

**Nostalgic Journey and Reflections**  
**Part 2 Canada - My Home And Native Land**

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## 12.0 Home in Regina, Saskatchewan 1964-1970

### 12.1 Early Impressions

Regina is the capital of the province of Saskatchewan. When I arrived in 1964, its population was about 100,000 and people of Chinese descent numbered about 550. When I met a "Chinese" on the street or in downtown, especially a senior, there was a chance that he/she spoke the Taishan dialect.

Flat and spacious are accurate words to describe Regina's geography. Compared to Hong Kong where I came from, there was no lack of space when I saw the houses and lots, roads and parks, apartments and office buildings. Except in downtown where most shops were located, the sidewalks in residential areas were quiet with occasional walkers. In the neighbourhood where I settled, mature trees were plentiful along the sidewalks. They must be hardy to survive winter.

One day in my first winter, my ears froze after walking half the distance to school. And the second half? Miserable! For the next several days, the ears stayed swollen, red and warm to touch. Wearing a pair of ear-muffs would have avoided the misery. The city of Saskatoon is about 2.5 hours drive north of Regina. One morning the temperature was -35 C (Celsius) when I was walking to the campus. When I got close to the campus, the walkway became crowded as other students converged. We kept close to each other to keep the bitterly cold wind out. It was a fast walk. Everyone wanted to get indoor as soon as possible. I slipped and fell. Immediately someone behind me lifted me up and we continued. I experienced some winters with -40 C temperature and that was not factoring in the wind.

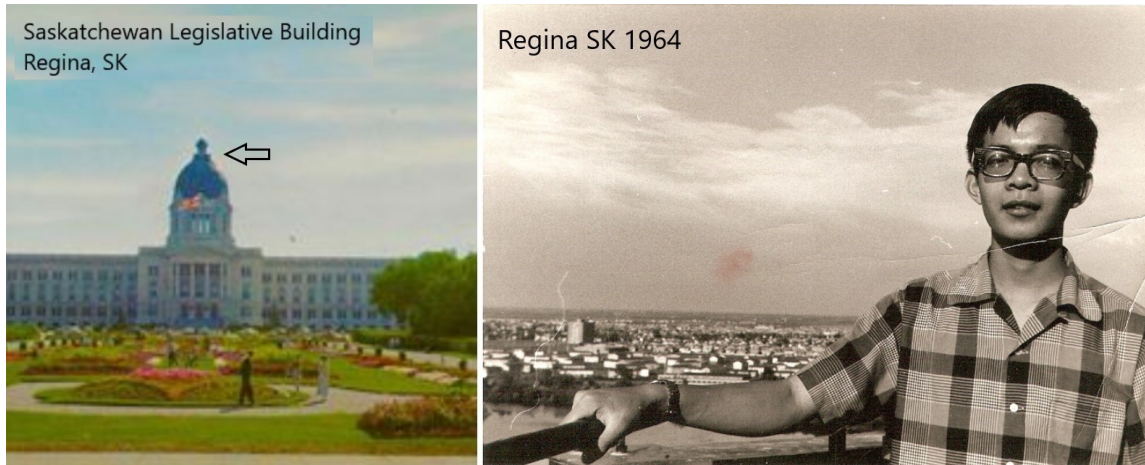
**Photo 48 Snow Banks After Plowing (1970)** Source: Val Neiser. Typical scene after a snow removal machine has passed through. This photo was taken on a road at the Saskatoon campus.



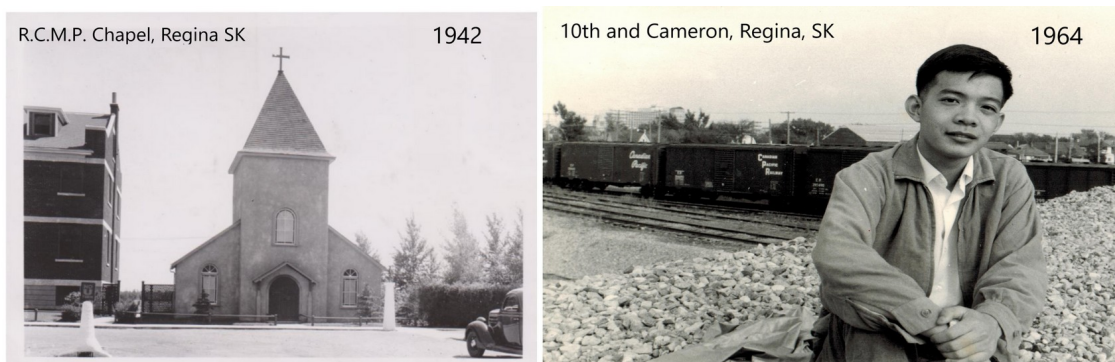
Summer in Regina has some hot days, but they cause less discomfort compared to my time in Hong Kong. One afternoon it was 38 C (100 degrees Fahrenheit, the unit used in those days) when I was walking in downtown Regina. I did not sweat because of the dry prairie air.

It is possible to grow Chinese vegetables in Regina in summer, but not the tender tropical types. Daytime temperatures may be very warm, but it gets cool at night. A relative told me she never had good success growing Chinese winter squash (冬瓜). It might help marginally by covering the plants with blankets every night.

### Photo 49 Saskatchewan Provincial Legislative Building (1964)



### Photo 50 Royal Canadian Mounted Police Chapel / Canadian Pacific Railway (1964)



Left: (1942) Royal Canadian Mounted Police Chapel - photo taken two decades before my arrival. I visited it twice. Security at this national training centre was not as tight as at present. I drove here on one of my Chinese food deliveries, and

used the road as a short cut. Right: (1964) After the "Mount" Legislative Building climb, the next accessible peak was this pile of stones in the CPR yard at 10th Avenue and Cameron Street, two blocks from home. The Saskatchewan Power Building can be seen on the far left of the photo.

## 12.2 Early Jobs (1964-1965)

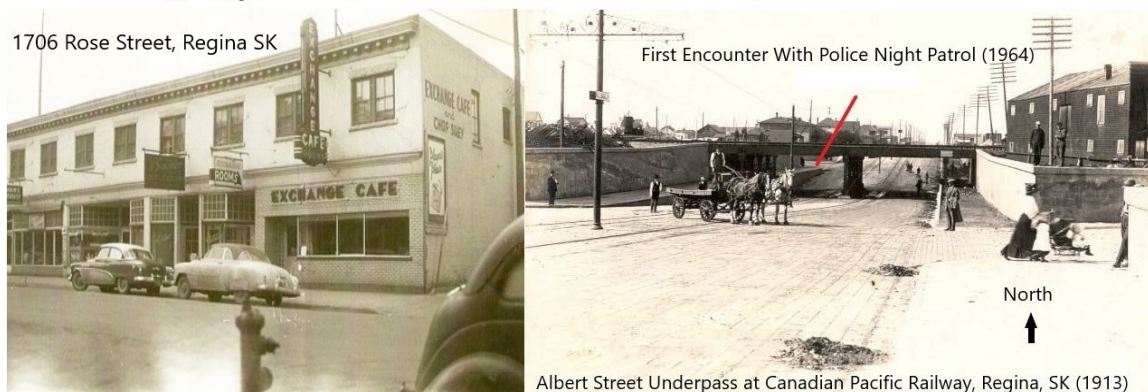
### Assistant Waiter

My first job was as an assistant waiter at W.K Chop Suey which was one of the very few Chinese restaurants in the city. It served mainly Chop Suey dishes, no Hong Kong style chow mein and chow fun, or other popular Cantonese dishes we had in Hong Kong! For that, one had to go to big cities like Vancouver.

As the title implies, I assisted their one and only waiter named Yuen by cleaning tables after his diners left; and he pocketed the tip. When more diners showed up, I began to have my own tables to look after. For the two weekend nights worked, 8 hours each x 2 = 16 hours, the pay was \$15 added to it about \$5 tips on average. For perspective, the minimum wage was close to \$1.

W.K. was located on the east end of downtown, and my home was west of downtown. The restaurant closed at 2 a.m. and after the clean up including carpet and washroom cleaning, typically I started walking home at 3 a.m. During the entire walk through downtown I was the only person on the street. Thankfully, I did not work there in the winter.

**Photo 51 First Pancakes / Night Encounter With Police (1964)** Source: Vintage Regina. Left: Exchange Cafe, 1706 Rose Avenue. Right: Albert Street underpass.



Several days after arriving in Regina, a family friend served me pancakes at the Exchange Cafe where he worked as a cook. The cafe was located across the street from the Union Station and was a convenient stopping place for train travellers.

One night after working at W.K Chop Suey and on the way home walking north just past the Albert Street underpass, a night police patrol appeared suddenly on my left with his flash light shining at me.

*Police: "Stop! What are you doing here?"*

*Peter: "I've just finished working at W.K. Chop Suey. I am going home."*

He walked closer, looked at me, then said "OK. Continue!"

### Chinese Food Delivery

After one year of my part-time job as a waiter, I saved enough money to buy a used car for \$500. It was a 1958 Chevrolet Biscayne. Another \$100 was spent to fix it up including new tires. The money was from my previous year's earning. The car helped me get my next job - delivering Chinese foods.

O.B. Kitchen, located on the southwest corner of Dewdney and Pasqua junction, had no dining area. Its business was strictly take-out and home delivery. For each delivery I made, I was paid 50 cents, and I supplied my car and gasoline. I made very little income from this job after expenses like car maintenance and gasoline. My first car quit in 1967, the repair to its transmission would have been too costly.

