

Ray Young
President ASHRAE Ottawa Valley Chapter, 1980-1981



(This document is a summary of the Eulogy presented by Paul Baker at the March 2005 OVC meeting)

Ray would never say 'passed away' when he spoke of death. He always quoted Tennyson and spoke in terms of crossing over. He found himself in more situations in recent years where death was a topic because after his retirement he put many volunteer hours in at the Perley Hospital. He spent time with the World War II veterans there and, being a veteran himself, found that they were more open and comfortable speaking to a fellow veteran who they could identify with. Ray graduated high school in Toronto in the spring of 1944 and joined the Navy straight away (May 27, 1944). He stayed with the Navy well past VJ Day but eventually joined Arthur S. Leitch Pumps in 1952 and stayed with them for the rest of his career. After two stints at the Leitch factory in Midland, Ont. separated by five years in Montreal, Ray came to Ottawa in 1968 as the Branch Manager responsible for sales in Eastern Ontario. Ray **was** Leitch Pumps for Ottawa and the valley until he retired in 1992.

Ray was a strong contributor to the Ottawa Valley ASHRAE Chapter. He was the fourth recipient of the Al Oakes Award but it should be noted that he also mentored the second and third recipients (Paul Baker and Keith Murfin). In the Chapter he went through the chairs and was our Chapter President in 1980-81. However, Ray will be remembered best in ASHRAE as "Mr. Membership". He saw membership growth as the strength of the organization and realized that chapter meetings that allowed maximum time for fellowship and limited time spent on procedural issues fed that growth. Consequently, in his year as Chapter President, he found creative ways to limit the time spent on the business session of the Chapter meetings. He became well versed in Robert's Rules of Order and also began the tradition of posting minutes of the previous meeting rather than having the Secretary take time to read them, ask for a motion to accept, invite discussion, vote, etc.

Ray's Membership announcements at Chapter meetings were always amusing and usually followed his theme jokes about the underlying unspoken threat. It could be an offhand comment about how organized crime syndicates handled 'deadbeats who were late paying up' or a discussion on how the British Navy Press Gangs of the past got able-bodied men to 'volunteer' for navel duty... or else cease to be able-bodied. He was so successful at

growing our Chapter membership that he himself was conscripted to do a three year term as Regional Vice Chairman for Membership for Region II. He took his act on the road and improved membership throughout the region. Keith Murfin's charts of Chapter Membership Growth are still in our Chapter Archives and show the steep increase curve attributable to Ray and Keith in the early to mid '80's.

Ray's wife Marie was also active in the Chapter. As recently as our last CRC, Marie was on the host committee helping to plan the spouses' program including a successful retro fashion show. In recent years Ray has been Chairman of the Greeters Committee and it was a fitting tribute to Ray that Greeter Chris Frauley was handing out Ray's brand of candies to all members coming into the Chapter meeting. For those of you who believe Ray has 'crossed over' to a better place, you can be sure that he has zeroed in on those who were just sitting on their wings and reading a scroll. He has grabbed them by the scuff of their neck, got them to join up, pay their dues, and he has started them on some committee work.

(Later in the meeting Rob Lefebvre went to the podium to introduce the evening's guests and took a moment to add that Ray was very supportive of a certain young, green Chapter Membership Chair and helped Rob to complete three successful years for the Membership Committee as the Chapter moved into the new millennium)

Here's to Ray Young with our thanks.