

## *Lesica Alojz (Louie) (January 1, 1950 – October 4, 2021)*



It is with great sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved Alojz, after a courageous battle with cancer, on Monday, October 4, 2021, in his 71<sup>st</sup> year. Alojz passed away peacefully, surrounded by his family, at Juravinski hospital.

Beloved husband of Marija for 45 years. Loving father of Tatjana Jolicoeur (Leo) and Valerie Lesica. Cherished Stari Ata of Alec and Evie. Dear brother of Ana Likevic (late Franc), the late Jurij (Ana), Marija Mravinec (Frank) and the late Janez (Ivanka). Brother-in-law of Janez Gimpelj (Maureen), the late Frank Gimpelj (Elizabeth), Jože Gimpelj (late Marjeta), and Mirko Gimpelj (Katarina). Alojz will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends spread throughout Slovenia and Canada.

Alojz was born in Drežnik, Bela Krajina, Slovenia, to the late Ana and Jurij Lesica. After serving time in the army and working at various jobs in his early twenties, he sought out a new life in Canada. His first few years were spent living with his sister's family in Winnipeg, working at odd jobs and learning the skills of the construction trade. Alojz always kept in touch with his dear friends from his homeland, many of whom had settled in the Hamilton area, and he eventually visited them in the fall of 1974. It was during this trip that he realized and admired the beauty of the greater Niagara region, especially the escarpment, with its autumn transition. This trip was also the beginning of a lasting love and relationship with his soon to be wife Marija, who had already settled in the area. Alojz finally moved to Hamilton in the winter of 1975, and quickly began his lifetime career at Glanbrook Stairs and Woodworking. Alojz and Marija were married on July 3, 1976 and built a beautiful life together in Stoney Creek.

Alojz was a faithful parishioner of St. Gregory the Great Slovenian Church. He was also very active in the Canadian Slovenian community, mainly as a long-time member of Bled Social Club where he served as president and committee member for many years. He was passionate about celebrating his Slovenian culture, which included singing in the Moški Zbor Bled (Bled Men's Choir), passing on his traditions to his children and grandchildren, and playing his accordion for all. Alojz's fondest memories were those spent with family and friends, especially at Club Bled, over good food, wine and music. During his short retirement, he enjoyed spending time with his loving wife and daughters, experiencing the laughter and personalities of his grandchildren, and taking pride in maintaining their home and gardens.

A special thanks to the nurses and doctors of the Juravinski C3 Ward, for their tremendous care and support during the last few months. **Visitation** will occur at **SMITH'S FUNERAL HOME**, 454 Highway #8 (east of Millen Road) STONEY CREEK (905-664-4222) on Monday, **October 11, 2021, from 3-5 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.**, with **Prayer Vigil at 4:30 p.m.** **Funeral Mass** will be celebrated at **St. Gregory the Great Slovenian Catholic Church**, 125 Centennial Parkway North, Hamilton, on **Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 11:00 am**. Interment at Our Lady of the Angels Cemetery to follow. In accordance with provincial regulations, there is a limit to the number of visitors who may attend at one time. Please RSVP in advance for the visitation and funeral mass on Alojz's (Louie) tribute page at [www.smithsfh.com](http://www.smithsfh.com) or by calling the Funeral Home between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Memorial contributions to St. Gregory the Great Parish would be sincerely appreciated by the family.