

IN MEMORIAM

James Edward Totten, 1947–2008

With the sudden death of Jim (James Edward Totten) on March 9, 2008, the Mathematics Community lost someone who was dedicated to mathematics education and to mathematical outreach. Jim was born August 9, 1947 in Saskatoon and raised in Regina. He obtained a B.Sc. from the University of Saskatchewan, and then an M.Sc. in Computer Science and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Waterloo. After a two year NRC Postdoctoral Fellowship in Tübingen, Germany, he joined the faculty at Saint Mary's University in Halifax. One of us (Robert) first got to know Jim when he and Jim shared an office at the University of Saskatchewan while Jim visited there in 1978-1979. That was a long cold winter, but Jim's active interest and enthusiasm for mathematics and the teaching of mathematics made the year a memorable one. The next year Jim took a position at Cariboo College, where he remained as it evolved into the University College of the Cariboo and then into Thompson Rivers University, retiring as Professor Emeritus in 2007.

During his years in Kamloops, Jim was a mainstay of the Cariboo Contest, an annual event which brought students to the college and which featured a keynote speaker, often drawn from Jim's list of mathematical friends. This once included an invitation to Robert, which featured a talk on public key encryption mostly memorable for the failure of technology at a key moment, much to Jim's amusement.

Jim became a member of the CMS in 1981, and joined the editorial board of *Crux* in 1994. When Bruce was looking for someone to succeed him as Editor-in-Chief, there was no doubt in his mind whom to approach. Bruce spent a week in Kamloops staying at Jim's home and working with Jim and Bruce Crofoot to smooth the transition. Jim's attention to detail and care was appreciated by all, particularly those contributing copy that was carefully checked, as Robert gladly confirms from his continued association with Jim through the *Olympiad Corner*, an association which continued to the end.

Jim loved his Oldtimers' hockey and was an avid golfer. When not playing hockey or golf, he was active with the Kamloops Outdoors Club. Jim was never just a participant, always an active volunteer.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Lynne, son Dean, daughter-in-law Christie and granddaughter Mikayla of Sechelt, father Wilf Totten of Edmonton, sister Judy Totten of Regina, sister Josie Laing (Neil) of Onoway, sister-in-law Marilyn Totten of Regina, mother-in-law Joyce Ladell of Swansea Point, brother-in-law Brian Ladell (Iris) of Red Deer, sister-in-law Constance Ladell (David Dahl) of Kamloops, many cousins, family friends, and mathematical colleagues; all miss his warmth and love. He was predeceased by his mother Alice, brother Gerry, and father-in-law Syd Ladell.

To honour the memory of Jim, the Thompson Rivers University Foundation is now accepting contributions for the Jim Totten Scholarship.

As remembered by two of his colleagues from *Crux*,

Bruce Shawyer and Robert Woodrow