

Delivered by Marilyn Harris attending the memorial in Toronto on November 15, 2016
(photo below of former colleagues and friends of Kelly – Marilyn standing 2nd from right)

Thank you to the U of T for including the Canadian Information Processing Society in today's memorial. It is an honour to have this opportunity to speak on behalf of CIPS. Several other CIPS colleagues are here ... Bill Hutchison, Jim Finch, Mary Jean Kucerak, our long time wonderful director ... and current president, Bashir Fancy. Another valued member, Stephen Ibaraki, whose many audio interviews with Kelly are a treasure to us, is in Japan today.



Dr. Kelly Gotlieb's life had many well-organized "compartments", as last week's Globe and Mail article outlined so nicely. CIPS was only one of them, albeit always an important one.

I met Kelly in Toronto in 1982, at my first CIPS National Board meeting. I knew him only by reputation, the iconic "founder" of CIPS, and then an early National president. As I got to know Kelly through the years, he told me about how CIPS came to be.

In 1958, Kelly attended a conference in Toronto ... he realized, surprisingly there were already quite a lot of people working with computers in Canada... so obviously there was a need for them to learn from each other.. a bit novel then perhaps ...today we just call it networking! Kelly took the lead on founding an association, the first in North America for computing professionals. CIPS started life as The Computing and Data Processing Society of Canada.

Kelly always understood the value of shared knowledge and collaboration. I think he saw himself first and foremost, as an educator. So CIPS' mandate settled out as offering education and support to our members... eventually creating a professional designation – the Information Systems Professional of Canada, the I.S.P., for the computing professionals who do such important work across the country.

CIPS continued to evolve, building partnerships with far-reaching influence... becoming the Government of Canada's representative to all of today's international IT organizations.

I soon learned, though CIPS for 30 years had been THE professional society for Canada's computing professionals, we really had NO program that recognized Canadian leaders in our industry. Talking with Kelly at a Board dinner...he gently told me HE was the long-serving Chair of the Association of Computing Machinery, ACM's, Awards program!!!

Well .. it doesn't get better than THAT does it!! Working with his guidance, an awards program for CIPS took shape ...with lots of external links to the business community. The C.C. Gotlieb Award recognizes a member "for outstanding contributions to CIPS through years of substantial

effort.” Kelly was very honoured... I know. He also received a number of ACM awards, one so aptly describing him as “the leading light of ACM’s award committee”.

Another memorable meeting came when Kelly came to Calgary to see Leo and to give a CIPS presentation I had organized. When I met him at the conference, the first thing he said was: “Could I please borrow \$20?” He’d left his wallet in his hotel room! A lovely reminder of Kelly, the “absent minded professor!”

As time went on, CIPS’ role in the IT world grew ... with our work as the first association in North America to offer accreditation of post-secondary computing programs.

I felt the next logical step was to seek an Order of Canada for Kelly... we all thought his work in establishing CIPS was worthy of the honour. A day in the fall, 1996, the day of the presentation in Ottawa, was a truly memorable one ... for Kelly, and for his family... for CIPS!

In closing, I think there are many reasons why people belong to associations...no matter the specifics, the ONE thing that links us all is the *pride* we take in being members. There was no better representative of CIPS, ever, than Kelly... he made us all proud, every day, and we will miss him.