



Theodore Ambrose Michael Arts

March 11, 1957 - September 12, 2025

Theodore Ambrose Michael (Ted) Arts was born March 11, 1957 in Windsor Ontario, the oldest of five children. His sister Heidi arrived soon afterward, followed by David, Jeff and Richard.

Ted had a truly unique and inventive mind even as a young child, and when we moved to “the farm” in northern Ontario, he could be found helping his dad and uncles with the stock, hanging out in the shop where the big machinery was routinely fixed, and driving the tractor and the big bulldozer.

He left high school early and moved to Vancouver British Columbia where he worked in vending machines and was very successful. He followed that with a move to Saint Catherine where he worked at Moyer Diebel for many years.

Then came a move to Williamsville New York where he met his lovely wife Sue, and he began putting his energy toward building his own business. This still entailed vending machines but he also invented an “isolation booth” that was used in hospitals to prevent the spread of airborne pathogens.

From there, more inventions, more patents involving portable air filtration units that are used by governments around the world as well as the US military.

While immersed in all of this, he found time to help design a more efficient engine for dragsters, to build a home elevator for a friend whose wife could no longer climb stairs, and to design and build high speed go-karts, a front end

loading backhoe, and our favorites: the bar stool racers.

Ted collected cats. He and Sue were devoted to live trapping feral cats, having them fixed, and then releasing them on their property. He daily fed the raccoons, foxes, skunks, ducks and squirrels on his back porch, and would sit and watch and enjoy them. He and Sue walked wooded trails every day and he reveled in the wildlife, taking and sharing many photos.

Ted is survived by his wife of 33 years, Sue (nee Czochara) Arts, sister Heidy, brothers Jeff and Richard, nephews Henry and Alexander (Leah) Farleo, Spencer Arts, niece Morgan Register (Casey), and great nieces Averie and Sunny

Predeceased by parents Ted and Luise Arts, brother David and his wife Rita, and their children Taylor, Annemarie and Tryn.

Visitation will be Wednesday September 17, 2025 from 12 to 4 PM at the Wattengel Funeral Home, 533 Meadow Drive in North Tonawanda where Funeral Services will follow at 4 PM.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to "Feral Cat Focus" in Ted's name.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 17. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Wattengel Funeral Home (Meadow Drive)
533 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-0440
wattengelfh@gmail.com
<https://www.wattengel.com>

Funeral Service

SEP 17. 4:00 PM (ET)

Wattengel Funeral Home (Meadow Drive)
533 Meadow Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-0440
wattengelfh@gmail.com
<https://www.wattengel.com>

Tribute Wall

JL

“ *My heart broke when I heard of Ted’s passing. While I was away at college, far from home, Ted and Sue were my family, so kind and welcoming. I will always cherish the cozy evening I spent with them in their basement, sharing dinner and a show on their big projector. In that moment, I felt truly cared for, and I can still picture the way Ted always looked at Sue—with such love and adoration, just as in the photo shared.*

Julie Levin - September 18, 2025 at 09:12 PM

NJ

“ *1 file added to the album LifeTributes*



Nancy Jacobson - September 18, 2025 at 06:44 PM

JV

“ *Arts family...we are very saddened hearing of Ted’s passing. I remember all his remote planes in Georgetown. He was quite the inventor and I’m sure he will be missed by all. Our condolences 🥲*
Corinne and John Vanuden

John Vanuden - September 18, 2025 at 10:24 AM



“ 25 files added to the album Life Tributes



Wattengel Funeral Home - September 17, 2025 at 07:53 AM



“ Dear Sue, Heidi, Jeff and Richard, Sending our condolences and big hugs to you all and to your families. Remembering all the good times growing up and visiting...our deepest sympathy, Love Sue (Van Uden) and Gene Jelovic

Sue Jay - September 16, 2025 at 04:56 PM



“ Ted was the Ring bearer at my and his Uncle Harry's wedding. When I heard Ted had kidney failure and had to start dialysis, I prayed he would receive a new kidney. My husband Harry passed away from kidney failure, so I prayed he would look after Ted. I guess it was his time join his loved ones in heaven instead. Harry and I were very fond of Ted and proud of all his accomplishments. May he rest in peace.

