



JIM HARVIE

Our dear friend, and former President of the CNS (2008-2009), Jim Harvie passed away peacefully October 21st, 2012, at the age of 67.

Jim leaves behind his wife, Marion, his three children Derek, Lisa, and Amber, his grandchildren Jamie, Andrew, Jena, and Sean, and his brother Naismith.

Jim retired from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission in 2002 as Director General of Reactor Regulation, and later went on to become a staunch supporter of the CNS, including a term as CNS President in 2008-2009. He was an avid sailor, traveler, and cyclist, and to quote Jim, "had a lucky life and a good wife".

Jim attended Garrowhill Primary School in Glasgow from about 1950 to 1956, Hutchesons' Boy's Grammar School, also in Glasgow, from 1956 to 1962, then Glasgow University from 1962 until 1966, where he graduated in Honours Mathematics.

After leaving university in Scotland in 1966, Jim immigrated to Canada to take up a position with AECL at Chalk River. As a mathematician, he was employed doing calculations to support various projects with the Thermo-hydraulic Analysis Unit. Colleagues remember him walking around the building every day carrying a stack of punched cards. They also remember him for his prowess on the soccer field and for his willingness to help out at the soccer club. It was during this period, in 1967, that he returned to Scotland to marry Marion.

In July 1974, Jim moved to the Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) and started work as an inspector (Project Officer) at the Bruce Nuclear Power Development. Initially, he focused mainly on reviewing safety analyses. His expertise in heat transfer was particularly valued. As Bruce “A” developed, he turned his attention more to commissioning and start-up procedures. His contribution was clearly recognized and he was promoted to Senior Project Officer in 1977, overseeing the entry into operation of the Bruce “A” reactors.

A solid basis of experience in theory, safety analysis, and operations led to further promotion in 1979, when Jim moved with his family to Ottawa to take up a series of posts as manager of various divisions of the AECB responsible for the safety and licensing of nuclear reactors. During this time, he made a major contribution to establishing a more formal relationship between the reactor licensees and the regulator.

In 1991, Jim was again promoted, this time to Director-General of the Research and Safeguards Directorate, becoming deeply involved with the IAEA and Canada’s international partners in Safeguards and Non-proliferation, resulting in a further widening of his already considerable nuclear experience.

1996 saw Jim’s return to Power Reactors, this time as Director-General of Reactor Regulation. Until his retirement in 2002, the CNSC and Canadian reactor licensees benefited from Jim’s steady hand on the regulatory rudder. He dealt firmly and wisely with a number of significant issues, including the management of difficulties at Ontario Hydro, the major loss of Class IV power incident at Pickering, and the potential problems arising from a postulated fuel bundle shift during a LOCA.

On the international front, Jim was Canada’s Head of Delegation at the first review meeting of the signatories of the International Nuclear Safety Convention.

Jim has been a strong contributor to the CNS for many years, especially after his retirement in 2002. Prior to that date he had been an active member of the Ottawa Branch of the Society. In 2004 he was elected chair of the Ottawa Branch. Two years after he was elected as Treasurer of the Society. The following year, 2007, he was elected as 1st Vice-President. That followed by automatic appointment as President for the 2008-2009 year and subsequently as Past President for the 2009-2010 year.

Milestones in Jim Harvie’s career:

1966 – 1974: Researcher in Thermalhydraulics, Chalk River Laboratories.

1974 – 1979: Project Officer at Bruce Generating Stations “A” and “B”, Atomic Energy Control Board (subsequently Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission).

1979 – 1991: Manager of various divisions in AECSB responsible for safety and licensing of nuclear reactors.

1991 – 1996: Director General, Research and Safeguards Directorate.

1996 – 2002: Director General, Reactor Regulation.

2002 – 2007: Chair, Ottawa Branch, CNS.

2003 – Present: Member, CNS Council.

2005 – 2007: Treasurer, CNS.

2007 – 2008: Vice-President, CNS

2008 – 2009: President, CNS