

***Our Graduates from
1972 - 1979
Celebrating 40+ Years!***

In Memoriam....



Dr. Roy Englund

10 February 1937 – 26 May 2013

**Dalhousie University Residency
Program
1972**

Dr. Ian Holmes

April 3, 2017

**Dalhousie University Residency
Program
1978**



44th Annual Yabsley Club – May Newsletter



John Acker – 1973

After 4 years of General Practice in Fredericton, N.B., Dr. John Acker decided that he had a liking for General Surgery. He returned to Halifax and was accepted into the General Surgery Program. As part of that program, he was required to complete a three month rotation in Orthopaedic Surgery, even though it did not have a training program itself. Since Dr. Acker was the newest resident, he drew the short straw and was sent there first. This is where he met Dr. Reginald Yabsley, the newest surgeon within the Division of Orthopaedics and an inspired teacher.

After only six weeks of working with Dr. Yabsley and the other Orthopaedic Surgeons in the Department, he realized that Orthopaedic Surgery was what he really wanted to do, following in the footsteps of his father and uncle, the first orthopaedic surgeons in the Maritime Provinces. He asked Dr. Yabsley if he could help secure a Residency position in Canada. He tried but there were no vacancies. But, he let Dr. Acker in on a secret.....The Royal College was going to allow Dalhousie to start an Orthopaedic Surgery Program! Dr. Acker was the second resident admitted to the program.

Dr. Acker spent the next four years training with Dr. Yabsley, Dr Petrie and the rest of the surgeons within the Division. After passing the Royal College Exams, he completed fellowships in Berne, Switzerland and in England. He then returned to the Maritimes, settling in Saint John, New Brunswick, where he worked until 2004. He continued working as a surgical assist and doing Independent Medicals, until 2016. Dr. Acker introduced the first Total Knee Replacement as well as introducing Arthroscopy and Arthroscopic Surgery to New Brunswick. Dr Yabsley and he remained good friends until Dr. Yabsley's sad passing in 2017.

Dalhousie Division of Orthopaedic Surgery Yabsley Day

16 November 2019

Prince George Hotel, Halifax, Nova Scotia

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Herb Mitton – 1973

After completing an undergraduate science degree at the University of New Brunswick, Dr. Mitton began Medical School at Dalhousie University. After completing his internship, he went into the General Surgery Residency Program. He switched to the newly established Orthopaedic Program as one of Dr. Yabsley's first residents. The following year he transferred to the Orthopaedic Program at the University of Ottawa while his wife, Debbie, training in the OBGYN Program in Ottawa as well. He remained in Ottawa to complete a fellowship with Dr. Gordon Armstrong in Scoliosis Surgery. He joined the Orthopaedic group in Saint John, New Brunswick in 1974.

While at the Regional Hospital in Saint John, he established a scoliosis clinic and became the director of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society along with Dr. Jock Murray. The group in Saint John actively began teaching residents and clinical clerks from Dalhousie and Memorial University and now, their own New Brunswick medical Students.

An avid sailor, Dr. Mitton bought a sailboat and went into a charter business in the Caribbean. He and Debbie were both pursuing busy careers while raising two girls before Debbie lost her two year battle with cancer. He met his second wife, Maureen, an orthopaedic nurse with two boys the same age as Dr. Mitton's daughters, while scuba diving. Around 2000, they built a downsized house, children ventured out on their own, the sailboat was sold and a place in Florida was purchased. After serving as the Head of Orthopaedics for 10 years, Dr. Mitton began to slow down and narrowed his practice to more foot and knee outpatient surgery.

When the Florida holidays grew to a couple of months, Dr. Mitton knew it was time to retire. He and Maureen bought a new sailboat, sailing it from the Bahamas to home. They continue to sail it on the Saint John River system in the summers while Dr. Mitton continues to assist General Surgery at the hospital for a day or two a week.

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Bill Stanish - 1974

Dr. Stanish received his MD from Dalhousie University in 1970. During his tenure at Dalhousie, Dr. Stanish was captain of the Varsity football and hockey teams. Upon graduation, Dr. Stanish was the recipient of the prestigious Malcolm Honour Award, given to the Dalhousie graduate acknowledging his exceptional contribution to the University and the community. His Residency Training commenced at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, England, where his primary focus was Rheumatology, Neurology and Spinal Cord Injuries. This was followed by training in Orthopaedic Surgery under the leadership of the late Professor Emeritus, Reginald Yabsley. Following residency, he did a combined Fellowship in Disorders of the Spine and Sports Medicine at Harvard University. Dr. Stanish became a faculty member of Dalhousie University in 1976 and was awarded the COA French Traveling Fellowship in 1978. He has been President of the Canadian Academy of Sport Medicine, the Orthopaedic Society of Nova Scotia and the famed Herodicus Sports Medicine Society. Further, he has held executive positions on a number of provincial, national and international societies.

