Roger Norman Fort

Born: March 6, 1942
Passed away: December 22, 2013

It is with deep sadness that we say goodbye to Roger. He died peacefully with his daughter Taylore at his side after a lengthy battle with cancer. Roger was a loving and gentle person who will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and co-workers. He was predeceased by his parents, his wife Joyce, and his granddaughter Sandy.

Roger was a friend and co-worker of mine for many years. I first met Roger back in 1972 when I joined Simon Fraser University. I was hired by the information technology department (simply called Computing Services at that time). Roger also worked for the I.T. department and befriended me. He was the person who first introduced me to the workings of the university and provided insight of how the computing systems were integrated into the business operations of the university. You see, Roger was one of the early pioneers having joined S.F.U. in October of 1966 - an employee of the university before it was even built. He was responsible for the operation of the computerized university business systems from when the university was housed in temporary office space under the Granville Street Bridge while the SFU Burnaby campus was being built.

Over the years, Roger provided operations support and maintenance of the university's computerized business systems (student records, accounting, and payroll), supervising the group that provided these services. He continued in this role until he retired in October of 2001. We can all be thankful for Roger's diligent work in this regard – a payroll was never missed, a registration cycle never compromised, and always – the books balanced.

Even after Roger retired, he continued to provide support for the outgoing payroll system for two more years under a post-retirement contract.

I need to agree with Lionel Tolan's (Director of Academic Services, retired) assessment that “Roger was the most gentle and most humble person I've ever known.” I might also add that Roger's contribution to the university, even though Roger worked “behind the scenes”, was profound. Anyone having worked with Roger during his years at S.F.U. would agree.

By:
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