



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Memorial Tribute to

KENNETH A. SELBY

Professor Emeritus
Department of Civil & Mineral Engineering

October 24, 2024

Be it resolved –

THAT the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering record with deep regret the death on August 15, 2024 of Professor Emeritus Kenneth Selby

Professor Selby was an accomplished scholar, holding a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and an MBA from the University of Toronto, and a PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois.

Professor Selby joined the faculty of the University of Toronto as an Assistant Professor in 1964, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1967 and full professor in 1988. Since 1997, he has been Professor Emeritus. He supervised numerous undergraduate, masters and doctoral students over this time and taught construction-related courses. Well-known for his enthusiasm, creativity and positive disposition, he was voted “Professor of the Year” in Civil Engineering several times by his students. In 1992 he received a University-wide award for excellence in teaching in the professional faculties (sciences) from the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students and the Students’ Administrative Council. From 1994 to 1996, Professor Selby represented Civil Engineering and Geological Engineering on the UTFA council. He dedicated his career to education and had a passion for teaching and mentoring young minds. In the 1980s, when student employment was hard to find, he formed Ken Selby and Associates providing students with opportunities in the construction industry.

In 1973 Professor Selby, along with Professor Emeritus John Timusk, launched U of T’s first concrete canoe in Toronto Harbour, marking the beginning of the popular student club. The use of a popular breakfast cereal in the initial concrete mix allowed for the watercraft to float – the cereal was later replaced with a manufactured product.

Ken had a lifelong passion for and excelled in many sports, including swimming, football, hockey, downhill skiing, and tennis, among others. He coached numerous youth sports, particularly hockey, and supported his children and grandchildren in their activities. In the '60s, he built his family a tennis court at the cottage and later in his life you could often find him on the tennis courts at the Toronto Cricket Club, participating in many leagues, well into his 80s.

He enjoyed following news, politics, and world affairs, and was a particular champion of women and girls in all their pursuits. His last summer was spent in Muskoka, surrounded by loved ones, marking 90 consecutive summers spent in his happy place, where he has created a wonderful family legacy. Ken's kindness, intellect, enduring love for his family, and support of his friends will be remembered and celebrated by all who knew him.

Professor Selby is survived by his wife of 66 years, Anne; three children and seven grandchildren. He was predeceased in 2007 by his daughter Pam.

Be it further resolved –

THAT this tribute to Professor Emeritus Kenneth Selby be inscribed in the minutes of this Council meeting, and that copies be sent to his family as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the members of this Council.

*Prepared by Professor Marianne Hatzopoulou and other members of
the Civil & Mineral Engineering Department.*