



**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
**FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**

**Memorial Tribute**  
**to**

**WILLIAM FREDERICK GRAYDON**

**Professor Emeritus in the Department of  
Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry**

**March 8, 2011**

Be it resolved that the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering record with deep regret the death on February 24, 2011 of William Frederick Graydon.

Professor Emeritus William Frederick Graydon passed away peacefully at his home near Pontypool in rural Ontario on February 24, 2011. Having been born in 1919, he was in his 92nd year.

Bill Graydon had obtained B.A.Sc. and M.A.Sc. degrees from the University of Toronto, and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota, before joining the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry as Assistant Professor in 1949. Within ten years, he had been promoted to Professor and when he retired in 1984 he had served his Department, Faculty and University with vigour, accomplishment and style that will always be remembered, appreciated and admired by all those who had the good fortune to know him as colleagues, students and friends.

The opportunity to teach physical chemistry and thermodynamics to undergraduates was something that Professor Graydon cherished throughout his career. He added in some philosophy, and a little religion, and made sure students saw the connection to situations they encountered in their daily lives. As an example, when Canada switched from Imperial units to S.I., he provided students with brass medallions imprinted "One Newton in Toronto".

While his research covered many areas including fluid electrification, Dr. Graydon focused much of his research on the development of synthetic membranes which are now used extensively in many industrial, biomedical, and energy conversion applications. Twenty-six doctoral students received degrees under his supervision. Many went on to professorial positions in Canada, the U.S., and abroad, and into industry. Professor Graydon's research accomplishments are particularly noteworthy in that when he joined the University in 1949, the emphasis was on undergraduate instruction; research was encouraged, but not well supported. That, of course, changed dramatically with the expansion in the 1960s and Bill Graydon was in the forefront.

When Professor James Ham succeeded Roland McLaughlin as Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering in 1966, he invited Bill Graydon to serve with him as the first Associate Dean. In this capacity, he chaired two "shaping committees", one on materials research and the other on environmental science and engineering. The first led to the strengthening of materials research across the Faculty with the establishment of the Centre for Materials Research and the second to the creation of the Institute of Environmental Science and Engineering, both of which have lasting legacies.

In 1970, when Professor Jack Breckenridge retired as Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, Professor Graydon was appointed as the first Chair under the then new Haist Rules. Under his proactive leadership the Department continued to grow and prosper. Informal discussions over afternoon tea were largely replaced with regular formal meetings of faculty.

Back in 1962, Bill Graydon saw the need to help small Canadian companies establish R&D initiatives and to help new members of the Department engage in consulting to strengthen their industrial experience. He was the founding President of Chemical Engineering Research Consultants Ltd. (CERCL) through which professors in the Department provided their expertise to many small and medium size companies under the auspices of the Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) of the National Research Council. CERCL continues to thrive today and over the years has had a significant positive impact on rapport among members of the Department.

At the University level, Professor Graydon served on Senate (before it was replaced with the Academic Board), the Research Board and the Senate of Knox College with its Presbyterian links. He held executive positions with the Faculty Association and its forerunner, the Association of Teaching Staff. He played a significant role in the design of the University of Toronto Pension Plan.

Outside the University, he served on the Board of Directors of Canada Patents and Development Ltd. - a crown corporation based in Ottawa - for twelve years. He was also elected to the Etobicoke Board of Education in 1958, serving a total of eight years, including terms as chair of the finance committee and chair of the Board. This was a period of expansion with the construction of many new schools. Under Bill Graydon's leadership, conditions of employment were developed which attracted outstanding teachers.

Bill Graydon is survived by his wife Evelyn, their son John and daughters Mary, Jane, Elizabeth and Ruth, their spouses and thirteen grandchildren. He was something of an adventurer, enjoying boats and sailing with Evelyn on Georgian Bay and off the island of Nevis.

Professor Bill Graydon had a lot of energy, a loud voice and a hearty laugh; he enjoyed debate, especially in this very room. He was a leader and mentor to many, including myself. He was "larger than life", as his portrait in the west foyer of the Wallberg Building demonstrates. We have lost a stalwart of the Faculty who helped build this very special place.

*[Tribute prepared by Professor Emeritus Michael E Charles]*