

Remembering David Sylvester



I worked with Dave In the late 1980s, when Dave started out installing fire alarm systems as an apprentice electrician.

In the 1990s, the federal government benefitted from Dave's trouble shooting expertise as he maintained over 500 fire alarm systems at Pearson International Airport.

While I worked with Dave trying to automate single line drawings for Life Safety System Shutdowns at the airport, Dave was already teaching me back in those days.

I think Dave was a "born" educator-very intelligent and a fun type of guy too; then Dave left the airport.

I heard of Dave's illness not too long ago and by the time I could even visit with Dave it was too late.

I will always regret not seeing him sooner than I last saw Dave at his father-in-laws funeral.

My sincerest condolences to Peter and for Peters wife (sister to Dave) and the rest of Dave's Family (especially his wife and daughters), colleagues & closest friends.

RIP David, no more suffering!

Sincerely Cheryl Lewis

David -

I enjoyed knowing you.

I enjoyed talking to you.

I enjoyed working with you.

What a tremendous guy.

You made the world a better place.

Thank you for being you.

Dave Ayotte

My Deepest Condolence to Dave's Wife Lucy and daughters Samantha and Madison.
Dave was an incredible Tutor, colleague, friend and mentor. Ten years ago we met in his Electrical Pre-exam class at George Brown College and as a new Canadian, Dave and I instantly became friends. He was so excited about his new friend he told his family and everyone about me.
He took on the task of job hunting for me and that was very inspirational for me in my job search. Over the years I've taught with Dave, assisted with authoring and was invited on many occasions with my family to be with him and his family. We shared some joyous times.
Dave had a positive outlook on life and even during his hospitalization, his enthusiasm was infectious. His mind was still creative with thoughts to improve life safety systems and his incredible memory for the Building, Fire and Electrical codes with great details was just out of this world.
The industry has lost a true visionary.
Heaven is a safer place now as I know Dave will still be carrying on his great work.
Winston Browning

So sorry to hear this.
Sincere condolences.
Robert Comeau
Fire / Quinte West Fire Prevention Officer,
Incendie / Officier de Prevention d'Incendie Quinte West
Trenton, Ontario

I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Dave. He was a very special man who helped me immensely with my fire alarm courses no matter what a busy man he was. He also took my calls for instruction on a problem. I am shocked that this wonderful gentleman has passed away. He never ever said that he was sick and when I heard him at the CFFA shows his presence was awesome. He always had a way of putting his topic choice in a way everyone would understand and made sure we all had fun listening to him.
Dave, I can only hope in heaven that you are teaching angels how to handle the ravages of fire. To Dave's family I know a big void will occur in your home, please be strong for he is looking down upon you and keeping you all safe.
God Bless.
Ski, Exclusive Alarms

It was with great sorrow that I learned of Dave's passing. We had known each other for many years and collaborated on a number of initiatives. Dave was my daughter's teacher at Seneca, on Fire Alarms and he had been one of the "Career" day contacts for her in grade nine. My condolences to all of Dave's family.
Kevin Austin

The Website of The Fire Protection Technicians Network has the following memorial article for viewing:
The Canadian fire protection community lost a treasured and respected friend and colleague today.
Dave was a genuine force to be reckoned with in our industry as an educator, writer, and innovative thinker.

He served with me on several ULC committees and Working Groups and his wisdom, drive, commitment and passion will be deeply missed. To Dave's wife and family, he was a devoted husband, friend, and dad. You couldn't ask for (or find) a better role model.

Rest easy, Dave. You've made Canadians safer, and enriched our lives (and our industry) beyond measure!

Frank Kurz

"You and I will meet again, When we're least expecting it.
One day in some far off place, I will recognize your face.
I won't say goodbye my friend , For you and I will meet again".
-- Tom Petty

I will miss my friend and mentor Dave Sylvester. I watched as Dave continually promoted the best in other people and gave them the encouragement that they needed to achieve what they set out to achieve. He was a true friend and will be sorely missed.

Marvin Rosenberg

I was saddened to hear about David passing. I hope and pray that you will have strength during this time of loss. As teacher at George Brown College in 1998, he was the best I ever had.

My condolences.

Bruno D'Agostino

Sorry for your loss.

May God give you the strength and courage to cope and may HE make it easy for you.

Farhaud Amin, CFAA Technician

My thoughts are with David's family and I wish them all the strength needed to help cope with the loss of their loved one. I did not know David personally but knew of him by CFAA. I am sure the footprints made by David in the Fire Alarm Industry, has and will continue be followed by our technicians on base and in our Province.

George Bonnell, Kingston, Ontario

Dave was an incredible colleague and friend. This is truly a terrible loss for all of his friends, family and the Fire and Life Safety industry at large. Dave's positive outlook on life, even during the most difficult of times, was inspirational. He was infectious in his enthusiasm, future thinking in his approach to safety, and was genuinely engaged in making the world a better and safer place. He was a truly unique and irreplaceable human being. We will miss him dearly.

Mark Falbo, President, Mircom Group of Companies

My deepest regards!!! He was a great man!!!!

Donna Struch

Superior Safety Codes Inc.

Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo

I am deeply saddened by the news of Mr. David Sylvester's passing.

My thoughts and prayers are with Mrs. Sylvester and their daughters.

Deepest Sympathy.

Bozka Malinak

I am saddened to hear that Dave Sylvester has passed away.

He made so many valuable contributions to our community.

Anthony H Van Odyk, Industry Coordinator, Fire Protection Program, Seneca College

It is with the saddest of hearts that all of us at the CFAA mourn the loss of a great visionary, colleague, teacher, friend, David Sylvester.

Over the past ten years, you have probably heard the name Dave Sylvester when exploring CFAA education. That's because Dave was a proud supporter of CFAA technicians since 1997. As a past 1st CFAA National Vice President and a past Chair of the CFAA National Education Committee for six years, there is no doubt that Dave made an instrumental impact on the organization as well as the industry.

In the early 1980s, Dave started out installing fire alarm systems as an apprentice electrician. In the 1990s, the federal government benefitted from Dave's trouble shooting expertise as he maintained over 500 fire alarm systems at Pearson International Airport. In the early 2000s, Dave joined the Leber Rubes Life Safety Consulting team and developed his fire alarm design skills on various large scale fire alarm projects such as Square One Shopping Mall, Toronto Eaton Centre, and the Toronto Dominion Centre to name a few.

In the mid-2000s, Dave initiated a new type of fire alarm design process at Morrison Hershfield, utilizing tablets and geospatial databases to design pick-and-place fire alarm devices in real time while reviewing a building. This resulted in Dave receiving the 2010 Carson F. Morrison Award of Excellence for Innovation.

Currently, David was the Director of Research and Industry Affairs for Mircom Group of Companies.

Dave is best remembered for his knowledge sharing with over 2000 technicians across the country. Many people benefitted from David's dedication, energy and passion for the fire safety industry. He was a people person with incredible charisma. He was a "connector" and mentor to many.

Within the CFAA David had many accomplishments namely; he developed the CFAA Codes and Standards Online Course, from inception to completion, and delivered it in 2009 following significant peer review, he was a favourite speaker at CFAA Technical Seminars and AHJ Presentations nationwide, his insightful articles published in the CFAA Journal were always incredibly well received, and David co-wrote three of the five CFAA Course manuals plus the CFAA on-line Life Safety Electronics Course. He was instrumental in the design and development of the current CFAA website.

The Canadian Fire Alarm Association mourns the loss of a truly extraordinary person.
