



Peter Hiscocks

August 1, 2018

Peter Hiscocks (Feb 21st 1945 - Aug 1st 2018), aged 73.

We regret to report the passing of Peter, beloved husband, father, brother, activist, and all-around excellent human being. Over the years Peter has been a founding member of the Women in Engineering Summer camp, involved with the Coalition for Gun Control, and a driving force for the reduction of light pollution in the city of Toronto.

As a professor at Ryerson university, Peter left his mark on students in electrical engineering and theater courses alike and accumulated a host of entertaining stories he was happy to share at the drop of a hat. Following his retirement, he directed some of his effort to his business, Syscomp Electronic Design, providing low-cost digital electrical instrumentation around the world. In June, he celebrated 50-years of happy marriage to his wife Dorothy while riding a train through the Rockies. Other notable trips include professor-exchanges in Brazil and China, a trip to New York with his daughter where they managed to see several planes and an aircraft carrier but not the statue of liberty, and a lovely series of trips with his wife to Bermuda, Eastern Europe, and Costa Rica that hopefully made up for their horrible honeymoon.

Among other things, Peter was known for lending a hand, falling from high places, finding clever solutions, the school of approximate carpentry, owning too many oscilloscopes and telescopes, occasionally setting things on fire or extinguishing them, a love of trapdoors, antennas, and analog circuitry, and overall being a kind, generous, loving teddy-bear of a man.

He will be deeply missed.

Comments



“ A most decent man, intelligent, kind and helpful, a true gentleman! Many, many technical workers in professional theatre learned the craft from him. So sad to come upon this notice today by accident. Love to Dorothy and Jessica and his sisters.
Kathy Millard

Kathy Millard - May 02 at 08:45 PM



“ He was my BEST teacher in Ryerson (ELT201?) in 1972. He taught the course so anyone can understand it. It was always a pleasure to attend his classes. I learned a lot from him and he was the most like able teacher I had ever in my life. Wish all teachers were like him. I will miss him.

Mitchell Kuszczuk - August 27, 2018 at 10:33 PM



“ In 1961, Peter, Ian Dennet and I were in the same Grade 13 class at King City Composite School. We were the only students that were true radio, electronics and audio enthusiasts. As a result, our physics teacher, Mr. Carson, encouraged us by letting us use his lab after regular school hours to conduct our own experiments. He even let us select items of test equipment and individual components to purchase from an Electrosonic catalog as he had a small discretionary budget. We were like kids in a candy store! We were delighted when he actually obtained an audio power amplifier and some small speakers that we had recommended. As he let us experiment unsupervised, our activities were not well controlled to say the least. I distinctly remember, much to our shock and horror, a small speaker bursting into flame when we tried driving it with 20 Watts at the very low frequency of 20 Hertz. The good news was that Mr. Carson didn't scold or punish us because he understood that making mistakes was a natural part of the learning process. I can't help but feel that that important lesson contributed significantly to the accomplishments of all three of us in our lives. Having the freedom to experiment without fear of failure is crucial to pushing the envelope and accomplishing great things.

Jim Hayward

James H Hayward - August 10, 2018 at 07:23 PM



“ My condolences to Peter's family.
It was my pleasure to work with Peter on matters light pollution in Toronto. I am grateful for having learned so much from him.
Dan Taylor, Essex Ontario

Dan Taylor - August 09, 2018 at 04:59 PM



“ My condolences to Peter's family. I was student of his in the early 2000's and he is the only professor who I still remember - his lectures and labs were incredible learning experiences; the skills he taught still apply every day in my career. Definitely an excellent example of a true engineer.

Dave E - August 08, 2018 at 09:39 PM