

## Dr. Adrian C.S. Smith (1946-1995)

The world has lost a great scientist, a good father and a dear friend. Adrian was born and grew up in Kent, England. He attended Durham and Oxford Universities and finally, while working at University College London, he received his doctorate in hydrogeochemistry in 1975.

Initially Adrian worked for the Kent County Council where he developed his life long interest in the application of hydrogeochemical principles to environmental problems of groundwater contamination.

In 1979 Adrian married Barbara Scott and moved to South Africa where he worked as a Senior Scientist and Principal for the international consulting firm of Steffen, Robertson and Kirsten. In 1982, they moved to British Columbia where Adrian continued to work for the firm as a Corporate Consultant until establishing a private practice in 1986.

It was in Vancouver that he received his greatest gift, his son Stuart and Adrian's life long love of sports was most beautifully portrayed in his camaraderie with Stuart.

At the beginning of his career twenty-five years ago, the environmental movement was just beginning, as was the application of science and engineering in solving its long standing technical problems. Adrian pioneered innovative solutions and approaches on numerous mining projects, in over two dozen countries and on six continents.

Adrian contributed much spiritually to the profession's thinking about geochemistry. Throughout his career, he demanded the exposure and transfer of applied knowledge from the private sector to students and other professionals. Education and knowledge were his weapons against unfounded fear. Adrian demonstrated an extraordinary ability to



communicate difficult technical issues to all audiences, both lay and professional. He enjoyed serving as a thesis advisor and guest lecturer at the University of Waterloo, the home of his friends Profs. John Cherry and David Blowes. He served as an associate editor of both the **Canadian Geotechnical Journal** and the journal **Mining Environmental Magazine**.

He gave endless lectures at conferences, short courses and universities. He co-authored over sixty publications including a book with Dr. T.I. Mudder, published in 1991, entitled **The Chemistry and Treatment of Cyanidation Wastes**, which now stands as the definitive treatise on this subject.

Adrian Smith was relentless in the pursuit of knowledge and its application in resolving the most challenging technical and environmental issues. He could unmask the essence of the prob-

lem, ask the appropriate question, and provide a pathway to its solution. He exhibited the internal wisdom to know the limits of his own knowledge, and maintained a sense of humor about himself and the world around him. He was truly a man of science in his actions and beliefs.

He felt very strongly that the mingling of politics and law with science was slowly degrading society's natural tendency to solve environmental problems by having vision and taking risks. He rarely wavered from the philosophy that science is the ultimate judge of truth and quality.

Adrian was a global figure with global effect on individuals and industry, an accomplishment not often achieved and only rarely recognized while alive. His calming advice was sought by persons throughout the world. Others will be compared to him, but not with him. He will be missed because of what he had yet to say and will never be heard. He can now only be remembered but never replaced.

The life of Adrian Smith ended too soon on Christmas Day, 1995. The death of the rational man of science on the religious holiday celebrating eternal life was profound. The courage and integrity shown by Adrian and his family during the last year have had a lasting effect on the many who know him.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, in part, *that to be a success one needed to win the respect of intelligent people, to receive the praise of critics, to gain the affection of children, to laugh often, to appreciate beauty, and to leave the world just a bit better.* Adrian was a success because he was a good human being, a man who gave good measure. Little else can be required in or of life.

*Terry Mudder, John Cherry and Mark Logsdon*