

JOHN ADAMS & TED IRVING

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**John Hodgson**  
**1913-2011**



John Hodgson, born in Toronto on 24 September 1913, died peacefully in Ottawa on 8 January 2011 at the Garry J. Armstrong Long Term Care Facility.

He was married to Helen Baines Hodgson (1916 - 2006), and had three children. John received, from the University of Toronto, a B.A. in Applied Mathematics in 1940, an M.A. in Geophysics in 1946, and a Ph.D in Geophysics in 1951.

He worked for the Root Petroleum Company and Magnolia Petroleum Company from 1936 to 1938 in Arkansas and Illinois; for Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation in California and Louisiana from 1940 to 1944; as Assistant Professor of Geophysics at the University of Toronto from 1945 to 1949; as Seismologist at the Dominion Observatory in Ottawa from 1949 to 1952; as Chief of Seismology at the Dominion Observatory from 1952 to 1964; as Director of the Dominion Observatories Branch at Energy, Mines, and Resources (EMR) from 1964 to 1970; as Director of the Earth Physics Branch at EMR from 1970 to 1973; and as Chief Seismologist with the UNESCO Seismological Project in Southeast Asia from 1973 to 1979.

Dr. Hodgson has been active with UNESCO on many projects. He was the Canadian delegate and chairman of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Seismology and Earthquake Engineering in 1964 and a member of the seismological mission to South America in 1961 and again to Southeast Asia in 1973.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1958 and was the President of the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior from 1963 to 1967. As well as his involvement in IASPEI, John was also instrumental in founding the International Seismological Centre in 1964 and establishing its funding model. In 1953 he produced the first seismic zoning map of Canada, and in 1979, produced a two-volume history of the Dominion Observatory. Dr. Hodgson is the author of over 50 papers.

John was a true seismologist, one of the early people to think on a larger scale about motions (now called slip vectors) associated with earthquakes. He was Dominion Astronomer (in the days when federal astronomy and geophysics were combined) for a while following Beals and then Director of the Earth Physics branch before it was combined with the GSC. A sturdily built energetic sociable man always full of new positive plans for doing things. In the days when Canada had a very high profile in international geophysics, he loved big international events and being involved on international committees.

John and Helen travelled extensively, both for business and pleasure and enjoyed exploring the world. John loved to sing and did so often and spontaneously. He could quote vast tracts of poetry and verse and, for years, he and Helen attended the Stratford and Shaw Festivals. John and Helen enjoyed entertaining, and welcomed guests into their home with great warmth and

hospitality. John will be remembered for his vast repertoire of song and verse, for his wit, and for his gracious and kind demeanour.

*Written by  
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(Author's title given as of the time of writing)*