



Paul Rothfels

December 30, 1946 - February 9, 2017

Paul died suddenly of a heart attack at his home on February 9, 2017. He had been sanding the kitchen table in his shop as a surprise for Margaret, came in for lunch, and collapsed. He was the loving and supportive life partner of his wife, Margaret Almack, loving and supportive father to their children, Carl (Cathy Rushworth) and Colin, and loving big brother to Peter, Ann, Mary (Al Howard), Corinna, Susan, Karen (Johnny Tkach), and Claire. Also survived by his mother, Jo Manning, of Victoria, and Margaret's siblings: Bob (Liz Henderson), Clare (Jim Shatford), and Corrie (Patty Lynes). Predeceased by his father, Klaus Rothfels, in 1986.

During his short time with us, Paul made major contributions to the betterment of his community. He fought the establishment of a local landfill site through his involvement with Georgina Against Garbage (GAG) and was on the first board of Georgina Trades Training Inc. (GTTI). He was a very popular shop teacher at SDHS, remembered vividly by his students for the positive impact he had on their lives, both then and on-going. Often a beer would appear at his table at the Belvedere, compliments of a former student.

He was an active member of both the South Lake Simcoe Naturalists and North Durham Nature. Paul was a keen amateur botanist and spent much of his free time on weekend trips with the Field Botanists of Ontario or poring over his reference books while compiling a plant inventory of his home property. Recently he'd been instrumental in establishing bluebird nesting in the former LaFarge gravel pit, south of Uxbridge, and made over 50 specialized bird boxes as part of that project. He was very proud of his "Birds-Only Nesting Box" design.

He was a very busy guy--skiing every day there was snow, disappearing on backcountry orienteering trips in Algonquin--and always with a project (well, several) on the go, either at home or helping one of his many friends. People only had to ask and he was there. He was a compassionate, empathetic friend, taking great pleasure in helping others.

He was a true steward of his rural property--doggedly destroying Dog-strangling Vine and Buckthorn, making winding trails for walking and skiing, complete with "bridges" over the wet spots and bird boxes everywhere.

A Gathering in his memory will be held in the Udora Community Hall on March 4, from 2 - 4. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to one of his favourite charities: Ontario Nature, EcoJustice Canada, Earthroots Fund, and the David Suzuki Foundation.