### **12.3 Family Grocery Store (1962-1987)**

In 1962, my mother bought a small grocery store in Regina named Fairview Grocery. At that time, its business had been declining and the operator decided to close shop and retire. The purchase was for the business only, and ownership remained with the same owner Mrs Luteck. The two level wooden building was located at 2924 Dewdney Avenue. It needed some repairs, new electrical wiring for safety - this work was done by a retired handyman mother hired, and the painting by mother and her good friend Lucy.

**Photo 52 Fairview Grocery, Regina, SK (1962-1987)** One of my home-coming visits (1984)



Our store operated year-round except on the days my sisters got married. The five siblings took turns manning the store after school. When all five of us were still at home, we closed the store at midnight. In my early years, between 8 p.m. and midnight, typically five customers on their way home stopped to buy bread (24 cents), homogenized milk (26 cents) and/or cigarettes (65 cents a pack). Since we were still up doing school work or studying for exams, it was not onerous. I had my radio on -Radio CKRM which started playing classical music, daily at 9 p.m. with its opening song Andante Cantabile by Tchaikovsky. After leaving home, whenever I hear this song again, it reminds me of those cold and lonely nights with my school work in front and the radio behind.

We had friendly neighbours as customers. Some liked to chat with us so it provided me opportunity to practise my English, and of course learn from them. We had children as young as four coming to the store alone. Ours was a good neighbourhood, we never had a break-in or robbery. My high school classmates and sisters' classmates often stopped by to say hello or chat.

Starting in 1967, the children left home one by one. Those who stayed behind took on more work at the store. I felt guilty when it was my turn to leave, and I am sure my siblings all felt the same. "Our parents are getting old" - that's what was in our mind. In 1987, our parents closed the store and retired. With his new-found freedom, father returned to his favourite hobby, teaching the city's Chinese community ballroom dancing.

**Photo 53 Children Home Coming Visits (1968)** My sister, after she moved to USA, came home for a visit.



### **12.4 Completing High School (1964-1966)**

In late May 1964, I visited Scott Collegiate and discussed with its principal Mr. Adair about resuming schooling. This photo of Mr. Adair with his graduating class was taken, interestingly, in the year I was born. He must have been a very good principal and loved his job, or was he waiting for me?

**Photo 54 Scott Collegiate (c.1966) / Graduating Class and Principal Adair (1944)** Source: Vintage Regina. South lawn of Scott Collegiate in Regina, Saskatchewan. Mr. Adair pictured here in 1944 was my principal in 1964.



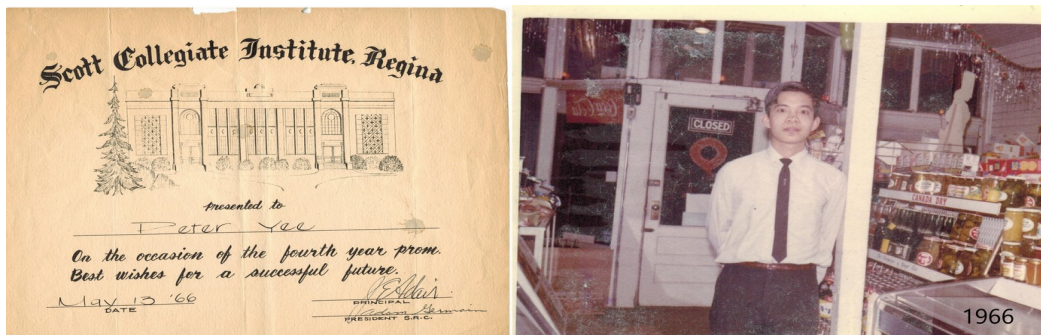
Since it was late in the school year and I would not have sufficient time to prepare for final exams, he made a suggestion that was beyond my imagination. Given my English education and the big change from Hong Kong, he suggested that I attend class while in session as an observer, with the purpose of easing myself into the new English school environment. I asked, and he replied that I could start the following Monday, and he did not impose a time limit.

Came Monday, I walked into their Grade 11A class, and found myself surrounded by young white co-ed students. I was the only person of Chinese descent. The students were not surprised, they must have received prior news from the teacher, and the teachers from Principal Adair. They assigned me a seat on the side and close to the front. Dave Temple would soon become my friend and guide for the next two weeks. Observing the class in session for one week would have been sufficient, but I did not want to risk giving them the impression that I was not interested, so I stayed for an additional week.

One day, my English-speaking ability was put to the test. Miss Petz's French class was one of the classes I sat in as observer. She asked me to give a talk to her class about Hong Kong. Up to that day, I had never given a talk to a crowd, definitely not in English. She gave me several days of notice and said it would be in English. My talk went ok, far from spectacular but no big blunder - crowded place, warm climate, water shortage, these were the main topics. I think I heard applause when I walked back to my seat. On the last day, I met Mr. Robb the vice-principal in the hallway and thanked him for the hospitality. He replied "It's nice to have you! Looking forward to seeing you in September".

My two years at Scott Collegiate went very well. The teachers were very good and dedicated. Classmate Lyle Wagner gave me a ride on his motorcycle, and Peter Hall frequently stopped by our family store to chat.

### Photo 55 High School Graduation Day / Night (1966)





## 13.0 University of Regina and Summer Job (1966-1967)

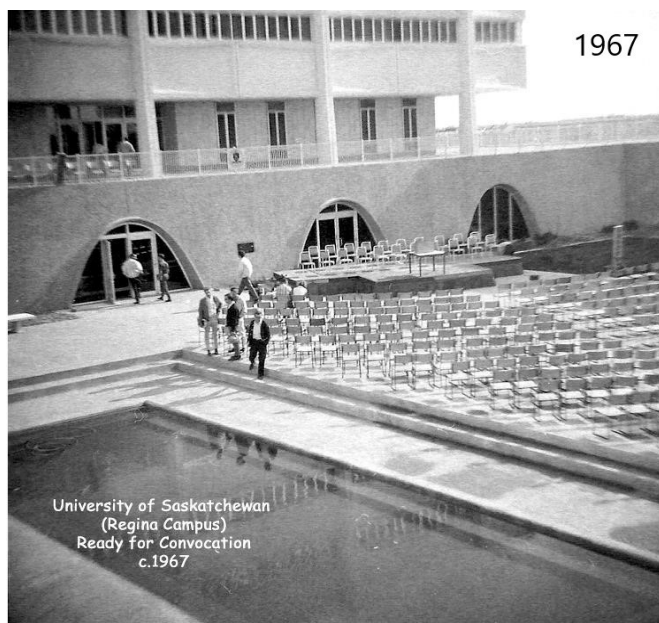
### 13.1 Regina Campus - First Year Engineering

The idea of becoming a Chinese BBQ cook fell by the wayside somewhere in my high school time. In September 1966, encouraged by my parents, I started engineering training at the University of Regina.

In addition to the basic engineering courses, an English course was compulsory. The English professor gave lectures on several poems, and assigned us to read Madame Bovary. They would be in the final test, he said. He recognized he was teaching engineering students, so he decided to go easy on us - "I will also give you a line from other poems, you need to name their titles and authors". He listed about a dozen poems. I thought that's exactly what I heard, and I studied accordingly, but more accurately to say memorized them. He was joking, for no such questions appeared in the test. I think the whole class passed. As for Madame Bovary, soon after I forgot what the novel was all about, and I still remember a bit about Lorna Doone from my Grade 11 and Tale of Two Cities in Grade 12 assignments.

After first year, the whole class went to Saskatoon campus as the Regina campus did not have a program for higher levels.

**Photo 56 University of Regina Classroom Building (1967)** Source: Vintage Regina. Main entrance to the Classroom Building.



### **13.2 Summer Job In Outlook, Saskatchewan (1967)**

In May 1967, a letter arrived from the Department of Agriculture offering me a summer job in Outlook. The pay would be \$12.45 per day plus meals allowances and sleep accommodation. The whole family was thrilled when I read out the letter. Harold A. Gourlie's signature on the letter would stay with me for good. He hired me again in each of the following three summers.

Outlook is a small town located along the South Saskatchewan River. The area is dry with annual precipitation averaging about 14 inches. When I arrived, the major construction projects for irrigation, water supply and hydropower were near completion. To accommodate students from across the province, the province set up trailers furnished with rooms and beds, washrooms and showers but no cooking facility.

Outlook had two restaurants operated by Chinese immigrants. Both were busy at that time because of the constructions in the area. Both served mainly Western style food and I had my meals at the New Outlook Restaurant owned by Jim Kook and his wife. One day, I showed Jim a small fish I had just caught from the river and was about to give it to him. Without hesitation, he said "I will clean and cook it for you". He disappeared into the kitchen and returned a few minutes later with my unexpected dinner. "No charge!", he said. After Jim passed away, the town named its new recreation complex after him.

I was hired as a survey rodman. However, on my first day of work the office engineer decided to keep me in the office. I used his design and survey data to determine how the land was to be graded for irrigation by gravity or sprinklers. There were numerous grid points to work with, and I marked each point on a map with a code - F03 meaning raise this spot by 3/10th of a foot, and C04 meaning lower it by 4/10th of a foot. The rodmen took my map and wrote them on the wooden stakes that would be read by the grader operator.

