

# In Memoriam



Peter McLardie, RTR, CRGS, CRVS, RDMS, RVT

October 29, 1951–October 13, 2009

*A gentler soul, as ever was blessed, who carried a heart as big as his head, in his chest.*

Peter McLardie embodied all the very best attributes of a Canadian sonographer, educator, volunteer, and family man. Peter was a well-known contributor to Canadian sonography at the local, provincial, and national levels. In his commitment to his chosen profession, he touched many lives and left us with a wonderful example to follow. His contributions to education and the profession of sonography were remarkable.

Peter was raised in Campbellton, New Brunswick, and began his working career in the Canadian Armed Forces as a medic in 1973. In a desire to expand his horizons, he applied for training as a medical radiological technologist and completed his training in 1981. Peter continued his education in the military becoming a diagnostic medical sonographer in 1991.

In a military career that spanned 22 years, he and his wonderful wife, Janice, also managed to raise two children, Christie and Kirk. Like their mother and father, Christie and Kirk are two of the nicest people you would ever care to meet, and both are now pursuing their own successful business careers.

Leaving the military in 1993, Peter found his true calling when he began a new career as an educator at the Victoria General Hospital School of Ultrasound in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Throughout the 1990s, Peter was one of the leaders at the Queen Elizabeth II (QEII) Health Sciences Centre Diagnostic Medical Sonography program. He was instrumental in the implementation of the first bachelor of health science degree in diagnostic medical ultrasound in Canada. This program was first offered in 1999, when the QEII partnered with Dalhousie University. Peter continued his own technical education, becoming a registered diagnostic vascular sonographer in 2006. This additional certification allowed Peter to provide his students and colleagues with current practical working knowledge of vascular sonography, having accepted the responsibility for this segment of the QEII curriculum. He set for his students

and colleagues a fine example through his quiet dedication and hard work.

Peter's love of education, respect for his students and colleagues, and dedication to his profession ensured that the graduates of the QEII Dalhousie University program are among the finest in the country. His work centred on making sure that his students had the knowledge they needed to become competent sonographers. This is what was taught in the classroom and laboratory setting; however, it was by example that he taught them to become hard-working, productive contributors to the profession.

Peter played integral roles in his profession at the local, provincial, and national levels in organizations such as the Nova Scotia Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (NSSDMS), the Canadian Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers (CSDMS), the Canadian Association of Registered Diagnostic Ultrasound Professionals (CARDUP), and the Canadian Medical Association.

## NSSDMS

Peter McLardie was actively involved in his provincial society, NSSDMS. He helped in many ways over the years, including speaking at and helping to organize provincial conference meetings. He was always a great advocate for sonographers, and this showed in the NSSDMS sonographer workload survey he constructed. He distributed the NSSDMS Workload Survey, to which 95% of the recipient sonographers responded. Peter compiled all the survey results and forwarded a report to the executive so that they could distribute the information to managers, risk management, health councils, etc. These results outlined the staff shortages in many hospitals in the region.

## CSDMS

Peter was an integral part of CSDMS, and during his membership held the following positions:

- 1999–2003: member of the CSDMS Board of Directors (Region 5 – Atlantic Canada)
- 2001–2005: CSDMS National Education Committee chairperson
- 2003: CSDMS Annual General Meeting/Education Conference co-chairperson
- 2009: CSDMS conference presenter: “Clinical Teaching and Evaluation”

He received the 2006 CSDMS Order of Merit Award for his contributions to the profession.

### CARDUP

Peter was a member of the CARDUP Educational Task Force for National Competency Profiles Development, was the QEII/Dalhousie CARDUP National Education Advisory Committee Representative from 2004 to 2009, and held the position of CARDUP NEAC co-chairperson in 2008–2009.

### CMA

Peter was a CMA Conjoint Accreditation survey team member on several program accreditations.

In all these roles, Peter exemplified the knowledgeable, quiet, and respectful professional that he was. In his roles with CSDMS and CARDUP, Peter demonstrated an amazing awareness and grasp of the national issues affecting Canadian sonography. He made it a personal challenge to be informed on all issues affecting his profession and to provide that information to his national colleagues. His eye for detail, his ability to selectively analyze, and his commitment greatly benefited the decisions and initiatives of the groups with which he was involved, and bore huge benefits for all Canadian sonographers, ensuring that they were best served by the new education, training, certification, and professional standards being developed. He allowed his colleagues to think more freely and creatively knowing that he was there backing them up with the small, complicated, and unexciting details. He had amazing common sense and could see things that others might fail to notice in the most complex projects. This helped immensely with planning and implementation.

Peter was a very strong supporter of a Canadian professional certification program, professional standards, and the need for the regulation and licensure of sonography in Canada. He realized early on that these were the tools that would allow Canadian sonographers to become recognized as distinct medical professionals with the ability, means, and knowledge to determine and control their own training, education, and ethical and practice standards. Peter felt it was critical that Canadian sonographers be of the highest quality with specific and thorough training, education, and experience in their chosen diagnostic medical sonography discipline.

Peter’s love of education, respect for his students and colleagues, and dedication to his profession were certainly

evident to the graduates of the QEII Dalhousie Sonography program. As an ultrasound educator, Peter was always willing to help or assist. He encouraged students to become actively involved in their professional societies and registry. Peter was extremely proud of the students who did presentations at provincial or national conferences. He is remembered with comments from his students and colleagues, such as:

“He was a true gentleman.”

“He was a positive person. A wonderful colleague who was always a pleasure to work with.”

“Peter was such a great teacher. I still think of him almost every time I scan the LUQ [left upper quadrant]. He always told me to be careful that there isn’t an adrenal mass hiding there.”

We have learned so much from Peter. His leadership, integrity, and respect for others were of the highest quality. He was an excellent example of a dedicated teacher and a true promoter of learning. Peter promoted cooperation and collaboration in whatever he did. That is probably why he helped to get so much accomplished. He enjoyed a Tim Horton’s coffee and a good conversation with his colleagues rather than a formal meeting. He often felt that more issues got solved in a relaxed and informal setting. He had a great sense of humour and was a joy to be around.

As an inspiration to sonographers from coast to coast, Peter’s life defined the word *professionalism*. Professionalism means continuously striving to improve one’s knowledge, skills, and experience. It means stepping up to give back to your profession, community, friends, and family. It means contributing and actively participating with enthusiasm and respect for others at all times. And it means doing all these things without regard for personal recognition.

CSDMS and CARDUP will be honouring Peter’s memory with an educational bursary that will be formalized at the 2010 Educational Conference and Annual General Meeting in Toronto. Please continue to watch the CSDMS and CARDUP websites for updates on this important fund and for opportunities to help support Canadian sonography education in Peter’s memory.

If there is one thing Peter left us, it is a glowing example of what it means to be a Canadian sonographer and mentor, a great father and husband, and a wonderful friend to everyone he met. Peter is imminently worthy of our recognition, but we know he would probably shudder at all the attention. He was certainly a humble man, never seeking the limelight. Peter will be remembered with true fondness and deep respect.

### Kim Boles and Carol Gillis

For the CSDMS and CARDUP Boards of Directors