



### **Grant Ingram**

Grant Ingram passed away while working in his UBC office on June 13, 2007. Grant was a warm and very decent human being as well as a major figure internationally, at UBC and within Earth and Ocean Sciences at UBC -- he will be sorely missed. Heartfelt sympathies go first to Grant's wife Helen Burt and their family, and to the many UBC students and colleagues whose lives have been touched so marvelously by Grant since he arrived at UBC in 1997. Grant's scholarly contributions to the world of earth and ocean sciences, along with truly remarkable administrative service to the university, are accomplishments that bring tremendous pride to all who have known him.

Grant was a distinguished physical oceanographer, and this scholarly work was a constant backdrop to the service he performed in the community, initially as founding Principal of St. John's College, as Dean of Science Pro Tem, Associate Dean, Strategic Planning and Research in the Faculty of Science and most recently as Principal of the College for Interdisciplinary Studies.

Grant was named 2006 Fellow of The Oceanographical Society for "insightful studies of physical processes and physical/biological coupling in extreme polar regions and for untiring service to the oceanographic community" and 2006 Fellow of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society for "leadership in linking physical and biological oceanography, and his wide-ranging service and research contributions to Arctic oceanography." Never has the world more needed his expertise in Arctic waters at a time of dramatic climate change, the focus of his most recent research.

Before joining the UBC community, Grant had been Chair of the Institute of Oceanography and Professor in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at McGill, from where he attained his BSc and MSc prior to his PhD in the joint program of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Family, Friends, Colleagues:

I would like to speak words to Grant's life's work as an oceanographer. I say 'life' and not just 'career' because his passion for - things marine - reached very deep.

Grant Ingram was a big man. Oh he was tall, we all know. But he was big in so many many ways.

Grant Ingram was big of **heart**. He cared for his friends and colleagues, his students and post-docs, his community and his family. This **care** was always in view. I would get a call – “Ed, I'm worried about this student. Can you do this or that?” He was a happy man, and he liked to see other be happy. With Grant it was always the 'personal' before the 'professional'.

Grant was big of **smile**. One a month he'd come to IOS in Victoria and I'd pick him up, standing out doors on the curb, arms spread wide in his trademark “hello” - also with that unforgettable huge smile. In a room full of grumpy angry people, it would always be Grant who coaxed a smile, and brought some sense and light to the room.

Grant Ingram was big of **vision** of how the different parts of marine science should fit together and work together. He could think across and bridge the various disciplines of oceanography, and draw specialists from diverse fields, like biology and physics.

Grant was a man to who you could give your unconditional trust. Grant was generous with his ideas, and he was always inclusive. When we met at IOS he'd always want to gather a group – the whole group – that was working on any given proposal or project or paper, and we would all brainstorm away. When noontime came he would always say, “Let's all go to lunch.” And he always grabbed the tab.

Grant Ingram was big with his **time**. Overworked and over committed, he always made that extra time in the day to care for and meet the needs of his colleagues and students. He gave in a big way to his community, by serving on so many committees and panels and steering groups; making so many things - just happen.

Grant Ingram had a big **ear**. I don't mean this literally, like a rabbit, but big as in - when you came to the end of a long bad day, who would you call (?) and who would be there to listen (?). Grant.

Grant Ingram had a big **curiosity**. At a time when many of his age begin to see the best of their creative days behind them, Grant's curiosity burned on. He was following his curiosity to a small watershed in BC's Great Bear Rainforest, where all his past work - in linking physics and biology, the land and the sea, nature and humans - would be combined. This was thinking that was big than most can appreciate.

Grant brought recognition and pride to Canada in **big** ways. He was our national representative to the Pacific Arctic Group, and worked to build international collaborations among

The world is now beginning the International Polar Year, with over 63 countries participating. Grant was asked to take on - and accepted - the enormous task of reviewing the Canadian effort. He didn't have time to do that, but, typical of Grant, he did it anyway. Now, we will miss a leader and mentor,

There was one thing about Grant that was not so big; his **ego**. He was so much alive, but at the same time so modest. Still, his community was not content to let him get away without due recognition. This year he was made a Fellow of The Oceanography Society, and a Fellow of the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographical Society. These are big **awards** that only go to the best among us.

When I told many of the colleagues that Grant and I shared of this tragic news, one word came back in almost every reply. That word was **shock**; a simple word that conveys so many things: surprise; utter disbelief; hollowness, pain and grief. A knowledge that something irreplaceable and has been lost.

A sparkle - in gone. We all feel that shock and that loss. Helen, I will miss your husband, so very much.

- Eddy Carmack