I did not see one day of field work in Outlook, and the steel-toe boots I bought for the occasion remained new when I left Outlook. It would have been very physical work for me walking all day carrying a 8-foot survey rod, standing still while the surveyor took a reading, and hammering in wooden stakes for the survey grids. One rodman named Don Gardner advised me to stay in the office as long as I could. He and I became good friends. When we returned to Regina for weekends, he switched to driving a taxi to support his university attendance in Education. The other rodman was Walter Winkler and we stayed in touch after our Outlook summer job. He and his mother attended my wedding.

My Outlook 1967 summer was a very happy time, added to it was Canada's celebrating its Centennial Year.

**Photo 57 Preparing The Land For Irrigation (1967)** Source: Val Neiser



South Saskatchewan Irrigation 1967

**Photo 58 Constructing Water Supply Canal and Control Structure (1967)**

Source: Val Neiser



As the giant machine moves forward, it scoops up the soil at high spots and deposits it on low spots. They sometimes used a tractor (shown also in photo) to speed up the operation. These earth-moving machines were also used in highway construction.

## **14.0 University of Saskatchewan and Summer Jobs (1967-1970)**

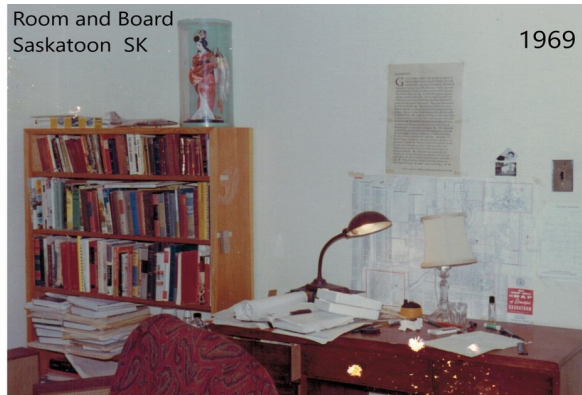
### **14.1 Saskatoon Campus**

For second year engineering and higher, we attended classes in Saskatoon. I chose Civil Engineering given my interest in water, building things, and the experience from my Outlook summer job. To prepare us for our career which could be in any of the sub-disciplines, they taught us designs for dams, highway, water and sewage treatment plants, structures using timber, reinforced concrete, railway bridges, soil mechanics and foundations, hydraulics and hydrology, astronomical survey and computer programming using FORTRAN. We also had a course in Statics and Dynamics, and in Economics.

### **14.2 My Saskatoon Landlady**

Before I moved to Saskatoon, a friend of mine Philip Wang was studying for his Master's degree at the hydraulic lab, and he found me a room-and-board place. Mrs. Margery Hedlin was living alone when I moved into her house. We had dinner together during which time we chatted about general subjects. She was very nice to me. Whenever her son and his family including children came visiting, at dinner she had a seat for me with her family. After I left Saskatoon, we stayed in touch via Christmas cards. In 1978, I visited her at her nursing home and she was still able to take care of herself.

## **Photo 59 Room and Board in Saskatoon (1967-1970)**



**Photo 60 Winter at Engineering Building, Saskatoon Campus (1970)** Source: Val Neiser



### **14.3 Summer Job in Regina 1968**

In the summer of 1968, I worked as a draftsman in the Department of Agriculture in their Regina headquarter. The office had several engineers who carried out structural designs for government projects related to agriculture and irrigation in the province.

### **14.4 Summer Job in Southeast Saskatchewan 1969**

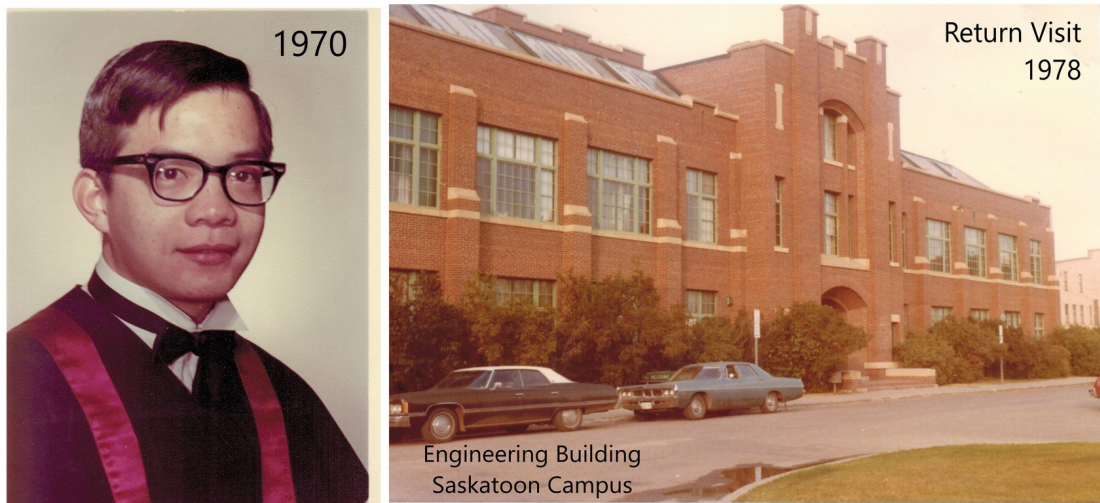
In the summer of 1969, I was a member of a survey crew carrying out vertical surveys in southeast Saskatchewan farming area. In those days, wheat was the main crop the farmers grew. When the crops are still green, they make one beautiful unforgettable scene waving in the wind similar to the waves on water.

Our crew consisted of a surveyor named Ron, I was the driver and note-keeper, and two rod-men Mark and Norman. We installed new benchmarks and ran levelling lines from a master benchmark to assign elevations for the new benchmarks. Typically we installed about five benchmarks per day and we travelled a wide area in southeastern Saskatchewan.

The benchmarks were made of metal tubing having a cap at the top with letters and numbers for identification. We took turns, two at a time, drilling holes about four feet deep using a hand augur and next an extension added. It was my first job that required physical strength. After installing the benchmark, we drilled another hole to place a 4×4 wooden post as location marker. To verify the accuracy of the survey, we ran a level line back to the master benchmark.

#### **14.5 Summer Jobs in Regina and South Central Saskatchewan 1970**

##### **Photo 61 Graduation (1970) / Engineering Building Return Visit (1978)**



In the spring of 1970, I completed my university training and received a Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering. Weeks prior to graduation, I applied to several companies and the provincial government for job. I did not get one interview. So, a decision had to be made what next! I decided that it was imperative to further my training and explore opportunities outside Saskatchewan. The timing was right, as Lehigh University in Pennsylvania was looking for someone with my training and interest. But first, I had a few more summer jobs to do.

#### **Teaching Survey Course at University of Regina**

In May 1970, University of Regina Professor Hughes asked me to teach a course in land survey. It was for his students who had just completed their first year engineering classes. I agreed. The class took place at the Regina campus and we practised land survey by the Wascana Lake next to the campus.

### Monitoring Highway Construction

Next, I worked for the Department of Highways which was constructing new roads for the highway north of Regina. My job was to monitor the construction, and to assist in analysis of soil and foundation samples to ensure that the construction met design specifications.

### Topographic Survey in South Central Saskatchewan

Mr. Gourlie looked for me again. This time he needed me to lead a survey crew conducting survey in south central Saskatchewan. We collected data from farms to determine the grading requirement for irrigation, and construction of supply and drainage ditches. It was my third job in the summer of 1970.

### Canadian Sunset and Self-Reflection

The last day of work in 1970 took me to a tiny village of Mankota in south central Saskatchewan. After dinner, I returned to my room at Grassland Inn on the western edge of the village. Stepping out to the back of my room, I saw vast flat farmland before me and the sun was about to set. The distant horizon turned orange and the land began to turn dark reminding me of the night my ship left Hong Kong. Closer to my room were wild flowers and soon they too would disappear into the dark.

**Photo 62 Canadian Prairie Sunset And Wild Flowers** Source: istockphotos.com. My last wild flowers of Saskatchewan Summer.



They say a Canadian sunset is a beautiful sight. It was! And an emotional moment for me too! Soon, I will leave my parents and siblings for an extended period of time. There is no guarantee that my further education will be successful, or secure me a job. If it turns out well, I may be living and working in some difference place. One thing I know I must do, to study to the best of my ability and go from there. Later in life, I learned about the poem "The Last Rose of Summer" and appreciate a song with the same name. Whenever I hear this song, I think of those wild flowers and my last Saskatchewan sunset.

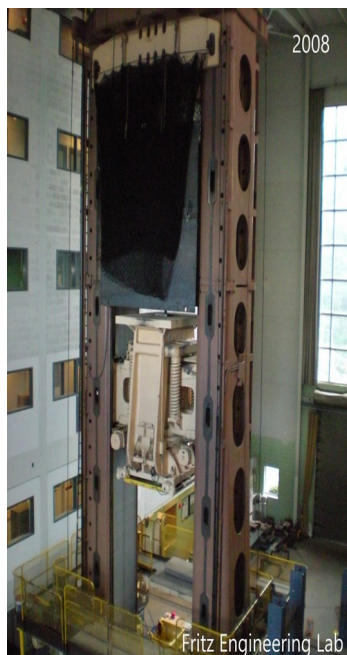
Two days later, I drove to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA to start my post-graduate education at the Civil Engineering Department of Lehigh University.

## **15.0 Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA (1970-1972)**

### **15.1 Department of Civil Engineering**

Lehigh University, located in the city of Bethlehem in eastern Pennsylvania, had a strong civil engineering department with structural research and testing its major components. When I arrived at Lehigh in September 1970, the department was also conducting research in waves, sediment transport and sedimentation, water sanitation and soil pollution, and hydraulics which would be my research.

