



Doug Hopkins, P.Geoph.

1951-2007

Doug Hopkins passed away on June 3, 2007, after a year-long struggle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Surviving him are his wife, Karen, son, Mark, and daughter, Katharine. His older brother, Bob, predeceased him (also ALS) by several years.

Doug had worked for twenty years as a Systems Analyst for both CGI and DB Corp. Prior to the 1986 crash in the price of oil, Doug had worked as a geophysicist at Shell and then in the software systems group at Veritas.

Doug is remembered by all for his irrepressible, impish grin and his sardonic sense of humour. Because his hair was prematurely white, even in his first years at Shell he had the nickname "the Great White Hope". Norm Wiens, P. Geoph., tells a story about the time he and Ken Gray, P. Geoph, received the first monitor records from a new multi-million dollar seismic program that they had planned. The records were half as long as expected and stopped at 2.0 seconds. Norm and Ken had visions of their careers washing up on the spot! "Look at this! They shut off the recorders at 2 seconds instead of 4, we're screwed!" they whimpered to Doug. "Interesting ..." was Doug's initial reply. "They look funny, too. Looks like the frequency is too high to be real. Think the field guys have those new printers that print at half scale?" Colour returned to Norm and Ken's face – but none to Doug's hair!

Memorial donations may be made to the ALS Society of Alberta (www.alsab.ca).