



Ike was able to make a final trip to Italy with Alice and Lucio and Marcie and Jamie to see his niece Maureen before his diagnosis of early onset dementia.

In 2016, he moved into the town of Parkhill and Rob and Shannon bought the home farm in 2017. In 2018, Nick and Candace felt called to move in to care for Ike. Their unconditional love, devotion and compassion for Papa Ike was such a blessing for the family. Ike's many care providers, especially Brenda Beierling and Willie VanMassenhoven and the Craigwiel Adult Day Program, made a positive impact for him during his final years.



Ike passed away peacefully, surrounded by the love of his family. His journey is now over and he is together with his beloved Mary, whom he missed so much. The smell of pipe tobacco and the sound of tic tacs will forever bring a smile to his children's faces.

We remember Ike for loving his family, his friendly ways, how he lived his life, the lessons that he taught his family and his legacy that will be passed on to future generations.

Ike is loved and he will be missed.



# Ignatius "Ike" Leo Schiestel

1946 - 2025



Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will, all I have and call my own.

You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it.

Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace, that is enough for me.

Amen.

—St. Ignatius of Loyola



Ike was born on May 30th, 1946 at his home farm on "The Boundary" outside of Teeswater, Ontario to Ferdinand Schiestel (1909-1967) and Gertrude Schaefer (1917-1960). Ike was the middle of the Schiestel pack with siblings Anne (1937-2023), Nick (1938-2021), Fred (1939), Charlie (1941), Gertie (1943), George (1945), Ike, Peter (1949), Tommy (1950-1968) and Cindy (1954).



It was a busy household. Ike was always exploring and pushing boundaries. He had no fear, often got in trouble and never backed down from a challenge. There was very little money so there were

no toys and they learned to entertain themselves. Ferdinand could make alcohol out of anything and Gertrude cooked, baked and on Sundays they enjoyed hosting friends and family. Gertrude died suddenly at a young age and it was particularly difficult for Ferdinand and all of the family. Ike was 14 years old.

Growing up, Ike enjoyed fast cars... the faster the better. He would go out west to visit and work with his cousin Conrad and Conrad's mom Blanche. They kept in touch over the years. Sadly, Ferdinand passed away when Ike was 21 and then the family lost his brother Tommy one year later. These were difficult losses both within a short time of each other. Ike was keen and learned many valuable skills like welding, wood working and fixing just about anything. He used these skills all of his life and passed them on to his children. Ike was always very resourceful at re-using items and making things work.



Ike met Mary de Gouw at a singles dance in Clinton. When Ike and Mary got engaged, he said that he would only move to Parkhill if he could buy the farm without a co-signer. Ike was pretty determined and they did just that.



Together, Mary and Ike worked hard to provide a good home for their growing family; Marcie (1983), Nick (1985), Sandy (1987), Robbie (1990) and Greg (1993). It was a busy and active time for the family. Ike would spend time laying on the floor playing with the kids, napping on the couch or feeding pigs. Often he would take his kids to haul pigs to the pork producers in Denfield and afterwards stopping at the Co-op in Parkhill for a coffee and sugar cubes. When he came in from the barn, Ike always made time for his children. Tractor and four wheeler rides, playing in the shed and cuddling with Dad on the couch are favourite



memories. Ike was very mechanically inclined, when the combine would break down, Opa de Gouw would say "bring it over to Ike's, he will know how to fix it." The kids remember Ike and Mary enjoying a dance at weddings, after much encouragement by Mary.



Ike liked to stay close to home but often would visit relatives, especially the Facchina's, the Peeter's and the Kennedy's. They always stayed late and the kids fell asleep wherever they could. When the family went to Teeswater to visit, they always had to get back for the pigs, so these trips were short. The driving deal was "50/50"- Ike drove up to Teeswater and Mary always drove home. Every Sunday the family would go to Oma and Opa de Gouw's after church for coffee Sunday. Everyone knew Ike; he was always friendly and he liked to spend time with others.



Ike and Mary's 25th wedding anniversary was a memorable time for the family. "Remember When" by Alan Jackson was played and that song remains very sentimental to his children. Not long

after this celebration, Mary was diagnosed with cancer. It was a difficult time for Ike. The two of them spent as much time together as they could. Time together was very important. It is something that money cannot buy.

Tragically, Mary was in a car accident with her mom and passed away on March 25th, 2007. The loss of Mary was so hard on Ike, he never fully recovered from his broken heart.

Ike was always there for his kids, just as they were there for him. He wanted to help as much as he could and he did just that for each of them. Sometimes it would be with the use of the skid steer, his mini excavator, his dodge truck, slipping cash to them or whatever they needed. He enjoyed going back to Teeswater for the fair or the homecomings and seeing family and old friends.



After Ike got rid of the pigs, he liked to keep himself busy working with Robbie at Schiestel Tree Service and his neighbour and friend, Jody LaPorte. He also spent time enjoying the camaraderie at local coffee spots.



He was blessed to have a good friend, Darlene Beierling, whom he could spend time with. They were good company for each other. They often would go for a meal at Moe's in Parkhill or for coffee with their coffee crowd.



Ike welcomed his children's spouses as each entered the family. As the family grew, his 14 grandchildren were able to spend so much time with their Papa, visiting with him often at Nick and Candace's home. What a blessing!