#### **Photo 63 Lehigh University 5-Million Pound Testing Machine (2008 Visit)**





## **15.2 Post-Graduate Study Arrangement**

Some post-graduate students gave lectures and marked students' tests. Since the class size in hydrology and hydraulics was small, these tasks were done by professors. As with other post-graduate students, I was required to take courses from my own and other departments in oceanography, sediment transport, hydrology, fluid mechanics, statistics, numerical methods, and computer programming.

For my support to a research project, my tuition was waived which otherwise would have been a large amount given it was (still is) a private university. I was paid about \$230 a month enough to cover meals, lodging, and text books.

I shared my office with another researcher and we became good friends. He was doing his PhD research in ocean waves and after his return to Turkey, he became a professor at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey.

My successful completion of the Master's degree program was dependent on passing all course exams with the average mark above a certain threshold, giving presentation to students and the department's governing body (several professors) on my research and thesis and defend it, and completion of all the testing with data to support the research findings.

## **15.3 American Friendship and Hospitality**

Professor Arthur Brune (1917-1994) hired me and Professor Walter Hans Graf (1936-2017) was my research supervisor. There seems to be an unwritten arrangement, or perhaps a standard custom practised at the university, for both my professors invited me to their family dinner. During my visits, they never brought up the subjects about work and research. We just talked about our families, where we came from, the usual casual and friendly exchanges.

Professor Brune was friendly, and he never pressured me on the speed of my work. Professor Graf was expert on hydraulics especially sediment transport for which he authored the first printing of his book "Hydraulics of Sediment Transport (1971). Before I left Lehigh, he gifted me with a copy of his book signing "Peter, I hope you will use this book, W. Graf". Yes, I did use his book later in my engineering career.

The Fritz Engineering Lab had a team of machinists who fabricated parts that we used to set up our testing apparatus. Kermit, Bud and I chatted during breaks when the food truck showed up.

The lab assigned a very capable technician named Leidy Dittbrenner (1931-2007) to assist me in setting up the hydraulic testing model and water flow network. Before working at Fritz Lab, Leidy served in the Army and the Air Force in the Far East. We became very close friends. He invited me to meet his family, and on another occasion dinner with his other relatives. One day, he took me along when he visited Bud the Fritz Lab machinist. Bud demonstrated to me how he made shotgun shells using a precision weight scale, and a reloading press that looked like a stapler standing on end with a long press handle.

Since I would be working in the test tank, Leidy tutored me on the use of hand and machine tools, and showed me how to prime the water pumps before starting the hydraulic experiments. He tuned up my car 's engine which in those days included installing new spark plugs, distributor rotor, and adjusting the timing with a timing gun, and oil and oil filter replacement too. He has done a lot for me beyond the scope of his work duty.

In November 1971, I drove to Ottawa for a job interview. Leidy and another graduate student Eric Appel from Denmark travelled with me because they wanted to see Canada, and I knew Leidy wanted to help with the driving. They stayed in the car during my job interview with an engineer named John Bathurst. Surprisingly, he did not ask even one technical questions. I think he had already read my resume and that was good enough. We talked about general subjects, like hobbies and my background. Perhaps he was also exploring my potential in working with other colleagues. Afterwards, I returned to my car to join with Leidy and Eric having no idea about John's decision. Later that month, a letter arrived offering me a job at an engineer's starting level. I telephoned my parents in Regina, and mother later told me that father was so happy that he began to dance with himself in the living room. At long last, my education has led to full employment that matched my training and interest. They have been very supportive and patient with me.

A few days before I left Lehigh, Leidy took me to visit his home town Freeland, PA, and we walked on the open pit coal mine in Hazleton, PA. He worked there at one time. For memory sake, I picked up two pieces of coal which stay with me to this day. They are the most precious stones in my possession. After our times at Lehigh, Leidy visited me in 1973 to see how I was doing in my new job, and I took him to tour the CN Tower in Toronto and Niagara Falls. In 1980, he visited

me and repaired my oven's door without me asking. He and his son Wayne travelled to Toronto to attend my wedding in 1985. I visited him whenever I travelled near his home on my way to meetings in eastern USA. The last time we got together was in 1998. Leidy passed away in 2007.

**Photo 64 Leidy Dittbrenner (1972) / Mrs. Helen Zeller (1998)** Leidy and Peter at the coal mine in Hazleton, PA, and visiting my landlady the last time.



As was the case while attending classes in Saskatoon campus, I lived room-and-board with a landlady named Mrs. Zeller. Her husband, a teacher at the Moravian College in Bethlehem was in poor health and was about to move to a nursing home. So she placed a notice at the campus looking for a student and I was lucky to notice it. She was in her early 70s and could run up and down the stairs I think faster than I could. I was her one and only student boarder. We had dinners together and she did my laundry and at her age, she was working at the Moravian bookstore (still operating) to keep herself busy. I gave her rides to visit her husband at the nursing home as it was located in another town. After Lehigh, I visited her whenever possible travelling to meetings in the area. Every year, I received a birthday card always with a \$5 bill. I visited her the last time just prior to her moving to Colorado to be close with her son.

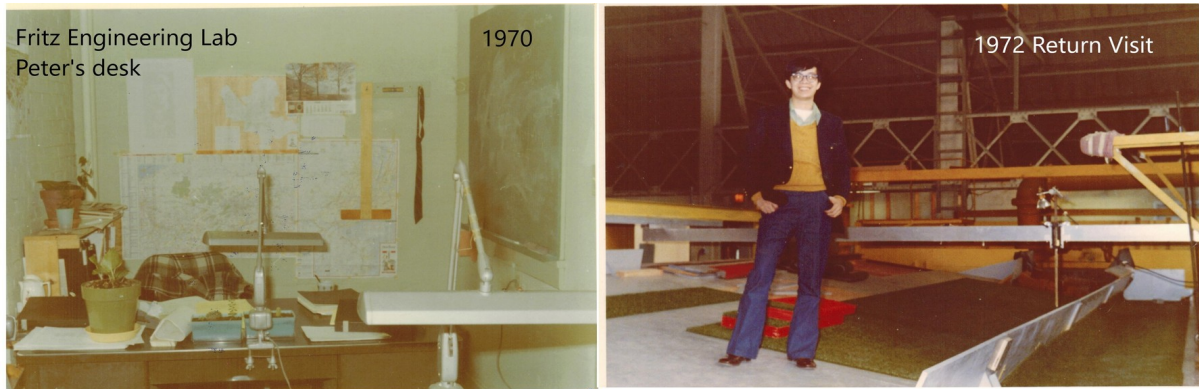
There was one more American friendship for which I must express my gratitude. Noting that students from other countries typically feel lonely in their new environment. Lehigh connected me to a middle age couple in town as host family.

Mr. Joseph O'Keefe and his wife Kitty invited me to their home several times, and took me to dinner in a restaurant. After I left Lehigh, Kitty sent me Christmas cards every year until she was no longer able to.

#### **15.4 My Research Project**

The Pennsylvania Department of Highways used several different drainage inlets for their roadways. These inlets remove water from the road but when they are not able to capture all the oncoming flow, water starts to encroach onto the traffic pavement thus creating safety hazards. The water not intercepted by inlets can seep into the pavement and foundation leading to freeze-and-thaw in winter - a process that can cause damage to the pavement.

#### **Photo 65 My Lehigh Desk (1970) / Research Project (1972 Return Visit)**

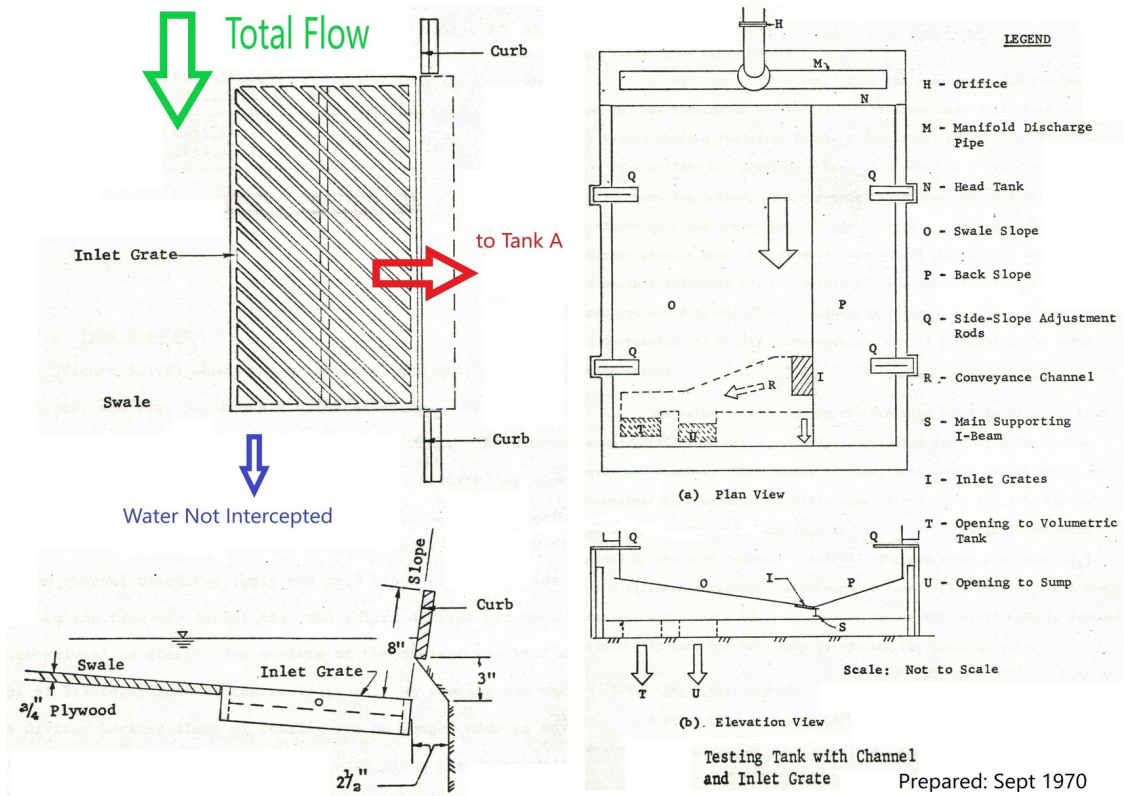


In June 1972, I returned to Lehigh to attend the convocation, and the research project had moved to the next phase testing inlets on grassed channels simulated by using artificial turf.

