

# Leslie Arnold Schmidt

OCTOBER 28, 2015



If there is a word for dad's character it would be **steadfast!** Born a decade before the Great Depression (1920) he came by this word through faith, hard work and necessity! He grew up on 160 acres of homestead land in Dalmeny, Saskatchewan, which he would tearfully tell you was purchased for \$10.00. Being born into a large family meant there was never a dull moment and always lots of activity. They were their own baseball team, as well as a work-crew that helped them survive these difficult years. A chilling memory is the frequent walks to the outhouse in 30 - 40 below zero fahrenheit. The Eaton's catalogue served a dual purpose in the outhouse, one of which was looking at all the beautiful articles and people. Their mixed farm focused on crops of grain, extensive gardens, 15 milk cows, a dozen or more pigs and chickens, as well as 50-100 pigeons. Dad and his brother Ben delivered the milk to Dalmeny by wagon in the summer and sled in the winter... no matter what the weather!

Sunday's were special and usually provided a much needed rest. As the Jewish saying goes, "Remember the Sabbath to keep it boring!" Sunday services were attended using a horse drawn cart called the Bennett Wagon. Eventually they had a car. If there wasn't a Sunday evening service they spent the evening singing and playing games. Dad always loved his games and you could always tell when he had a good hand... he'd repeatedly tap on the table! His singing career started at the age of 10 when he sang solos at special church services once a month. For years he sang in various gospel quartets and choirs.

He was an excellent student, completing grades 1 & 2 and then 7 & 8 in a year. In 1934 the family left most everything behind and began anew in BC. Sadly, Dad left school after grade 10 to work on the new farm. The family survived by working 12+ hour days tending the farm and doing building construction.

While he spoke about a childhood faith experience, at 18 his re-dedicated faith in Christ led to his baptism and was followed by two years of winter Bible School in Abbotsford and Yarrow. During this time he met Mary whom he describes in his autobiography as “a beautiful young lady.” That beauty held his affection to his dying day! Courting was reserved for Sunday’s, which made for a very long week of hard work! However the courting was interrupted by World War II.

From April 1941 - May 1943 he served his country as a conscientious objector, supervising and building forestry camps in remote parts off Vancouver Island near Campbell River. While this was a time of hard work and separation from family, it was also a time rich in relationships and experience. He so often talked about these years!

Mom and he married in the South Abbotsford Church on October 21, 1944. He had purchased a small acreage on McCallum Rd with funds saved and borrowed from his father... “got the 10 acres for \$1800.00!” Garry, then Sharon, Rick, Don and Debbie were all born four years apart...to the Sunday afternoon! The life we all knew with mom and dad happened after this. He enjoyed teaching Sunday school and mentored many a future leader in his infamous boys clubs. His work with Mutual Life began in 1957 and provided new opportunities and financial security.

Life has been filled with hard work, many moves, wonderful vacations, a broad diversity of travel, and a world that became increasingly large and diverse! Love, hospitality, prayer, hard work and steadfastness continued to rule his life until his quiet passing in MSA hospital last Wednesday morning, October 28, 2015!

He will be remembered as a man of prayer and hospitality, faithfully honouring all the birthdays of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. While occasionally he was anxious about the future we were living into, he remained a steadfast and faithful father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He looked forward to every day even as he longed to join his beloved Mary and beloved Jesus! He had a good life! He was a good man! We will miss him greatly! He is a significant part of each of us!

You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence for the family.

## Messages of Condolence

What a wonderful full life your Dad lived, and what an amazing legacy. We can understand your deep sorrow at his passing because we can see your deep love for him. May God bless you as you celebrate his life and his love.

Laurie and Gail

— **Laurie and Gail MacKay**

Dear Family of U. Les:

We would love to be at the celebration of U. Les's life, but we are in Prague for another week.

So glad we got to see him at the Schmidt Reunion in Sept. Will miss his occasional phone calls, just calling to see how our family was doing and to be able to pray more effectively for us. We will miss those prayers, for sure! Was good to visit him at Primrose, and enjoy lunch together there - we had an open invitation when we came to Abbotsford, that he would treat us to lunch. We send our heart felt sympathies to you all! Love, Jake and Jeanne

**— Jake and Jeanne Janzen**

Leslie was the anchor of our family since the age of 8. During the last 50 years, he also became the anchor of my sister Mary's nieces and nephews. This is what they posted on my facebook upon learning of his passing. Timothy Krahn....Leslie was a great addition to our Krahn family...there was lots to love about him.....Norman Krahn Dyck...I loved our phone calls....Ruth his sister...I so appreciated his phone calls, which Norm called knee mails.....Tanya Krahn..funny how fresh the loss is from someone you have not seen in awhile...memories of Leslie seem so precious now..Valerie Krahn Pierce...A kind gentle man...the best of the best...Sharri Krahn.....in my hardest moments Leslie was always there.....Jacob Krahn...Today will never come again...yesterday is now a memory....but tomorrow we can remember who we are and why....and those we depended on in becoming who we are. :)

**— Jacob and Cornelia's Family**



<https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/schmidt-leslie-arnold>

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