



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Memorial Tribute
To
Peter Irwin Paul Boulton
Professor Emeritus in The Edward S. Rogers Sr.
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
September 28, 2010

Moved by: Professor Farid Najm

Seconded by: Barbara McCann

Be it resolved that the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering record with deep regret the death on September 25, 2010 of Peter Irwin Paul Boulton.

Peter Irwin Paul Boulton was born on May 11, 1934. He put himself through university after graduating from school in Toronto. While he was a St. Michael's College School and a University student, he worked for a number of companies, notably as a lead inspector in a company making television sets in Toronto. He also worked for Ferranti Packard as a design engineer for a project to develop a display using discs with a magnetic drive to flip small coloured pixels. He received his PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Toronto in 1966 and joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1970 and to Professor in 1984.

Peter had a full career as an academic, and was one of the one of the department's finest true engineers. His approach to problems fully displayed his talents. He was one of the co-inventors of Hubnet, which had a fibre-optic local area computer network operating at 50 Megabits/s as early as 1981, at the time by far the highest datarate of any operating network.

Later, Peter held a number of important administrative posts: he was an Associate Dean of the Faculty, the Director of the Computer Systems Research Institute, the President of the University of Toronto Faculty Club and the President of the University of Toronto Faculty Association. Towards the end of his career he oversaw the planning and construction of the Bahen Building. As a result, he also helped with the management of the development of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. His meticulous attention to detail was legendary.

Dr. Boulton died after a short but traumatic illness at Humber Memorial Hospital in Toronto, having immediately previously been a patient at a succession of other hospitals.

Be it further resolved that a record of his service be inscribed in the minutes of this Council, and that a copy be sent to his family as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the members of Council.

[Prepared by Professor Emeritus E. Stewart Lee]