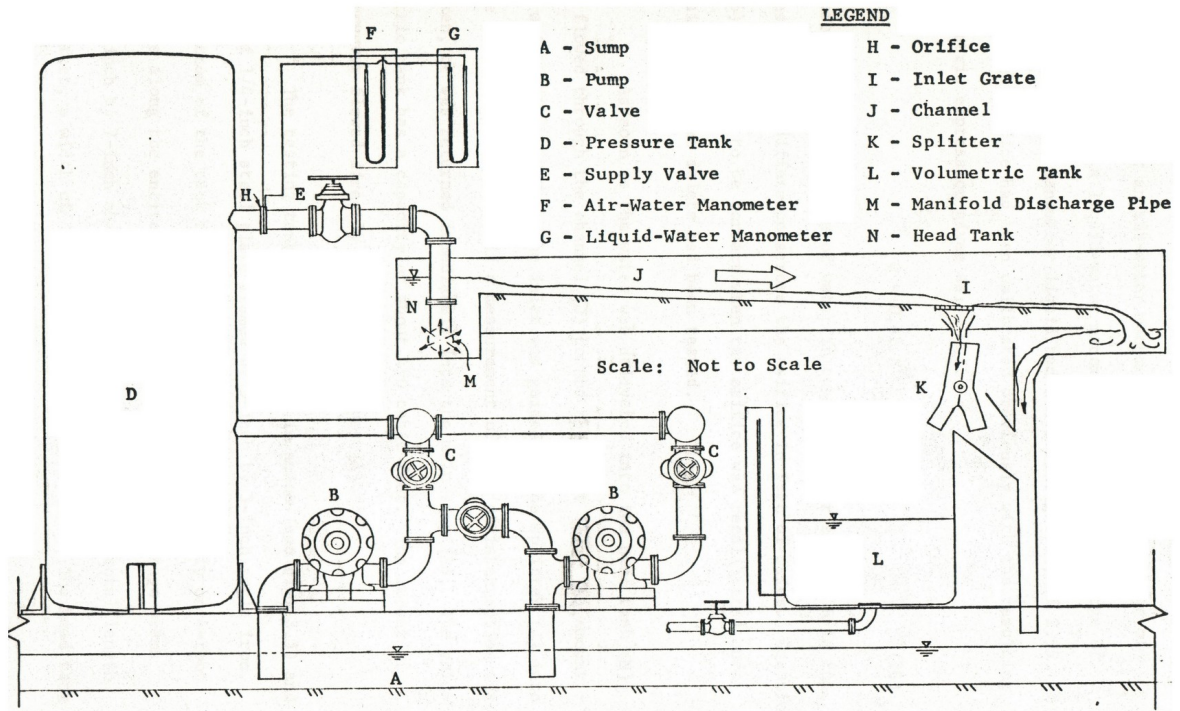
How much water an inlet can capture depends on, besides its dimensions, grate pattern and debris, channel (gutter) configurations inlet approach and the amount of coming flow expressed in cubic feet per second, or cubic metres per second. The scope of the study was to determine the capacities of inlets by testing them in a test tank under different roadway, curb, and channel surface conditions, and with a certain range of channel flow rates. All inlets were built with a prototype to model length ratio of 2:1. The principles of hydraulics and model laws were applied to correlate model parameters to prototype parameters, and the results presented in a form of efficiency curves.

I made the following hand-drawings during my early days at Lehigh. The colour notations are added for the purpose of this story.

**Photo 66 Drainage Inlet and Road Configuration**



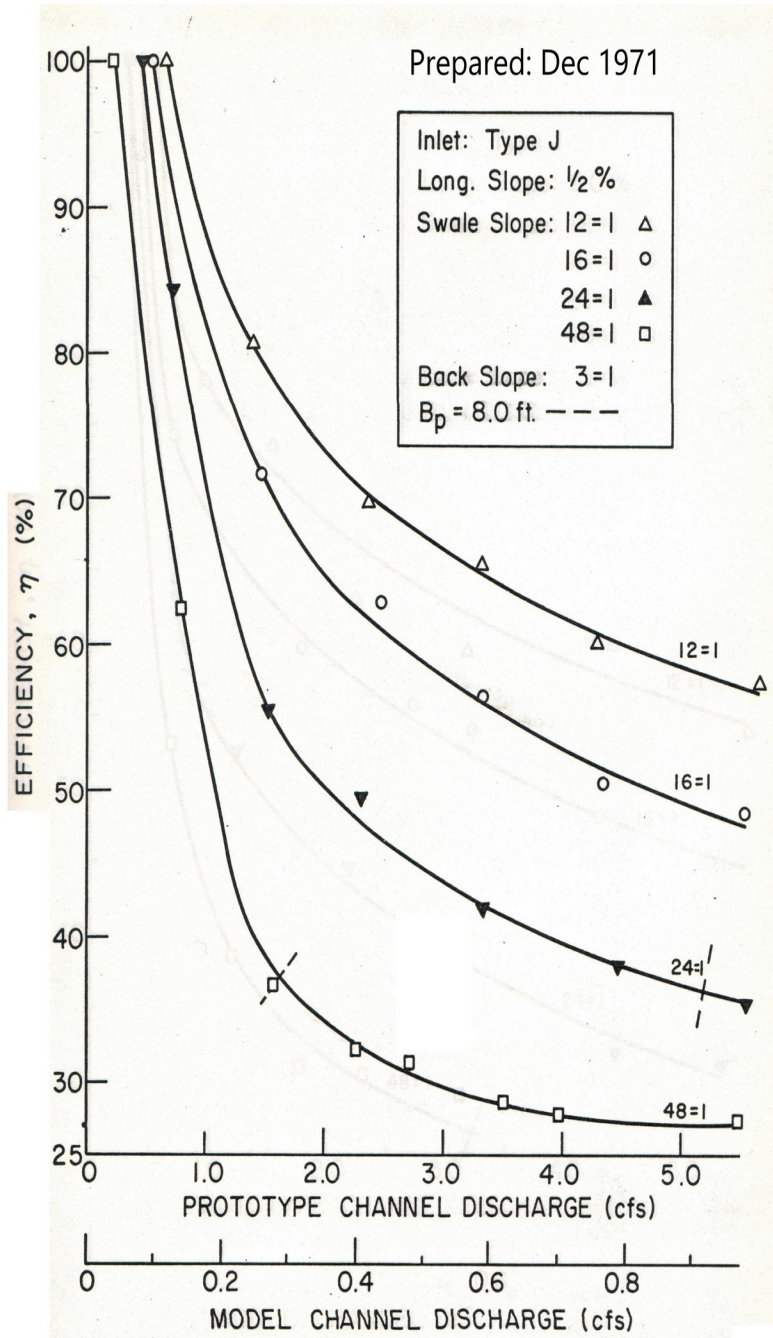
**Photo 67 Water Supply System** The installation occupied three floors at the Fritz Engineering Laboratory.



Water Circulation System

Prepared: Sept 1970

Photo 68 Test Results



Efficiency Curves; Type J Inlet (Long. Slope = 1/2%)

**Photo 69 Lehigh University Convocation (1972)**



**15.5 Day of Self-Reflection**

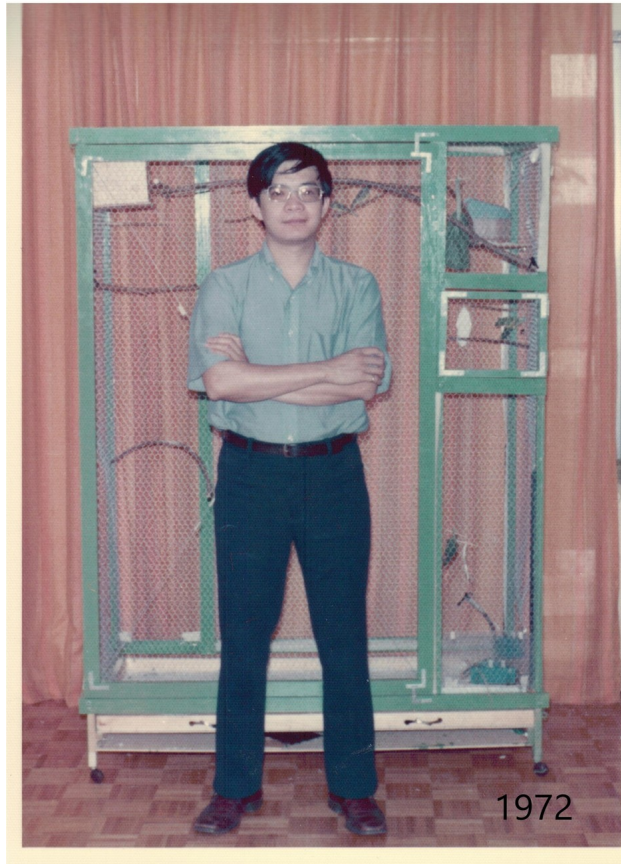
My last day at Lehigh was January 31, 1972. Thanks to my professors and support from Leidy, I was able to complete my study and research in a timely manner. The following morning - Feb 1, I loaded all my worldly belongings into my car and said good-bye to Mrs. Zeller. The trip to Ottawa gave me sufficient time to self-reflect. It was a unique period of time we have at some point(s) in our life. Here I am, no more full-time schooling, no job (not yet, not until I show up the next day), no family of my own, and no debt except a student loan. I had the fortune to further my education which turned out to be critical in earning me a job. As I approached the Canada-US border, the moment I saw the Maple Leaf flag again some smoke got into my eyes.



