

Henry Edwin “Hank” Rogers
May 22, 1940–February 2, 2010

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Henry (Hank) in his 70th year, after a ten-month struggle with cancer. Hank died peacefully in the comfort of his own home, in the presence of his family.

Hank will be greatly missed by his beloved partner and soulmate of 27 years, Dennis Helm (together since 1983, married in 2004). He leaves his much loved sons David (wife Carole) of Whitehorse, Yukon, and Iain (partner Anne) of Incheon, South Korea, as well as their mother, Dorothy Rogers of Ottawa. He will be missed by his mother-in-law Caroline Helm of Kitchener, his sisters-in-law Marlene Helm of Kitchener and Judy Rosien of Guelph, as well as by relatives and his many loyal friends.

The April 2009 diagnosis of stomach cancer was followed by aggressive treatments of chemotherapy and radiation. These were successful in stabilizing the cancer itself, but the physical toll on Hank was significant. Throughout these treatments he remained genuinely happy and engaged. He spent his time with his loving partner and thoroughly enjoyed visits with his children and wonderful friends who provided their continual love and support.

Hank was born in Amarillo, Texas to parents Henry and Leta. The first member of his family to attend university, he earned a doctorate in linguistics from Yale University of New Haven, Connecticut in 1967. He then emigrated to Canada to accept a teaching position with the University of Toronto, where he was a professor of linguistics until his retirement in 2005. As part of his research, he lived and studied in Sierra Leone, Africa, and the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. He loved to teach and wrote a number of books on phonetics and writing systems. Hank later obtained a Master of Education degree from the University of Toronto and had a counseling practice for a number of years. He thrilled in the study of linguistics and language and never ceased to learn. Hank was also one of the founding members of Out and Out Toronto, and spent a number of years as the Vice-President, Grievances for the University of Toronto's Faculty Association.

Hank got great pleasure from reading, gardening, cooking, travelling, training his dogs, following politics, and spending long summers at the family cottage in Haliburton.

Hank will be remembered for many things but perhaps most keenly for his big heart, his philosophical approach to life, and his ready and distinctive laugh.

The family invites their relatives and friends to celebrate the life of Hank during visitation at McDougall & Brown Funeral Home (Scarborough Chapel), 2900 Kingston Rd., on Thursday, February 4th from 7-9 p.m. and Friday, February 5th from 2-4 & 7-9 p.m.

Funeral Service will be held at the Church of the Holy Trinity (Guildwood), 85 Livingston Rd., Scarborough on Saturday, February 6th at 11 a.m. with a reception to follow. Interment will take place at the Necropolis Cemetery, 200 Winchester Street, Toronto after the reception.

Hank was genuine, kind, and possessed a rare and infectious sense of humour. Words cannot fully express how deeply he will be missed. On Hank's behalf, we thank our family, friends, and Dr. David White for his long-time support and care. Hank was surrounded by love. He had a good life. And because of him, we were, and we are, a very fortunate family. Tributes in Hank's memory may be made to the U. of T. Henry Rogers Undergraduate Scholarship in Linguistics or to the Church of the Holy Trinity (Guildwood).