

# Patent agent honoured two days before his death



Christopher Scott

Just two days after receiving an award, Christopher Robert Scott succumbed to a long battle with cancer.

He died on May 20 at age 64, three weeks before his 65th birthday, at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.

And, on May 18, representatives from FICPI Canada - Fédération Internationale des Conseils en Propriété Industrielle (International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys) gathered at his bedside at the hospital to present him with the first Peter Kirby Memorial Award.

The award was given in recognition of Scott's "outstanding contributions to the patent profession in Canada and abroad" in 2001. A local patent agent, he was known to have given generously of his time and guidance to train new entrants to the profession, said his daughter-in-law Helen Scott of Oakville.

The award was originally to have

been presented in Ireland this month, however it was decided to present it to Scott at an earlier date because he was too ill to travel, she added.

He was born in South Shields, England, on June 11, 1937. Raised and educated in England, he is a graduate of Durham University and worked as a mechanical engineer for English Electric. He also lectured at a technical university in Sunderland.

Scott immigrated to Canada in 1966 and joined the Patent Office. In 1972 he joined the patent law firm of Rogers, Bereskin & Parr in Toronto, initially as a partner in the patent agent section and later as office administrator. Later, his long time partner, Stan Rogers formed a new partnership with Bob Hirons, creating the firm Hirons & Rogers with offices in Toronto and Burlington. In 1979, Scott left the Toronto firm and joined his old partner to form Hirons, Rogers & Scott. Shortly afterwards,

Rogers and Scott moved to Oakville and opened Rogers & Scott. He became the firm's senior partner when Rogers retired in 1992.

Known as a skilled administrator and negotiator, Scott's passion was education, said John Orange, a former colleague in his eulogy given at a service to celebrate Scott's life at Evangel Pentecostal Church.

Scott "had a knack for making you a part of a team where each of you knew what was expected and you were left to perform," said Orange.

This was true not only at work but also on the water.

Both he and Orange were also avid sailors and sailed in Patent regattas.

"He enjoyed his sailing and skippered a motley crew of Canadian Patent Agents to victory in the Patent Cup in Rhode Island, defeating teams from all around the world, including Olympic yachtsmen," said Orange.

Scott is a former commodore of the Oakville Yacht Squadron.

Scott met the late Peter Kirby at a FICPI World Congress in 1988, where he produced a report on the training of patent agents.

"Training was close to Chris' heart with his teaching background," said Orange. "Chris was at the centre of this but in typical fashion did not seek the limelight. He was more concerned about the content and substance of the course and the quality of the tuition provided. The McGill (University) Patent course was the result of this activity, and after its initial success, Chris became the course director for a couple of years." It became the staple course for new entrants to the patent profession, Orange added. And, FICPI used the course materials for training programs worldwide. Prior to his death, Scott had been teaching in Singapore, Australia and Europe.

## Hills appreciated history of Bronte

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"One of the sadder things that Bill and Donna had to watch happen was the polluting of the water and the end of the lake as a place where kids swam and had fun," said Pallo.

"If they could ask one favour of the federal government, it would be to clean up the water."

Pallo also spoke of her grandparents' vision.

"Some people think Bill and Donna Hill were stuck in the past, but in reality, they were visionaries, ahead of their time. Bill was blessed with the ability to see the future . . . and he knew a day would come, once everything old has been paved over, that people will realize the true value of a more simple time.

"The importance of the preservation of the village atmosphere of Bronte Harbour cannot be properly measured in words, and I'm not talking just about old buildings but also of neighbour helping neighbour.

"Close your eyes briefly, and look beyond the peeling paint and faded brick, go back to a time and place nearly extinct and you will be able to understand how rich the legacy truly is . . . that Bill and Donna have left all of us."

To provide people with a glimpse of her grandparents' love for Bronte, Pallo created a large display at Lakeside Marketeria, consisting of newspaper clippings and old photographs of Bronte's past, as seen through the eyes of Bill and Donna Hill.

"The bench is suitably inscribed in remembrance of Bill and Donna Hill who made a great contribution to Bronte," said Rita Davis of the Bronte Village BIA during the noon-hour dedication on Saturday.

"Bill and Donna were dedicated to the community," continued Davis, "providing land on which the Old Bronte Post Office, now Bronte Harbour Fine Arts Gallery, is situated."

Davis spoke of the Hills' contributions to the Bronte Historical Society, custodians of the Sovereign House. Donna was one of the organization's founders during the mid-1980s.

"They preserved one of the cottages used by the fishermen in times past," continued Davis. "That cottage is now the community office for the Bronte Village Constable."

The dedication commemorates the 55th anniversary of Lakeside Marketeria, Bronte's longest running family run businesses.

"The home of the Hills, known as Glendella House, is a historically designated building," Davis said. The store and house are "landmarks in Bronte's rich past and present. They are two of the last remaining buildings that have historical significance to Bronte and are worthy of the community's support to preserve them."

The event was part of Bronte's first ever Bill Hill Old Fashioned Day, to be held annually as a means of remembering 'the way we were' and a 'simpler way of life' reflecting the Hills' outlook on life.

"In today's hectic life, bygone days when life was a little more simple, should not be forgotten.

"Bronte is still a quiet place," concluded Davis. "Despite its growth, it remains peaceful where friends help friends and neighbours help neighbours. The values of a small rural community are reflected within a much larger urban area.

"This is the legacy that Donna and Bill Hill left to Bronte."

## She was 'warrior for love, justice and equal rights'

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During the dedication ceremony, Archdeacon Alex Hewitt of St. Jude's Anglican Church described Caine Stokes as a "warrior for love, justice and equal rights."

Caine Stokes son Andy Stokes, speaking on behalf of her family, said she had a "lot of great ideas and accomplished much while she was still with us, and now she's accomplishing things through the people she's inspired.

"My mom was a dynamo," concluded Stokes. "She had many reasons not to do the things she did, and now we're continuing her fight (for equal rights and access for the physically disabled).

"I know she would be thrilled, and I know she's smiling down upon all of you for not giving up."

The ceremony was attended by a number of residents from the Jean and Howard Caine Apartments, plus Caine Stokes' family members.



Jamie Smith • Special to the Beaver

Suzy Pallo stands with a life-sized painting by artist Jim Patterson of her grandfather Bill Hill in his trademark red pullover and white apron. Hill was proprietor of Lakeside Marketeria for 54 years until his death last fall. The painting was unveiled in front of the well known Bronte landmark on Saturday during the Bronte Village BIA's first annual Bill Hill - Old Fashioned Day.

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