## **16.0 Engineering Career in Public Service (1972-2012)**

To resume one of my Hong Kong hobbies, I built a bird cage large enough for my friends to fly, albeit for short distances.

### **Photo 70 Bird Cage - My First Hand-Made Project (1972)**



## **16.1 My Office Organization**

My first job took me to Ottawa, Canada's capital in February, 1972. The government had just created a new department called Environment Canada and was in the process of transferring to it some programs from other departments. At the same time, the new department was decentralizing the work to the regional offices. My time in Ottawa lasted about five months.

My office - Inland Waters Directorate (IWD) - Ontario Region had programs in: hydrometry (measuring and publishing stream/river flow and sedimentation data);

water quality survey and study; and water planning and management (the branch I worked in) which included flood risk mapping, environmental assessment, and boundary waters operations.

## **16.2 Treaties and Agreements**

A large portion of my work was devoted to the boundary waters program which originated from treaties and agreements between Canada and the United States.

### Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909

The border between Canada and the United States runs through a number of rivers and lakes. Recognizing that actions taken on one side of the border can affect water levels and flows on the other side, the two countries signed the Boundary Waters Treaty in 1909. The Treaty provides general principles for preventing and resolving disputes over waters shared between the two countries, and for settling the transboundary issues at the time. Also, it established the International Joint Commission (IJC), giving it authority to approve projects that affect water levels and flows across the boundary. The IJC's decisions take into account the needs of a wide range of water uses, including drinking water, commercial shipping, hydroelectric power generation, agriculture, ecosystem health, industry, fishing, recreational boating and shoreline property.

### IJC Boards of Control

When the IJC approves a project, it issues an Order of Approval which places conditions on the application and operation of the project (examples include dams, water diversions, and bridges that would affect the natural level of boundary waters). For some approved projects, the IJC appoints a board of control to monitor compliance of operational requirements. The IJC Orders are updated to reflect changing conditions and user needs listed above. As the two countries have the obligation to provide resources to the IJC to carry out its mandate, Board members and their technical support come from government agencies.

One of the earliest IJC Orders was issued in 1914 when it granted two hydropower plants on the St. Marys River (outlet river of Lake Superior), one in Canada and the other in the U.S., permission to proceed with the completion of a dam in the river (called the St. Marys River Compensating Works), and diversion of the river water for hydropower generation. The IJC established the International Lake Superior Board of Control to oversee their operations. This led to the regulation of the water levels and outflows of Lake Superior, one of the tasks during my career.

## IJC Study Boards

The IJC's second main responsibility is to investigate transboundary issues and recommend solutions. For some issues, it is accomplished through a formation of a study board consisting of members from both countries, from academia, public utilities and citizen groups with expertise and knowledge on the issues listed above. These study boards are dissolved upon completion of their work and final report. Similar to boards of control, I provided technical support whenever a study board was formed concerning Great Lakes water levels and flows.

## 1950 Niagara Treaty and International Joint Commission

In 1950, Canada and the United States signed the Niagara Treaty with two objectives. The first was to preserve and enhance the scenic beauty of the Niagara Falls and River, and the second to provide for the most beneficial use of the waters for hydropower generation. To achieve these objectives, remedial works were carried out at the (Canadian) Horseshoe Falls to provide an unbroken water crest line, and new hydropower plants constructed. The treaty also led to the construction of a control structure a short distance upstream of the Horseshoe Falls. The 18-gate structure "International Niagara Control Works" extends from the Canadian shore partially across the river. The operation of this structure is governed by Directives issued by the IJC and is overseen by its International Niagara Board of Control.

## St. Lawrence Seaway and Hydropower Project

During the 1950s, Canada and the United States decided to proceed with the joint development of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Hydropower Project. As with the case with Lake Superior hydropower development, the IJC issued Orders of Approval which specified requirements and criteria in the design and subsequent operations. Concurrently with the constructions of hydropower and flow regulation dams and spillway, the navigation agencies built new and larger locks and deepened the ship channels to permit transits by large vessels. These constructions were essentially complete by 1958, which subsequently led to the regulation of flow in the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River system.

## Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Data

The development of the St. Lawrence Seaway and Hydropower project required historical Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River hydrologic and hydraulic data, including vertical datum, that need to be jointly agreed to by the design engineers in both countries. In 1953, several federal departments in both countries organized the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data to develop the data, called coordinated data. Subsequently, the committee's work expanded to include the other four Great Lakes.

### **16.3 Ottawa, Canada (1972)**

February 2, 1972 was the first day of my public service. I shared a small room with a draftsman in a wooden building called Number 8 Temporary Building on Carling Avenue in Ottawa. After taking the Oath of Allegiance (then required for civil servants), John Bathurst, who interviewed and hired me, introduced me to his staff. Nick Persoage was the engineer-in-charge and I would be assisting one of their engineers named John Keefe. By this time, office re-organization and decentralization were well under way.

#### **Photo 71 John Bathurst In Ottawa Celebrating His 90th Birthday (2017)**

John Bathurst interviewed and hired me. His decision in 1971 helped me start my engineering career in Canada.



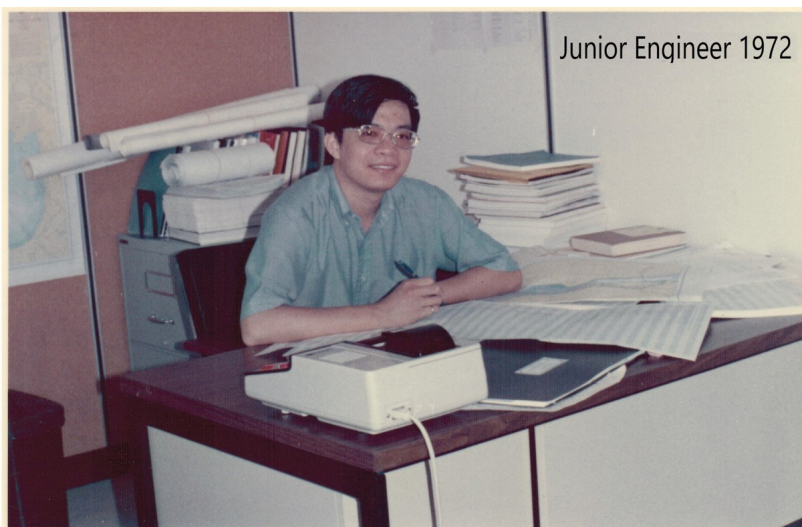
Nick was planning to retire in a few years, and noting that we would soon move out of Ottawa, he sent me to the Central Registry to sign out the files related to IJC boards and the Coordinating Committee (discussed earlier). For the first two weeks in my job, I spent all day reading these files, and looked for specific information that he asked for which essentially was what he wanted me to focus on. An interesting way to learn, and it worked out well!

Concurrently with file reading, I assisted John in computing Lake Superior outflow for the coming month using a regulation plan. The second task was evaluating the feasibility of using steam to operate a dam at the outlet of Lake Superior during emergency. The mechanical parts that operate the gates at the dam are exposed to the elements, so ice in winter normally renders them inoperable. I also assisted John in identifying possible sites along the St. Clair - Detroit River for placement of dredged materials.

#### **16.4 Burlington, Ontario (1972-1990)**

In the summer of 1972, I moved to the Burlington office which was part of the IWD Ontario Region. The federal building, called Canada Centre for Inland Waters, was the centre for government research on water quality. One of my first tasks was to participate in the IJC's Upper Great Lakes (Lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron including Georgian Bay) Water Quality Study. Later that year, I became the Canadian Secretary of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data, and Canadian Chairman in 1990.

