

Donald Erwin Holte, P.Eng.

Born in Cold Lake, Alberta in 1936, Don moved with his family to Edmonton in 1940 where he grew up. Always an innovative individual, Don was the only kid in his neighborhood who has a steering wheel on his bicycle. Don graduated in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Alberta in 1963. He joined Northwestern Utilities as a natural gas utilization engineer working on gas-fired cooling equipment, and, in 1964, became an active member of ASHRAE. He joined fellow ASHRAE-NAC member, Ross Cheriton in 1966 as a senior design engineer. This relationship flourished until 1978 when Don went on his own as Nova Engineering. His ASHRAE career grew out of NAC where he served in various board positions. Don started through the chapter executive in 1968 until his presidency in 1972. In 1986, Don served Region XI as Education and Chapter Programs chairman from 1985-88. He was Director and Regional Chairman of Region XI from 1988-91. From there he went on the finance and nominating committees and, in 1991, to the education council. In 1993, Don was elevated to the level of Fellow in ASHRAE. As of 1995 he was Society Treasurer; becoming Society President in Boston in 1997. His theme, Technology for a Better Environment, stressed the link between indoor and outdoor environment – using technology practically, efficiently and responsibly.

Don was a member of the Engineering Institute of Canada, the Canadian Society of Mechanical Engineers and served as the education and regulations & bylaws committees of A.P.E.G.G.A.. He served as a director/advisor on the Alberta Chapter of N.E.B.B. In the community at large, Don was a district leader in Boy Scouts of Canada, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology advisory committee on Air Conditioning Technology and the University of Alberta Engineering continuing Education Advisory Board.

In 1984 Don met a Dr. Bruno Keller of Geilinger Ltd., Switzerland who introduced him to a new concept in energy efficient window design. Don's "lateral" thinking and inquisitive nature led him to a thorough study of the technology. Fascinated by the possibilities for completely changing traditional curtain wall-window design and its implications for HVAC design, Don helped found Visionwall Technologies and, in 1990, he became chairman of the board.

Among his most notable designs are the \$40million Heritage Medical Research Building at the University of Alberta where Don used epistitial service space for piping and ductwork and the St. Albert Provincial Building, one of the only buildings in Edmonton area to use mass thermal momentum to maximize passive energy use.

Don was married to Wita and they have a son, Michael and a daughter, Laura.

One of Don's favourite quotations is from Rudyard Kipling's poem, The Sons of Marta.

It goes, "Raise ye the stone and cleave ye the wood to make a path more fair or flat;

Lo, it is black already with blood some Son of Martha spilled for that;

Not as a ladder from earth to heaven, not as a witness to any creed;

But simple service simply given to his own kind in their common need."