

In Memoriam - Kell Antoft

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Tue 1/11/2005 11:58 AM

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IN MEMORIAM

It is with regret that we notify the university community of the death of Kell Antoft.

ANTOFT, Kell, CM, MA - Bridgewater and Halifax, July 24, 1923 - January 8, 2005, died peacefully at home in the presence of family on Saturday, January 8, 2005, after a short, courageous battle with cancer.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou Courtney; children, Asta, Sydney; Susan, Ottawa, Ont.; Nick (Tracey), Lucasville; Tim, Dartmouth; grandchildren, Adrian, Celeste, and Aurora; and his first wife, Kit Burns. He was predeceased by his parents, Otto Hugo and Asta Sigrid (Rump); brothers, Otto and Finn; infant sons, Otto Eric and Peter Kell. He was the last remaining member of his immediate family. Born in Roskilde, Denmark, Kell and his family emigrated to Canada in 1930, residing first in Winnipeg and finally settling in 1953 in Lakeville.

Kell received his early education at King's County Academy, Kentville. He completed his B.A. in 1967 and M.A. in 1977, both from Dalhousie University. Kell served as a Royal Canadian Air Force navigator in Britain and Europe from 1943 to 1946, receiving the Defence Medal, the Voluntary Service Medal with Overseas Bar, and the Christian X Medal (Denmark). Following the war, he settled in Montreal where he founded two successful businesses: Viking Air Service, which supplied aircraft parts to European civilian airlines, and Nordic Biochemicals Ltd., noted for pioneering the isolation of growth hormones from the human pituitary gland. Kell sold his business interests in 1966 and joined the National Cancer Institute of Canada in Toronto as Assistant Executive Director, where his greatest contribution to cancer prevention involved generating the awareness of the link between smoking and cancer, work which continued for the remainder of his life through his involvement in the Canadian Cancer Society.

In 1969, he returned to Nova Scotia to accept an appointment at Dalhousie University, eventually becoming the Dean of Henson College of Public Affairs and Continuing Education. During his tenure, he launched a distinguished research career in local government, municipal planning, taxation and non-resident land ownership. Upon retirement in 1989, he was made an Adjunct Professor at Henson College.

An avid skier, Kell worked in various capacities with ski clubs and programs in Canada over the years. In 1968 he co-founded the Nancy Greene Ski League, a training program for youngsters. He was Founding President of the Nova Scotia Ski Areas Association (1972), and of the Ski Atlantic Seniors' Club (1989). Kell served on the board of the Canadian Ski Association and was a life

member of the Canadian Ski Instructors' Alliance. For these efforts, he was inducted into the Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Fame as a Builder in 2000. Kell will always be remembered as a man of great integrity. In his youth, he co-founded the Nova Scotia branch of the Canadian Hostelling Association (1938), remaining active in the movement as a member of the Trustee Committee. He believed Canada would be a stronger country by developing its youth. From the beginning of the Katimavik program, founded in 1977 by Senator Jacques Hebert, Kell was involved at both provincial and national levels, and served as National President from 1986-1989. He also believed Canada needed to remain a country of peace and co-founded Veterans Against Nuclear Arms (VANA) and its affiliated organization, the Defence Research and Education Centre. Kell was tireless in his support for the NDP, at both provincial and national levels. Kell was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 2001 and became a member of the Council of the Order of Nova Scotia on its establishment in 2002.

The family would like to thank all those who have shown such love and support during the past month. Cremation has taken place. Visitation will be in J.A. Snow Funeral Home, 2666 Windsor St., Halifax, on Wednesday, January 12, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. and Thursday, January 13, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. A celebration memorial will be held at Pier 21, Halifax, on Friday, February 4, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Otto Antoft Memorial Fund, Kings College, Dalhousie University, Canadian Cancer Society or any charity of choice. E-mail condolences may be sent to: snowfh@alderwoods.com