

T. CAMERON KENNEY (d.2008)



Family, friends and colleagues of T. Cameron Kenney, Professor Emeritus, University of Toronto, were saddened by his death on Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, at the age of 77. His love and devotion to his family will be deeply missed.

Professor Kenney was a Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS) member for many years and contributed much to the Society. Kenney was awarded several honours by the Canadian Geotechnical Society; including the R. M. Quigley Award, the G. Geoffrey Meyerhof Award, and he was a CGS Cross-Canada Lecturer. In addition, he was awarded a Fellowship of the Engineering Institute of Canada (FEIC). Kenney was also the President of the CGS in 1975-1976.

Cameron grew up in St. Lambert, Quebec, attended McGill University graduating in Civil Engineering (1953). He was awarded an Athlone Fellowship and spent the next 3 years at Imperial College, University of London, England receiving a D.I.C. (Soil Mechanics) and Master of Science, Engineering. On returning to Canada he worked at the engineering firm of H.G. Acres Ltd., Niagara Falls, Ontario where he spent 4 very productive years working on many interesting projects in which Acres was involved. In 1960 Cameron left Acres and became a distinguished researcher with Dr. L. Bjerrum at the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, Oslo, Norway, where he spent 6 rewarding years. The thesis for his PhD from the University of London, England was based on his work at the Institute.

In 1967 Cameron accepted a position at the University of Toronto where he became the Chairman, Department of Civil Engineering, 1968-1974. He was a dedicated and inspiring teacher to his many students over the next 30 years as well as being very involved in research in the field of geotechnical engineering, and a specialist consultant on many important projects.

While many professors have very good relationships with their students, Professor Kenney was particularly well-liked. At a eulogy for Professor Kenney, there were many fond memories recalled by former students. One former student stated that while Professor Kenney *“had a passion for teaching us the fundamentals of soil mechanics and to exposing us to the best resources available for us to learn, his manner of teaching, researching and living, taught us many lessons that were non technical in nature.”* Another stated that *“He taught me to think twice, and speak once.”*

Upon retirement Cameron and his wife Margot spent their summers at their beloved “Cedar Cove” cottage on Lake Temagami where he was able to put to good use his engineering skills. He seemed to have an ongoing program of upgrading projects at the cottage which gave him great pleasure and enjoyment.