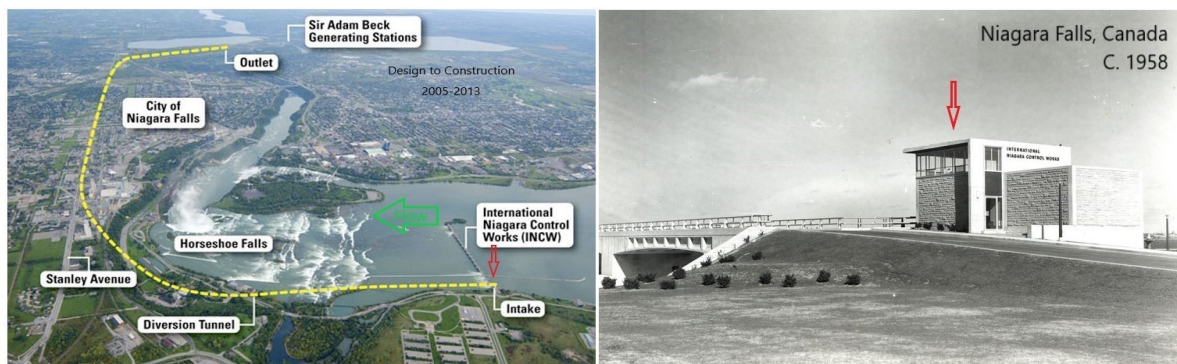
#### **Photo 72 Fortran Programming (1972)**



From IBM punched cards to magnetic tapes, and my first desktop computer kindly wheeled into my office by colleague Syed Moin! The desktop calculator was on my office desk until I retired in 2003 - truly a reliable and faithful companion.

The responsibility for supporting the IJC's Niagara Board had just moved from Ottawa to our Burlington office, and Nick expected that soon I would be part of the team overseeing the operations of the International Niagara Control Works. He sent me to the Niagara River to learn how the operators manage the river flow, water diversion for hydropower, and, at the same time provide water flows over Niagara Falls to meet treaty requirements. I spent two weeks at the control structure, watching and asking questions. Ron Yorke, their supervisor, welcomed me and was pleased to show me how they "move the river".

### Photo 73 International Niagara Control Works



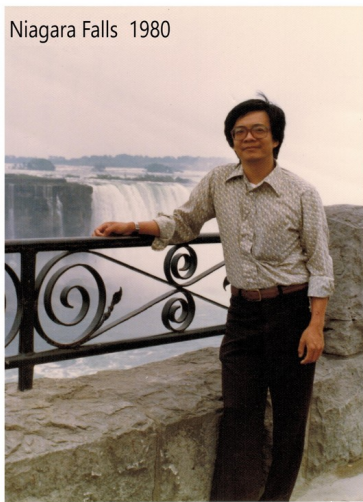
Left: Aerial View of Niagara Falls and International Niagara Control Works. Photo source: Francis J Petrie via Niagara Falls (Ontario) Public Library. The structure extending partway across the river has 18 gates. More gates are opened to supply the Falls with water during the daylight hours of the tourist season to meet Treaty requirements. At night and in winter months when the Treaty flow requirements are halved, more gates are closed raising the pool (river area just upstream of the structure) and increasing diversion of water to the power plants. The yellow dash line is the route of a new water diversion tunnel recently completed to enhance the ability to divert water for hydropower generation. The water diverted from the pool are returned to the river downstream of the Falls (top of photo).

Right: International Niagara Control Works Building. Photo source: TunnelTalk.com. The office looks like an airport traffic control tower. The operators on site have advance knowledge of the amount of water from Lake Erie,

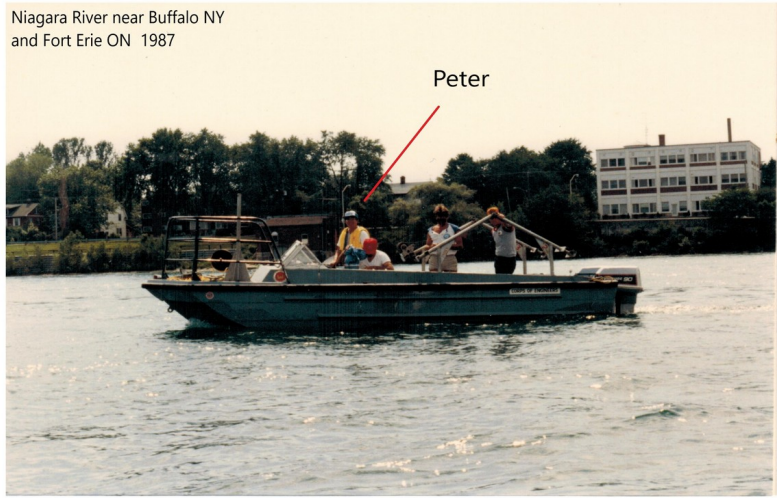
regulate the pool level by adjusting the gate opening pattern to facilitate water diversions for hydropower purposes and at the same time meet Treaty's Falls flow requirements.

During my service in the Burlington office, I participated in other projects. These included flow measurements to develop water level and flow relationships. The current meters are calibrated in a tow-tank at the hydraulic lab in my Burlington office building. We began to try new technology using sound to measure water flow, a project led by our Ottawa scientist Bob Halliday. I conducted hydraulic studies writing computer programs for standard method of backwater computations and data analysis, simulation of water level and flow using different regulation plans, and participated in IJC boards' operations related to the Great Lakes.

**Photo 74 Niagara Falls and River / Measuring River Flow (1980 / 1987)**



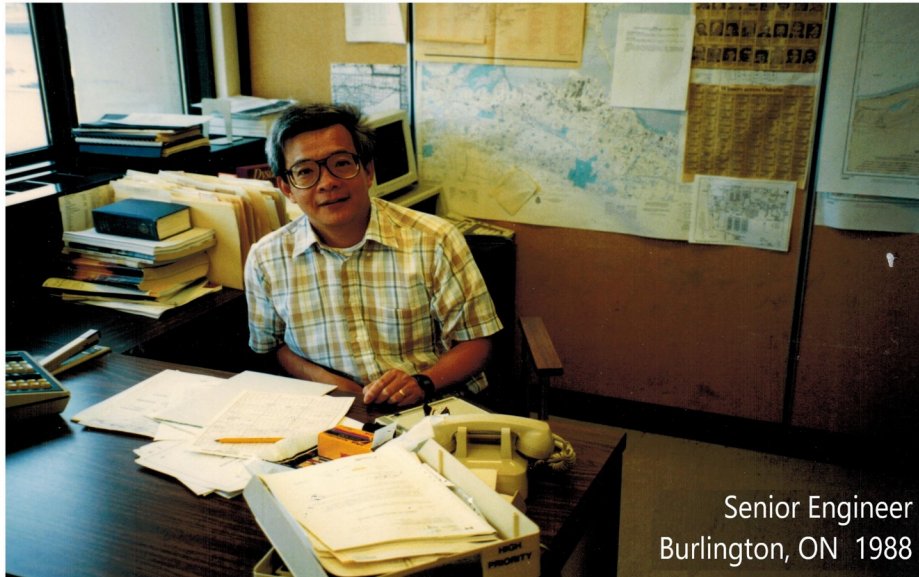
Niagara Falls 1980



Niagara River near Buffalo NY and Fort Erie ON 1987

Left: 1980 - A pause after a stop at the hydropower plants at Niagara. Right: 1987 - Taking river flow measurement near the upstream end (head) of the Niagara River.

## Photo 75 Burlington Office Desk (1988)



After taking a one-hour course "Time Management", I marked my inbox "high priority" for all in-coming papers. The lecturer was good and funny. First, he advised we should take some action (not necessarily full completion) on every piece of incoming paper before leaving them in the same inbox, or work would accumulate quickly and get out of control. Good advice!

Then he gave his second advice. We should place them in separate bins that we consider high and low priority. If, after one week, we get no reminder from the sender, place the low priority ones into a "lower" priority. And if still there is no one contacting us after the second week, it is obvious the sender is not serious and we should empty the contents into a waste basket and this he demonstrating how in front of the class. He looked serious, but I think I caught his split-second wink.

## 17.0 1985 - A Very Special Year

### 17.1 Meeting A New Friend and Lifetime Companion

1985 was very special, for I got married to a beautiful and lovely person that year. The story started two years earlier when I met Nancy through my neighbour the Hornby family. Jenny Hornby worked in the education department and Nancy was one of the students in the evening class Jenny organized. We both like gardening, and Nancy was knowledgeable of plants and flowers people grow in the area. She



was working in a nursery owned by a Dutch-Canadian family. Over the next two years, we got to know each other, and for me, to learn, respect and love.

Nancy was one of the “Boat People” who fled Vietnam in 1978 by boat. Her ancestors migrated from the Pearl River Delta region and settled in Saigon (now called Ho Chi Ming City) in the 1800s. Nancy’s mother tongue is also Cantonese so we got to know each other in no time. She is the oldest of the seven siblings in the family. Government repression on the ethnic Chinese was severe, prompting many of them to escape. Conditions were turning so difficult such that Nancy’s parents decided to send her out on a boat to search for a better life with the hope that the rest of the family would someday join her. They bought her a space in a ship which would hold several hundred people. I can only imagine the night before her departure, the hugging and tears, her parents instructions and last-minute advice, their means of communication after she had settled in her new country. An enormous family burden had been placed on her. She was fifteen years old when she took that risky, perilous and fateful journey.

Onboard the ship, Nancy and another girl (named Sye) became friends, and they kept each other company to avoid the loneliness feeling. While on the high sea, pirates boarded the ship on three occasions to demand money and jewellery from passengers.

When their ship reached Thailand, the passengers were initially denied permission to land. After a series of negotiations between the refugee organizers and the Thailand navy, which culminated at one time when some passengers in desperate situation threatening to sink their ship, only then the ship was allowed to land.

Nancy spent one year in a Thailand refugee camp. Much of the basic food served repeatedly at the camp were pumpkin. No wonder she had no appetite for pumpkin pie (my favourite) after leaving the camp. She and her friend Sye came to Canada as part of the refugee resettlement provided by the Canadian government. Their applications were supported and sponsored by the Bethel Christian Reformed Church congregation including the Veldhuis family. After landing in Canada, Nancy worked at the Hortico Nursery which is a wholesale flowers and shrubs business owned by a Dutch-Canadian family. She also applied for her parents and siblings to immigrate to Canada.

