

# In Memoriam

Byron R. Dawe, B.Eng., M.Eng., P.Eng.

*January 20, 1951 – November 18, 2011*



This issue of *The Journal of Ocean Technology* is dedicated to the memory of Byron R. Dawe in recognition of his contributions to the field of ocean technology. Byron was a leader in the ocean technology community in Newfoundland and Labrador, and well known internationally through his work at Rutter Technologies Inc. From his earliest days as a new graduate, Byron demonstrated an uncanny ability to grasp not only the technical aspects of his chosen field, but also to recognize, often before anyone else, emerging opportunities and practical applications for new technologies. Byron was a graduate of Memorial University of Newfoundland (Class of '74), specializing in electrical engineering. Following a brief stint at Remotec, Byron moved on to the Newfoundland Oceans Research and Development Corporation (NORDCO) Limited where he served as Senior Engineer, with a particular focus on radar remote sensing. Byron left NORDCO in 1989 to join the newly established Canadian Centre for Marine Communications (CCMC) where he served as Vice President – Operations. During his time at CCMC Byron supported a number of new ventures that subsequently went on to be leaders in their market sector, including Nautical Data International, ICAN Limited and Sigma Engineering, to name but a few.

During his time at CCMC, Byron actively monitored the development of international marine equipment standards. Through this process he identified a number of emerging opportunities for new technologies. The most significant of these was the Voyage Data Recorder (VDR), the marine equivalent of the aircraft black box. In the 1990s a performance standard was developed and adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that would require passenger and cargo vessels to carry VDRs. In 1998 Byron led the formation of Rutter Technologies Inc. (the name refers to the notebook kept by navigators in the age of sail), and joined the company as President in 1999. As the President of Rutter Technologies, Byron led a product development and commercialization drive that saw the company take a very large share of the worldwide market for VDRs. The Rutter Technologies VDR was considered one of the more advanced on the market at the time and was one of the first to attain world-wide type approval.

Byron was widely known, and respected as a 'friendly curmudgeon' who could always be counted on to 'tell it like it is,' while never having an unkind or unfair word to say to or about anyone personally. Although he led a busy professional life, he has always made time to mentor and advise others. Among other things, Byron donated his time to serve as a member of the Board of the Genesis Centre at Memorial University, and as a member of the Board of OceansAdvance.

A dedicated family man, Byron leaves to mourn his wife of 36 years, Margaret, and his daughter, Maggie.