

# Presidential Recall



Jim Ovens  
1987 - 1988



Mr. Jim Ovens the Toronto Chapter's 1987 – 1988

Past President is the subject of this month's review. Jim was born in Kingston, Ontario the youngest of three children, one brother and one sister.

He graduated as a Mechanical Technologist in 1962 from the Eastern Ontario Institute of Technology, in Ottawa. In 1970 after several years of home study and one year at Queen's University, he received his professional engineer's licence from the Association of

Professional Engineers of Ontario.

From 1962 Jim has held various positions at Alcan Products Limited, Finlay Engineering Keith Associates, and Fodor Engineering. At Maunder Britnell Inc. Jim was the Vice President, he moved on to Totten Sims Hubicki Associates, and ended up at The Mitchell Partnership Inc. where he is a Senior Engineer.

For the past 40 plus years Jim has been married to Joyce, who also came from Kingston, Ontario, and is a Registered Nurse. Together they have managed to raise a million dollar family, two wonderful children one boy and one girl. (I hope they take after their mother for looks). Jim had an interest in math and sciences so engineering seemed the best choice for a profession.

In his early years Jim was involved with pollution control issues, noise control issues, and environmental control concerns. These subjects evolved to ventilation, and numerous heating and cooling, projects.

Mr. Ovens through the years had worked at The Mitchell Partnership Inc. in the early 70's and returned in 1999 until the present. Upon his return he took an active role in the hospital sector of the business.

One of his recent projects was with the redevelopment and expansion of the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) a \$200M project. TMP leadership was a strong supporter of ASHRAE, and Jim was encouraged to join the Toronto Chapter in 1971.

Jim has held several positions over the years, he was the Toronto Chapter president in 1987 – 1988. Other positions were Board of Governors from 1978 – 1985, all the committee chairs, and his involvement with Regional positions were CRC Secretary, General Chair of Toronto CRC, and Co-Chair for the 2004 CRC.

His regular contact with various ASHRAE members has had a great influence over the past three decades. The limited contact with Society Presidents at CRCs has left a very impressive mark on his attitude towards the association.

Jim feels that the vision of several past presidents of Society, the continued growth in membership, and the greater degree of research in the industry is a few of the events that have changed ASHRAE.

Jim has some advice for the new people starting in the industry, "Go for it! This field is exciting, challenging, demanding, and in most areas of the business, non repetitive."

