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### **ENGINEERING HISTORY PAPER #118**

#### **“Athlone Fellows Today”**

**Compiled by Robert L. Hemmings**

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EIC HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

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# Athlone Fellows Today

**A collection of notes from Athlone Fellows about  
themselves and where they are today**

**Compiled by**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RLH', written over a horizontal line.

**Robert L Hemmings**

**Revision 2a**

# Athlone Fellows Today

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# Athlone Fellows Today

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# **Athlone Fellows Today**

## **Introduction**

As a result of hearing from many fellow *Fellows*, I have started a collection of personal notes, identifying something about what each of us have done since the Athlone, and what we are up to now. This compilation of individual notes about ourselves, which could have been put a few at a time in each of the future Newsletters, but as I just cannot manage those future Newsletters, I have now cancelled that option. Thus, this is the collection from almost 50 *Athlone Fellows* into a book form. Where agreeable with the individual contributors, contact information is included. The order of presentation is the order it was received. Further, note that each contributor provided me with his information, permitting me to use it in this collection. Some were very short, some were longer, some even like a part of a detailed biography.

And, as you explore the messages from these Athlone Fellows, you will find many interesting and exceptional individuals. Please enjoy your excursion with these Athlone Fellows.

Further, I will eventually add this collection to my **Athlone Collection** that is available at the following two sites:

*University of Alberta*

*the following link: [doi.org/10.7939/r3-6s01-m027](https://doi.org/10.7939/r3-6s01-m027)*

*or the Engineering Institute of Canada*

*<https://eic-ici.ca/engineering-history-papers-collection/>,*

where you can also find Paper #97: *“A Short History of the Athlone Fellowship”*, Rev 3.

And while you are on the EIC site, why not look at Paper #100: *“Athlone Fellowship Program and Canadian Geotechnique”*, produced by the CGS in 2021. I quote from the introduction in that paper: *“Over its 20-year history, 810 Athlone Fellowships were awarded, all but three going to male engineers. The Fellows were selected from 21 Canadian*

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*universities. Of the fellowships awarded, we have identified 35 Athlone Fellows (all male) who were involved in the geotechnical field (see following table). These individuals came from 14 universities across Canada and all but four attended Imperial College, then part of the University of London. The four other institutions were the University of Glasgow, the City University of London, the University of Cambridge and the University of Manchester.”* The paper includes a brief summary of the careers of 31 of those individuals, several of whom are included in this list of “***Athlone Fellows Today***”.

**Bob Hemmings**



## Athlone Fellows Today

### 1. RL Bob Hemmings, Athlone 1962, UofA



Bob & Micheline, 1971

Micheline and I were married in Victoria, BC in 1971, and have lived what we might call a very interesting and enjoyable life, living in many different places, starting in Trois Rivières Québec, Mississauga Ontario, Pierrefonds Québec, Niagara Falls New York, Columbia and Anderson South Carolina, Birmingham Alabama, Niko Japan, Toronto Ontario, Brockville Ontario, Arden, North Carolina (where we waited for 11 months for the desired apartment to open), and then Asheville NC, in the Grove Arcade Apartments, then a few weeks in Bangor, Maine (awaiting

the opening of an apartment in a “luxury apartment building” that didn’t happen), and now, hopefully our last location, an as-built luxury apartment here in Camillus, a small town within the City of Syracuse, New York State.

We’re still not feeling like we’re getting old, although I was born in 1940, in Edmonton, Alberta, with the same birth day as that of the Hudson’s Bay Company (May 2nd). Micheline is less old than me. We’re both in good health, considering, although I, a never smoker, had a brush with lung cancer in 2023, resulting in a left lower lobe to be removed.

Micheline and I had two children, and both were married:

Our daughter, Isabelle, now lives in Dundas, Ontario with her husband, Bailey, and 2 children (a boy, Kieran and a girl, Nuala). She’s a mechanical engineer from Waterloo, UTIAS, and U of Auckland. Grandson Kieran is pursuing an Engineering education at the Ontario Technical University in Oshawa, ON. Younger granddaughter Nuala is finishing high school, and is strongly thinking of becoming a veterinarian.

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Our younger son, Rich, lived in Germany, with his wife from Hungary, and their twins (George and Grace) and a younger girl Sofia. Unfortunately, Rich died of colorectal cancer in February, 2023, at the age of 46. He was working as a consultant to NATO training there, based on his USAF background and his graduation from the USAF Academy in Colorado Springs. His wife continues to live in Germany with the 3 children.

Altogether, we have 5 wonderful grandchildren, twins Grace & George, and Sofia in Germany, and Nuala and Kieran in Canada.

Being an Albertan, a first child with parents who both went to UofA (Dad in Medicine, Mum as a Dietician), it seemed natural that I went to UofA myself. I studied Chemical Engineering there, and then went on to the UK with an Athlone Fellowship.

When I was still finishing my Athlone studies in Chemical Engineering at Imperial College, and receiving my PhD and DIC in 1965, I met a fellow Canadian lady, Carol Ashby who was related to one of my Sports-car Club members in Sidney, BC. Both Carol and I felt the romance of our being in London, so we married, and had child, Robert Henry who was born in Wimbledon, England, where he now lives (in Leeds, as a Professor at Leeds University), along with his wife Amelia, and son Morris.

I had a successful interview with **Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.**, so that after graduation I could then start my life as a nuclear power mover (but not a shaker) in this fascinating power technology. My first posting was to Pinawa, Manitoba, where AECL was testing an organic cooled, heavy water moderated reactor with natural uranium fuel.

Circumstances between Carol and I resulted in separation and divorce. A short time later came my next move. It was to Trois Rivières, Québec, for commissioning of a new (to Canada) reactor type: a boiling light water cooled, heavy water moderated, reactor. It was there where I met my Micheline. In the years from then to 2005, I was initially a nuclear process engineer, who enjoyed visiting many countries as part of my job. It expanded to nuclear decontamination, waste handling, adapting Canadian technology to US nuclear plants, waste and chemical process

















































































































































































































































































































































































































































