growing family, Ata worked at the Ford plant in Oakville. In the evening, he studied architectural design at Central Tech in Toronto. Miriam remembers Dad drawing on the kitchen table and when it was dinnertime, our Mother covering his drawings with a thick plastic sheet. Eventually, architecture became his career. Dad started designing for many Slovenian builders (Kastelic, Ferkul, Kavcic and Jereb) and from there his client base grew. He designed the renovation of our church hall and some of the Slovenian farms 'dvorane'.

Dad was very active in the Slovenian church and community. He devoted many hours to supporting the growth of the church; he was a member of the first parish council, on numerous committees, he collected at masses and sold Slovenian books, 'Mohorjeve Knjige', and was always a strong believer in the importance of fundraising for worthy causes. Mom and Dad were a daily fixture at mass every morning. Both were always ready to help anyone in need; a quality that their children and grandchildren truly admired.

People were always in awe of his firm handshake. He would often hold your hand for an extended period of time, with a grin on his face, as a sign of respect and to test one's character. Dad was a very proud man and Slovenian. He enjoyed talking politics and history. He was quick to acknowledge the accomplishments of Slovenians around the world. He believed in working hard and being kind. His adult granddaughters would frequently run into his colleagues and clients who would remark on his excellent work and warm personality. This always made THEM very proud. Family was his number one priority. He always looked forward to getting together after Sunday mass with the Stajan's and Tratnik's. Our parents, and Teti Slavka and Stric Ludvik, were inseparable. There, Dad bonded with his nieces and nephews and their ever-growing families. He loved it when his great nieces and nephews joined his seven granddaughters at their house for a swim - he was always the first in the pool, no matter how cold the water. Christmas, Easter, birthdays and just because - our Dad was always happiest around his family. Our parents spent the majority of their time together and always treated each other with love and respect. The relationship they modeled for us became the foundation for our own happy marriages. Friends and family often commented on the attention and care they consistently showed each other - a gentle reminder that small gestures matter. Our father was a remarkably good, thoughtful and hardworking person. He was a man of great integrity. Above all, Dad believed in faith, family, community and compassion. He lived by the Golden Rule:

'DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU'

Those are the words of wisdom that we will always cherish.

We love you Dad!