



Rudolph Kriegler

KRIEGLER, Rudolph John, CM
May 30, 1933 - January 5, 2022

With his family at his side, Rudy passed away peacefully at Queensway-Carleton Hospital on January 5, 2022.

As was recounted on his appointment to the Order of Canada, Rudy left Hungary during the anti-communist revolution of 1956 with little more than a backpack and a degree in physics. Like so many of the thousands of Hungarians who were welcomed by Canada after the revolution, he went from literally crawling to freedom across the border while under fire to being a Canadian success story.

After arriving in Toronto, Rudy continued his education in physics at the University of Toronto where he earned both his Masters and PhD. In 1966, he began a more than three decade career with Bell-Northern Research and Nortel which culminated in him being named a Nortel Fellow Emeritus for his scientific, managerial and business contributions.

His pioneering work in the physics and chemistry of silicon semiconductors in the 1960's and 70's, which was honoured with the Thomas D. Callinian award of the Electrochemical Society, supported the development of much of the micro-electronics then powering the world. He subsequently conceived and implemented ground-breaking research in high-speed optical communications, technology which underpinned critical steps in the development of today's internet.

Rudy was acutely aware of the importance of Canada's competitive edge in applied technology and of how academia, industry and government needed to work together to maintain our country's position in an ever more competitive world. He was instrumental in the emergence of Photonics Research Ontario, the creation of the Solid State Optoelectronics Consortium of Canada and chaired the Canadian Institute of Telecommunications Research. Following his retirement from Nortel in 1998, Rudy continued as a trusted advisor to former colleagues, many of whom had gone on from Nortel to build their own successful businesses.

In recognition of his decades of work to enhance Canada's competitiveness in the high-technology sector, Rudy was awarded the Order of Canada in April, 2008.

A downhill skier since the age of 6, Rudy was often seen on the hills of Camp Fortune where he had skied regularly since 1967. In contemplating his advancing illness this past autumn, one of his oft-stated regrets was not only that pandemic restrictions limited last year's skiing opportunities to only a few outings but that he seemed fated to miss this year's season entirely.

The younger son of József and Emília Kriegler of Budapest, Hungary, Rudy was pre-deceased by his brother Edmund of Fresno, California. He is survived by Elisabeth, their sons Andrew (Tracey) and Paul (Darlene) and will be deeply missed by his grandchildren Artemis and Thomas.

Given current public health limitations on gatherings, the family have decided that a memorial celebration of Rudy's life will be scheduled for the early spring when broader attendance should be possible.

Rudy's family would like to express their deep appreciation to the medical team at Queensway-Carleton Hospital for their kind and compassionate care. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Queensway-Carleton Hospital Foundation at www.qchfoundation.ca.

Guestbook



7 posts

RIP Rudy..he was part of the legacy..I worked w Rudy many years @ BNR. He was a extremely intelligent man; fair with a wicked sense of humor! His face and eyes showed his feelings, which he showed often..I am proud to have worked with him..it was definitely a pleasure. My condolences to his family, they were very important to him.

LAURA RAINE

January 12, 2022

Dear Paul, Andrew, Mrs. Kriegler and Families. My sincere condolences on the passing of Dr. Kriegler. He was a good man and it was a privilege to have known him.

PETER DUNLAP

January 12, 2022

Sincere sympathy to the Kriegler family at this difficult time. Your memories will keep Rudy's legacy at the forefront for many years to come.

RON & NANCY MCGILLIVRAY

January 12, 2022

Deepest condolences to Rudy's family.

GRANT

January 12, 2022

Andrew and Tracey...our thoughts are with you. We extend our sincere sympathy to you and your family.

LYNNE AND ALLAN MCKENZIE

January 12, 2022

Our condolences to Andrew and your families. Such an accomplished man who had a huge impact to Canada and Nortel. May he Rest In Peace.

GÎTA MACLEAN

January 12, 2022

Deepest sympathy to Rudy's family & friends. I knew Rudy from BNR/Nortel days. Very kind man, who will be missed.

JOAN LEVESQUE

January 12, 2022

