



Don B. MacEwen, P.Eng.

## Medal for Distinction in Engineering Education

As a teacher, the most important thing for Don MacEwen, P.Eng. is to do his job better - to keep working at it until he gets it right. He applies the same principle to his volunteer work on behalf of the engineering profession, and to his favourite sport – but getting par on all 18 holes, on the same day, during the same game of golf has proved to be an ongoing challenge.

His road to a career in engineering began in a one-room school house in P.E.I. He persevered, worked hard, and achieved his goal of attending the University of Prince Edward Island and then UNB. Engineering seemed like a logical career choice as both of his older brothers had taken engineering, but for Don the profession soon became much more than just a career. Today he considers it to be part of a proud responsibility, shared by all engineers, to make life better for others.

Don has held a full-time teaching position at UPEI since 1977. He's developed a reputation as a teacher who cares deeply about his students, and who always takes the time to help them grasp his courses. He also works hard to help engineering students understand the profession they are about to enter. Through a comprehensive review of every engineering program in Canada, national task forces, and his own research, Don created a new course in professional engineering practice and ethics.

Because of his teaching effectiveness and the wide spread impact he has had on his profession, Don recently received the Ralph L. Woodside, P.Eng. Memorial Award for outstanding service to the profession from the Association of Professional Engineers of Prince Edward Island (APEPEI). He served as president of APEPEI in 1982-83, and is largely responsible for introducing the first Professional Practice Exam in P.E.I., as well as for initiating the first written history of APEPEI.

Don has also served on the CCPE Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and was president of CCPE in 1988-89. During that time, he helped CCPE to develop a nationally accepted definition of professional engineering, a national code of ethics, a national guideline for professional engineering practice, and a national guideline on the qualifications required for admittance into the profession. Those guidelines proved to be instrumental in CCPE's efforts to facilitate full national mobility for licensed engineers in Canada, which was achieved in 1999.

CCPE and the engineering profession as a whole also benefited from Don's three-year role as special observer to CCPE's Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) and his role in the establishment of its Canadian Engineering Qualifications Board (CEQB). His experience as both a CCPE volunteer and as an engineering professor allowed him to provide unique insight to both boards.

Today his work goes beyond classroom teaching to showing how the principles of science and engineering will improve the human condition. Despite all he's done, the trademark of Don's career is still his passion for teaching and his joy in watching his graduate students go on to excel in the profession.

Don is a member of APEPEI.