

Remembering Richard (Rico) Stengel



Richard Stengel, Head of Aviation Weather Observing Standards, passed away on February 3, 2006 as the result of a tragic car accident.

Remembered for his quiet selflessness and dedication, Richard had a subtle humour and charm. A sensitive, creative and analytical thinker, he tackled all challenges with an understated determination that continues to inspire all who knew him. His thoughtful insight, compassion and friendship are truly missed.

Richard's career with the MSC dates back to summer 1980 when he graduated from the Weather Observing Course and became part of the Winnipeg Surface Weather Observing Pool. In fact, just days before his death, he proudly received his 25-year long-service award.

Richard spent much of his first year with the MSC in Armstrong, Ontario before spending four months in Gimli, Manitoba. In July 1981 he transferred to Lansdowne House, Ontario where he met the love of his life, Jesse Russell. Richard eventually became the station manager and would likely have spent his whole career at Lansdowne had the observing program not been automated.



In summer 1989 the couple moved to Thunder Bay where Richard spent the next nine years as a meteorological inspector. Always keen to upgrade his skills he went on to obtain an electronics diploma from Confederation College on his own time and he received the school's Avenor Thunder Bay Operations Engineering Technician Award in 1995.

In February 1999 Richard was transferred to North Bay. As supervisor of the Technical Services Office from January 2000 to January 2004 he was responsible for all air monitoring operations in eastern & northeastern Ontario. He received a regional Citation of Excellence for his contribution to the Lansdowne House Weather Station environmental clean-up.

An active resource for World Meteorological Organization initiatives, Richard spent time in Mexico, Brazil, Switzerland and Finland. At home his many interests included soap-making, gardening, small-equipment mechanics and spending time with his dogs.



In January 2004 Richard left his monitoring roots in Ontario Region to become head of Aviation Weather Observing Standards which was a natural fit for his strong observing standards and inspection experience. It was while travelling to a French language course for his new position that Richard was tragically killed.

Richard was an admired and respected friend, colleague and mentor; he remains missed by his many colleagues at the Meteorological Service of Canada.