Mary Arts - September 16, 2025 at 11:51 AM

LP

“ *My deepest condolences to Sue and family and friends. Ted was a good man and will be greatly missed. He helped all three of my sons: Dominick, Dustin, and Douglas. May he rest in peace.*

LouAnn Parker - September 16, 2025 at 09:48 AM

BB

“ *To the entire Arts Family; my sincerest condolences to you all. You have an amazing family and always speak of each other with love shining through as you share your stories. From what I've seen and heard, there is a very special place for Ted, but above all, he'll have achieved that greatest prize: a life FULL of LOVE and JOY. Peace to you all.*

Becky Bailey - September 15, 2025 at 06:04 PM

DI

“ Grandpa (Ken Wakefield) called me yesterday to tell me his best friend had past away ... We talked for over an hour about memories of Ted and the huge, loving impact he had on our family.

When Grandma got really sick, Ted made an elevator for her out of a forklift, allowed Grandpa to leave whenever he needed to, which was often, and covered her health insurance when Grandpa had to care for Grandma full time, and could no longer work for Ted.

Ted was also my first boss and I am grateful for the fact he took a chance on me when employment wasn't easy to find, and I had no experience. It wasn't always easy to get up at 6am on a Saturday, but the work ethic I developed is still with me today. Ted treated you like a person, not an employee. Something I haven't found since Refreshment Supply.

The generosity and kindness Ted showed people is a rare quality not found too often. Ted loved people like Jesus loved people, and I hope the two of them meet up in Heaven.

GOD Bless !

*My Sincerest Condolences Sue & Family,
Danielle llecki (granddaughter of Ken Wakefield)*

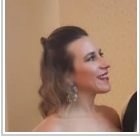
Danielle llecki - September 15, 2025 at 01:35 PM

MR

As Danielle said, Ted was one of a kind. I met Ted back in 1983, he was a go getter salesman who would eventually teach me about sales and the art of listening!!! I was with Ted until 2003 and to this day he was by far the best boss I ever had. He not only taught me the business as a boss, he was a true friend who I could ask just about anything and he would have an answer. I truly enjoyed being around Ted and seeing his next creation that he would build from scratch, if he could imagine it he could build it. I am happy to say the majority of my career was spent with Ted, may you rest in peace!!!

My sincere condolences to Sue and the entire family from a very sad and heartbroken friend, Mike Redmond

Mike Redmond - September 15, 2025 at 04:04 PM



“ *Ted was brilliant, generous and an incredible person to know. Loved seeing how he made you smile, Sue. Anytime anyone needed anything, he dropped everything to help without hesitation. He was a rare gem. We are honored to have known him. - with so much love Nicholle and Chris Overkamp.*

Nicholle Overkamp - September 15, 2025 at 07:49 AM

NB

“ *Dear, Sue, Heidi, Jeff, Richard and Families*

My Condolences to you and your Family.

I wish you all Strength..

Nico Barten.

Nico Barten - September 15, 2025 at 03:52 AM

MA

“ *I haven't been in touch with Ted for a very long time. My clearest memories of him are as the oldest among the cousins at various family events, where he was equally likely to be an agent of order or chaos — my deepest condolences to all his family and close friends.*

Michael Albert

Michael Albert - September 14, 2025 at 10:55 PM

ER

“ Our dearest Sue,
We are so very sorry for your loss. Please know our thoughts are with you and send our warmest thoughts and hugs to you.
Deepest condolences to you,
Elaine, Joe & family 💕💕

Elaine Rosina - September 14, 2025 at 06:19 PM

ML

“ We were very saddened by this news!
Our deepest condolences to Sue, Heidi, Jeff, Richard and families.
I have many childhood memories of Ted, such as tobogganing down “the big hill”, skating on the pond, and skidooring. My favourite memory being when our Dads brought home our little pony and Ted chose to name her sugar, because she was the colour of brown sugar!
Ted had an amazing incredibly inventive mind which gave his parents such pride.
From his obituary I can see he was a leader, admired and loved by both people and animals.
Our deepest sympathies,
Mary-Lou and Mike

Mary-Lou Lauzon - September 14, 2025 at 02:45 PM

MS

“ Dear Sue, Jeff, Heidi, Richard, and the entire Arts family,

I am deeply saddened to hear of Ted's passing. The love and closeness you share as a family is truly special, and I can only imagine the profound loss you are all feeling right now. Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers during this incredibly challenging time.

*With heartfelt condolences,
Mureen Shaw*

Mureen Shaw - September 14, 2025 at 12:27 PM

LG

“ Dear Sue, Heidi, Jeff, Richard and family,

We are so shocked and deeply saddened to hear of cousin Ted's sudden passing, Our hearts go out to all of you at this time. My memories of spending time with Teddy in our early years growing up on the farm involved some very active and fun adventures spurred on by his curiosity and ideas that absolutely needed to be tried out. I saw much less of Ted after the early farm years but I have always had deep respect and admiration for the quiet, very kind, generous and caring person that he became.

