

Byron Walter Boville³

1921 - 2001

Barney Boville passed away Friday afternoon, June 1, around 5:30 hrs lying in full view of his beloved Lake Simcoe with all of his family present. He was in his eighty-first year.

Barney was one of the "metmen" recruited during the War and trained in meteorology in a crash course to forecast weather for cargo planes flying out of Gander to the European front lines.

After the war, he completed his doctorate and eventually became Chair of Meteorology at McGill. He then became Director of Research at AES (now once again MSC) and served as a consultant with the WMO in Geneva where he started the World Climate Programme. He was recruited by York University to help set up the Atmospheric Science stream and later he served as Chair of the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Science. During his tenure as Chair, Gary Klassen and Mary Ann Jenkins were appointed and Peter Taylor was hired as his successor as Chair. It is worth mentioning that Barney's Ph.D students include such luminaries of Canadian meteorology as André Robert, Phil Merilees, David Davies, Richard Asselin, Ian Rutherford, Mike Kwizak and many more. For many years Barney was the organiser of the McGill-Stanstead summer school seminars in meteorology which brought many internationally-known experts to Canada and stimulated a great many Canadian students. Barney started the Canadian climate modelling effort in the '70s and founded the group now known as CCCma. He was also the founder of the Canadian Climate Centre, the Canadian Climate Program Board, and as a result of all these activities he was asked to go to Geneva to set up the World Climate Program.

His scientific work on atmospheric dynamics and the ozone layer and climate led to his election as a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society and the award of the Patterson Medal of MSC and the Massey Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. He was also President of the Canadian Branch of the Royal Meteorological Society from 1962 to 1964, CMOS being formed much later in 1967.

Among his three children, Susan, Jo-Anne and Byron, two followed him into meteorology. His daughter Susan was an in-line forecaster in Montréal before becoming a senior planning officer at McGill and she later served as a sessional lecturer in meteorology at York. His son Byron is a senior research scientist at NCAR in Boulder, Colorado.

Until his death, he was enjoying his retirement at Lake Simcoe with his second wife Flora. A Memorial service was held at the United Church in Orillia, Ontario.
