



Ronald Steven Hoffman

February 19, 1946 - November 13, 2021

Ronald (Ron) Steven Hoffman sailed away to the Great Beyond on Saturday, November 13, 2021. Born in Corsicana, Texas on February 19, 1946. Ron grew up in Aurora, Colorado where he attended Central High School, led the marching band as the drum major and established one of the school's first folk music trios.

After a B.A. in Psychology at The Colorado College in Colorado Springs, he moved to Nova Scotia to pursue his Master's in Psychology at Dalhousie University in 1968. He was a Senior Instructor in Psychology at Dalhousie University from 1980-2008. His early and self-educated fascination with computers, especially Macs, and video editing led to a unique position in the Psych Department that grew to be so valuable that, when he applied for a position at another university, one of his referees from Dal wrote a glowing letter that ended with the express hope that he wouldn't take the offer if extended. The University sent him to several technology conventions in the US over the years, where his mission was to review and recommend to Dal any new computer products which he deemed to be of use. He received accolades from both undergraduate and graduate students for whom he went far above and beyond. He required the highest standards of his students, as he always did of himself, and while this sometimes meant crossing swords with them, he was widely respected and admired. He was also active in the

Dalhousie Faculty Union for many years and helped negotiate the University's first collective bargaining agreement.

Ron retired from academia to pursue his interests in sailing, music, travel, fine food and wine. He devoted considerable time to teaching, writing, and editing manuals on boating safety with the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron, of which he was a lifetime member. For many years, including this one, Ron and Carol sailed around Nova Scotia, on a succession of fine boats which they owned. He and Carol also travelled extensively. They took several voyages with friends in the Caribbean, on bareboat charters where Ron was always the chosen captain: in fact, his deep boating expertise led to the boat charter company he used eventually designating him with their "Commodore" rank (which meant, to his delight, that he and his crew were given special rates on later charters). During his last sabbatical, Ron and Carol visited his sister Barbara and her husband, Michael, in Kenya. In later years, the four of them travelled to France multiple times. One especially memorable trip, shared with four other close friends along with Barbara and Michael, was a week spent on a canal boat travelling down the Canal du Midi in Southern France, where Captain Ron motored the big vessel 157 km through 64 locks and one very narrow tunnel. The very first lock they encountered was particularly tricky and cramped. Ron had carefully organized his amateur crew and after he put the big boat through its paces and motored easily out of the lock, the lock-keeper came out of his house and called to him 'Ah, c'est impeccable!' That remained his crew's watchword for their captain throughout the trip and became the title of the photo book he edited afterward.

Ron also took great joy in music, particularly bluegrass, pop and folk. He was a gifted singer and guitar player in several groups over the years, most recently heading up the legendary 9-member Tuesday Night Band, which,

since the pandemic began, meets online every Thursday afternoon thanks to Ron's computer expertise. His bandmates loved him dearly and deeply miss his wonderful 12-string guitar leads and his warm, true voice.

His humour, kindness, and generosity of spirit will be remembered by all who knew him. Ron is survived by his wife and best friend of 51 years, Carol Anderson, his sister Barbara Hoffman and his older brother Rick Hoffman, as well as his beloved little tabby cat Vicki and numerous close, long-term friends, colleagues, and former students. The family requests that any memorial donations be sent to The Red Cross or the Canadian Cancer Society

Tribute Wall

HW

“ Long, long ago Ron was enormously supportive of my sister Lilyan when she joined the Psychology Department of Dalhousie University in the very early 1980's. His help made it possible for her to settle into the Department and in Halifax quickly. He was the first friend she had there and remained so until her untimely death. Ron and Carol were a great help when I and my partner visited in 1986 to settle the formalities of her estate. I recall a happy trip along the coast to a lovely restaurant. We have been in touch at Christmas ever since.

I was terribly sorry to have heard of Ron's death - he deserved a much longer innings! My heartfelt condolences to Carol. I am glad to have known him - a kind, generous and gifted man.

Hugh (from Finsbury Park in London, U.K.)

Hugh White - January 11, 2022 at 09:58 AM

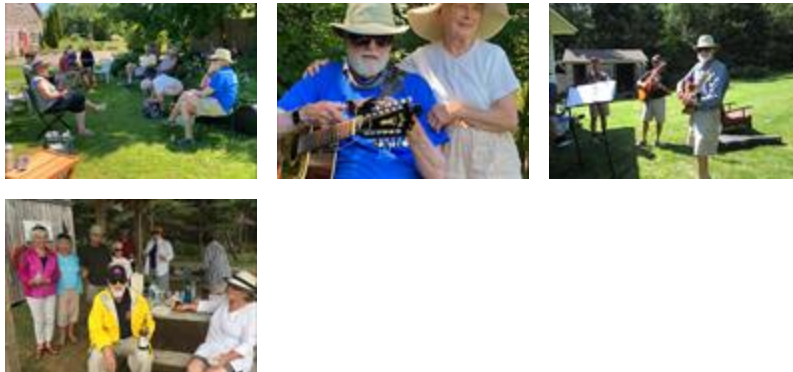
JF

“ I was one of Ron's many students and feel very fortunate for that. Ron was an amazing teacher who was genuinely dedicated to his students and, while he set a high bar, I always felt that this was because he believed we could reach it and would go above and beyond to ensure that we did. Reaching that bar helped to show us what we were capable of achieving. I went on to become a professor and think of Ron often (and fondly) now that I am supervising my own students. As I write this message, I'm smiling thinking back to my most vivid memory of Ron. He took our group of teaching assistants out for a special dinner at the end of the year as we approached graduation. We'd all known/learned from Ron in various capacities over several years. As undergraduates, a fancy meal was such a treat, but what I remember most is how clearly Ron's pride in all that we'd learned and accomplished shone through. Thank you to Ron's loved ones for sharing him with his very fortunate students; I know what a special person you (and the world) have lost.