Wishing all of you comfort and love as you grieve the overwhelming loss of Ted from your lives.

*Love,
Linda and Dale Godin*

Linda Godin - September 14, 2025 at 09:02 AM

CZ

“ I originally met Ted early in my career as a business associate. That association was quickly replaced by my deep admiration of Ted as a man, and our friendship continued on throughout the balance of my career. Generous in spirit and his powerful knowledge of “all things”, Ted was my go-to in so many ways. I see so much of Ted in my son-in law Alexander, whom I am so proud and happy to have in our family.

Thank you Ted for being you. We are all better for having known and loved you.

Clark T Zaccaroli

Clark t Zaccaroli - September 14, 2025 at 08:35 AM

MP

“ Dear Sue, Heidi, Jeff and Richard and families,

We are so very sorry for your loss of Ted. Thinking of you all and wishing you strength and sending our love.

I remember visits to Ted and Sue’s place with my parents and Ted would be in the basement sharing his latest inventions with My Dad and Uncle Ted, who were so intrigued and proud of him. I am sure there is more of this happening now in heaven.

Love, Michelle and Jimmy Poberezny (nee Arts)

Michelle Poberezny - September 14, 2025 at 08:04 AM

LL

“ Dear Heidi, Sue, Jeff, Richard

*I was in shock hearing this heartbraking, sad news from your brother and husband
Our deepest condolences*

*We are thinking of you
We wish you a lot of strenght these days together
Teddy will be and stay in our hearts
We will lighten a candle by the statue of Maria for him*

*Love Leontine en Renee
Ton en Margriet
Daphne en Ties
Laura*

Leontine Laarakkers - September 14, 2025 at 06:45 AM

VC

“ Dear Heidi, Jeff, Richard Sue and families

I was fortunate enough to spend Ted's early farm years with him and will always remember him as a quiet and gentle cousin. Although I wasn't able to see him often after that, I heard about his amazing accomplishments and inventions from my parents and family who spoke very highly of him. His generous and caring nature to his family is evident and is truly endearing. I love hearing about his love and care for cats and other animals.

He will be missed.

Our hearts are with you all as you go through this sad time.

Vivian and Brian Caron

Vivian Caron - September 13, 2025 at 11:41 PM

JA

“ When I think of my cousin Ted, I think of someone who I deeply admired. He was incredibly modest, generous and abundantly talented. His legacy will live on. He has touched so many hearts through his quiet and gentle ways. My heart is heavy for the loss of such an amazing man. Much love to Sue, Heidy, Jeff, Richard and the rest of the family.

Joan Atchison - September 13, 2025 at 08:29 PM

LI

“ Our most heartfelt prays go to everyone in Ted’s family and circle of beloved friends.
How blessed we are to know the Arts family over the years . The geniusness, the quirkiness, the adventure and curiousness, character, cleverness and genuine priority of family are embedded in the Arts Family tree. We pray for your peace and comfort in knowing Ted is now with family who left this earth before him and in eternal light- that will shine upon you all and be with you, everyday
Dan & Lisa

lisa - September 13, 2025 at 08:16 PM

NJ

“ I will always remember Ted as the mysterious rock star cousin (guitar in hand) I adored from afar. After that very “hip” stage as a teenager, we all found out what a brilliant mind he had. His quiet manner, gentle smile, and appreciative chuckle will remain an important part of my memories of family gatherings. The world, once again, is a much dimmer place without another precious Arts member in it. Our hearts are with Sue, Heidy, Jeff, Richard, and the entire family as they mourn a wonderful man. We are so very, very sorry.

Nancy Jacobson - September 13, 2025 at 07:05 PM

RF

“ Ted was my ex brother in law. He was a mentor, a boss and most of all a friend. He taught me too many things to list here. We laughed and sometimes disagreed but I never lost my love and respect for him. I will always be grateful for having him in my life. He was a genuinely kind loving soul who will be sadly missed. My love and support goes out to Sue and the Arts family.

Robert Farleo - September 13, 2025 at 06:57 PM

HA

“ To lose your big brother is an unbelievably shattering thing. Especially when it's a brother whose helped on innumerable occasions with house renovations, machinery breakages, advice on what kind of electric to install, hiring your children and mentoring them, fixing plumbing problems, and sharing goofy cat memes. My brother Ted was a good good man, and his absence now leaves yet another giant hole in our family's fabric. To say I'll miss him is an understatement. To say I loved him and adored his mind is the truth. Love is always louder ❤️

Heidi Arts - September 13, 2025 at 06:16 PM

JC

“ Our hearts go out to all of you!



Jim & Dawn Coe - September 13, 2025 at 05:38 PM