Dr. Stanish has been involved in the Olympic movement since the Olympic Games in Montreal/1976. He was Chief Medical Officer for the Canadian Olympic Team in the 1984 Games in Los Angeles, and held the same position as CMO for the Canadian Team at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. Currently he is a member of the American Orthopaedic Association, Canadian Orthopaedic Association, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, Arthroscopy Association of North America, American Orthopaedic Society for Sport Medicine, as well as the Canadian Academy of Sports Medicine. Dr. Stanish was the President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia from 2016 to 2018.

Dr. Stanish has lectured worldwide and has been the recipient of many medals, honors and awards - most recently membership in the Nova Scotia Sport Hall of Fame, the Dalhousie University Sport Hall of Fame and the University of Prince Edward Island Sport Hall of Fame. He holds an Honorary Doctor of Laws from St. Francis Xavier University and in 2016, the Doctor of Laws from the University of Prince Edward Island. He has been awarded the distinction of Professor Emeritus by Dalhousie University and has also been inducted into the Order of Nova Scotia.

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Pete Connelly - 1976

After finishing residency in June 1976, and successfully passing the Royal College exams, Dr. Connelly moved to Kentville, where for a number of years he was the only certified orthopaedic surgeon outside of Halifax. The Orthopedic Section of the Department of Surgery at Valley Regional Hospital now boasts seven surgeons.

He served as an Honorary Research Associate at Acadia University and also served as team physician for a number of years. He obtained his Diploma in Sport Medicine from CASEM as well as a Diploma from the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery allowing him to become a Fellow of the American Academy. With Dr. Yabsley's help, he became a fellow of the American College of Surgery. Dr. Connelly was also a member of the American College of Sport Medicine and a Fellow of the American Academy of Sport Physicians. As a member of the COA, he served as Chair of the Membership Committee. He was fortunate to travel as a member of various sports teams to Ukraine, Poland, eight Canada games, four FISU Games: in the USA, two in China and one in South Korea as well as working at a number of sporting events in the Maritimes.

Dr. Connelly ceased doing joint replacements in 2010 and closed his practice in early 2012. For the next several years, he worked as a surgical assistant on all the various surgical subspecialties. He is thankful to his colleagues in the Department of Surgery as well as the assistant group for their friendship, teaching and encouragement. He fully retired at the end of December, 2017 and, while he does not miss the regular hours, he does miss his friends, so on occasion drops over to the surgeons lounge for a chat. Dr. Connelly describes his career as very fulfilling and busy, grateful to all those with whom he associated, and those who encouraged and taught him.

Dr. Connelly and his wife, Sandi, have been married for 51 years and live in essentially the same house that they bought when they moved to the valley. There have been many modifications to it over the years and he admits that it is probably time to downsize. They have two "children" now fully grown of course with careers and children. They are the proud grandparents of four, two in Pennsylvania and two in Nova Scotia. The oldest is now a student at Mount Allison University.

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S. “Ump” Udapa – 1976

Michael Forsythe, Sr. – 1977

Dalton Dickinson - 1978



Lawrence C. Schweitzer - 1979

Dr. Lawrence Schweitzer received a BA from Boston University, where he majored in biology. He continued his medical education at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium where he graduated with distinction and was awarded a doctor of medicine degree in 1975. This was followed by his general surgical internship at the Victoria General Hospital, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1975. He remained at the Victoria General hospital while completing his orthopedic residency training, serving as chief orthopedic resident from 1978 - 1979.

Dr. Schweitzer joined Connecticut Family Orthopedics in 1979 and specializes in adult reconstructive surgery of the hip and knee, arthroscopy of the knee, trauma and general orthopedics. He has maintained a license in good standing to practice medicine and surgery in the State of Connecticut since 1979. He is board certified and a Diplomat of the American Board of Orthopedic Surgeons, a Fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is a member of the Connecticut State Medical Society, The Connecticut State Orthopedic Society and the Fairfield County Medical Society.

Dr. Schweitzer and his wife reside in Newtown. He is a “craftsman” in the true sense of the word. He enjoys woodworking, model airplane building and flying, photography and horticulture. He maintains an extensive collection of award winning orchids.

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