Jillian Filliter - November 29, 2021 at 11:24 AM

SS

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Scott Swinden - November 29, 2021 at 10:27 AM

SS

“ Ron was one of the really good guys - a good friend, compassionate, good company and a great singer and guitar player. For the vast majority of Tuesday nights over the past 25 years, we played music and shared our lives. Ron had been my pathway into the Tuesday night sessions. Shortly after we moved to Halifax, I got a call from a friend and former bandmate from Newfoundland that he was in town and was going to play music with an old friend - would I like to come.? I did and the friend was Ron, and I have been happily playing with him and the rest of the Tuesday Night gang for more twenty five years. Ron was a rock-solid guitar player on the big Guild 12 string. He had a smooth and tuneful voice that was perfectly suited to both the mellow music that was our mainstay and the occasional more raucous songs as well. He kept us moving when inertia occasionally threatened and could be counted on for a wry Bob Dylan impersonation almost any time we came to play one of the bard's songs. We will continue to play the music - Ron would have wanted that - but it won't be the same.

I always envied his virtual air travels and he would often bring back stories and descriptions of places he had visited virtually that were significant to others of us. Several years ago when I was starting an extended project in Namibia, he flew his virtual plane to Windhoek's international airport and took pictures to show me what to expect.

In a very real sense we were a family and now one of the family members is no longer with us. The past month has been hard and we're really going to miss him. Rest in peace my friend.

Scott Swinden - November 29, 2021 at 10:26 AM

DC

“ My deepest condolences to Ron's family. Even though Ron and I had never met, technology enabled us to work together for 11 years on the Canadian Power and Sail Editorial Review Committee. He was the best editor I've ever worked with, and we had wonderful chats over the years. I'm so sorry to hear of his passing. There will be a major void in our organization, and he'll be sorely missed by us all. Debbie Churchill, Newfoundland

Debbie Churchill - November 28, 2021 at 03:18 PM

MO

“ Carol, please accept my sincere condolences for your loss. I will always remember how much Ron did for all of us Instructors at Dalhousie spending hours working and negotiating better contracts and working conditions for many years for which I am very grateful. He paid great attention to detail and was a pit bull negotiator. I enjoyed working and chatting with him when we met in the LSC lobby for coffee.
I hear from my buddy Beth that he faced his recent health problems with the same great courage while enjoying his retirement. He will be missed.
Best regards at this sad time and my thoughts are with you
Mary-Jane O'Halloran

Mary-Jane O'Halloran - November 28, 2021 at 07:10 AM

SJ

“ I'm sorry to hear of Ron's passing. My sincere condolences, Carol.

Sophie Jacques - November 27, 2021 at 04:20 PM

SG

“ Ron and I co-taught a core course together at Dalhousie for years. He was so dedicated, organized and efficient in his approach to teaching and mentoring students, it was inspiring to work with him. I am glad he had what sounds like an amazing retirement.

Simon Gadbois - November 26, 2021 at 08:30 PM

DR

“ I am so saddened to hear about your loss, Carol. Ron was the best of friends for over 40 years. In college he was a great roommate and included me in so many memorable events like taking me up for my first airplane ride, driving hundreds of miles to see an opera in New Mexico and the Smothers Brothers at Red Rocks. He was instrumental in my coming to Canada and you both were so helpful during our student years, driving from one end of Nova Scotia to the other, camping in all kinds of conditions, and even occasionally studying. No matter how crazy the request, he always came through without question or criticism. I'll miss him greatly.

Doug Rasmusson - November 26, 2021 at 11:22 AM

SG

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Simon Gadbois - November 26, 2021 at 03:26 PM

MM

Carol, We are very sorry to learn the news about Ron. Such a loss for you and his family and by all who knew and loved him. Moira McConnell & Peter Katadotis

Moira McConnell - November 28, 2021 at 11:28 AM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Ron was a great colleague and made important contributions to our program at Dal. It's wonderful to hear that his post-retirement years were filled with adventure!

Aaron Newman - November 26, 2021 at 09:25 AM

CC

“ I was so sorry to hear the news of this loss. I met Ron when I was a 2nd year undergraduate student at Dal in 1993. He played a key role in helping me develop my psych 2500 research project - I'll never forget the enthusiasm he had for helping me prepare a successful project, spending hours with me in the psychology computer lab formatting materials so that I could impress me supervisor (which I did!). He also introduced me to this thing called "e-mail". His kindness and energy have stuck with me over the years and throughout my career. As a former student who felt his impact, I'm sending along my sincere sympathies to Ron's family and friends.

Christine Chambers - November 26, 2021 at 08:22 AM

SK

“ Carol, I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with Ron for almost 20 years in the Dept. of Psychology and Neuroscience and he helped me with computer issues/questions more than I can count. He was truly missed when he retired, but we understood that travelling and sailing with you, was the most important thing to him. My thoughts are with you and the family. Suzanne King (Psychology Main Office).

Suzanne King - November 26, 2021 at 07:56 AM