**Photo 76 Nancy and Peter (1984 / 1985)**



**17.2 Wedding Day - November 23, 1985**

Several weeks before the wedding, in the midst of his church service, the pastor asked Nancy and I to stand up while he made an announcement of our upcoming wedding. He recalled Nancy's perilous journey that started from her home town, and thank the Lord for protecting her during the difficult time until she came to Canada. I was thankful too, but I began to feel uncomfortable standing in the middle of a big congregation with everyone looking in my direction. His introduction was much longer than I expected, reminding me of my Hong Kong teachers giving naughty students "standing" punishment.

Our wedding ceremony took place on November 23, 1985 at the Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Waterdown, Ontario. Among the people who attended were my Hong Kong classmates, friends and neighbours, work colleagues, and several Dutch-Canadian families who helped with Nancy's resettlement to Canada, and my family. Walter Winkler, who worked with me in our Outlook summer job in Saskatchewan attended with his mother. Leidy Dittbrenner and his son travelled from Lehigh to join us for the special occasion, and John the son of Hortico owner who continues to operate the business after his parents retired.

**Photo 77 Wedding Day Morning (1985)**



**Photo 78 My Best Man Rick Hornby (1985)** My neighbour and friend.



**Photo 79 Mr. Broomstra Walking The Bride Down The Aisle (1985)**



**Photo 80 Newly Wed Couple by the Church Window (1985)**



**Photo 81 Mr. And Mrs. Broonstra (1985)**



**Photo 82 The Veldhuis Family (1985)**



Photo 83 The Three "Sisters" (1985)



Photo 84 Peter's Parents (1985)



**Photo 85 A Break from Meetings in Washington, D.C. USA (1987)**



**17.3 Nancy's Family Reunion**

Three weeks after our wedding, I was working at my Burlington desk when Nancy telephoned me. The Immigration office had just informed her by phone that her family had left Saigon and that their plane would arrive in Toronto the next day. It was a total surprise because she had, up to that morning, not received any news on the status of her application. Looking back, I can only wonder if the pastor's announcement during his service had something to do with it, or someone in his congregation was working at the immigration office. I should not complain about that long stand.

The immigration paper work at the airport took some time, and there were lots of hugging and tears. She had not seen her family for seven years under much more hardship condition compared to my situation. We learned later that they did not alert us about their departure not knowing whether they would indeed be able to leave. They had seen some passengers stopped at the airport by the authority.

## **18.0 Engineering Career in Public Service (1990-2012)**

### **18.1 Cornwall, Ontario (1990-2003)**

The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Regulation Office in Cornwall, Ontario was established in the early 1950s by the government to assist the Ottawa headquarters in the design of the Canada - US St. Lawrence Seaway and Hydropower Project. Following the completion of the project in 1958, the Cornwall office took on the responsibility as Canada's operating centre for the regulation of the water levels and flows in the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River system. As these operations affect water levels and flows downstream which is wholly within Canada, the government decided to maintain the office in the project site.

In the early 1970s, the Cornwall office took in additional work - the regulation of water levels and outflows of Lake Superior - work that previously was carried out by headquarters. The office's engineer and manager, by virtue of its functions, holds the Canadian chairmanship of the Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data. Another main function is the forecasting of the water levels of the Great Lakes and in the St. Lawrence River. In 1989, its manager and chief engineer decided to retire. After receiving encouragement from Doug Cuthbert who was two levels above me, I applied for the job. As the position required a bilingual person, to prepare for the job interview (and hopefully my next posting), I took an evening course to learn French at the Sheridan College in Mississauga.

### **Photo 86 Nancy and Peter with Our First Child Jonathan (1990)**





**Photo 87 St. Lawrence Seaway And Hydropower Project** Photo source: Rob Caldwell. My home (1990-2004) was to the right out-of-photo.

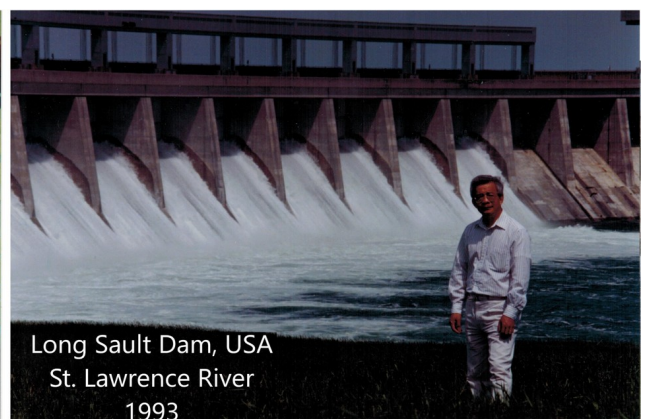


**Photo 88 Navigating on the St. Lawrence River near Morrisburg, ON (1990)**



Changes in the Lake Ontario outflow is accomplished by operating the turbines and generators at the international hydropower dam. When the required Lake Ontario outflow exceeds the power dam's flow capacity, gates at the Long Sault Dam's spillway are opened to increase river flow.

**Photo 89 Increasing Lake Ontario Outflow (1993)**



Left: My Cornwall office. Right: Gates are opened at the Long Sault Dam to increase Lake Ontario outflow in response to any large and rapid increase in water supplies to Lake Ontario. During high flows, close monitoring of the conditions in the river is essential, as they could adversely affect navigation, and aggravate flooding below the dams and downstream in the Montreal area.

### French Language Lessons and Tests

The Cornwall office is located in eastern Ontario and close to Quebec. Since our work requires communicating with hydropower and navigation agencies, and shore property owners in Quebec, the manager's position is designated bilingual (English and French). Prior to offering me the position, the Public Service Commission (agency that did the hiring) put me to a test to determine what level of knowledge and skill I was at, and to ascertain that I had the ability to learn. The letter of offer stated that within the first two years, I must pass their writing and speaking tests. And if I failed, they would try to find me another job somewhere in Canada that I qualify in work and language (English). As my first two years in Cornwall were on a steep learning curve, this was an added load mentally! I attended a French class the department set up for the employees in the office building. Carl Jacob from Trois Rivières (Three Rivers), Quebec, was an excellent teacher.

Near the end of my first two years in Cornwall, I wrote the writing test and passed with a good mark. Two weeks later, I travelled to Ottawa for the speaking test. I arrived early, so I had my second morning coffee at a sidewalk café below their office. While there, I witnessed a collision between two cars near where I was sitting.

Next, I sat in their waiting area. An official, a woman in her mid-30s, walked up to me asking (our entire conversation in French) -

"Mr. Yee, have you been waiting long?"

"Not at all, madam. I spent some time at the café below, before coming up here."

"How is the cafe?"

"Fine. I saw a car accident near where I was sitting".

"Oh, did anyone get injured?"

"No one. The two cars have damage."

"Please follow me to my office".

"What do you do in your work?"

"I am an engineer working on the regulation of the water levels and flows in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River".

"And how do you do that?"

"There are dams in the river at Cornwall, and we operate them to provide the required flow and water levels".

"That's exciting!"

A few more technical questions and answers followed lasting about three minutes. She ended the test and showed me the way out with a smile. Was that a good sign? I wondered. There was not a moment during the test that I got stuck, had a loss of word, or asked her to repeat. Had she posed a long wordy question, one word not heard or understood would have thrown me off. I thought I did ok. Nonetheless I drove back to Cornwall thinking and worrying. When I arrived at my office, the secretary said the good news had already reached my superior's office in Burlington.

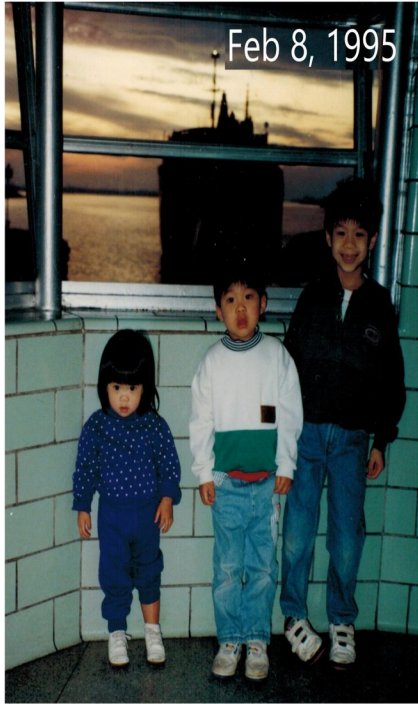
During my time in Cornwall, the need to speak French arose often especially when making phone calls to Quebec. The people there are nice, friendly, and accommodating. They always appreciated that I started off in their language. When they sensed that French is not my mother tongue, without asking they automatically switched to English. All public information issued by the Cornwall office are in both official languages. On my desk (Photo 89) was a sign "English Français". This sign, and the excellent support from my assistant engineer David Fay and the rest of the staff, helped me keep my job.

**Photo 90 Standing at the Bottom of Eisenhower Lock, USA (1995)**



Seaway navigation on the Great Lakes is closed in every winter, the period typically extends from mid December to late March the following year. On very rare occasion such as this time, it was necessary to dewater the lock to allow for repairs and maintenance work.

**Photo 91 Children Learning at the Lock Control Room (1995)**



**Photo 92 Navigation Locks (1997 / 1998)**



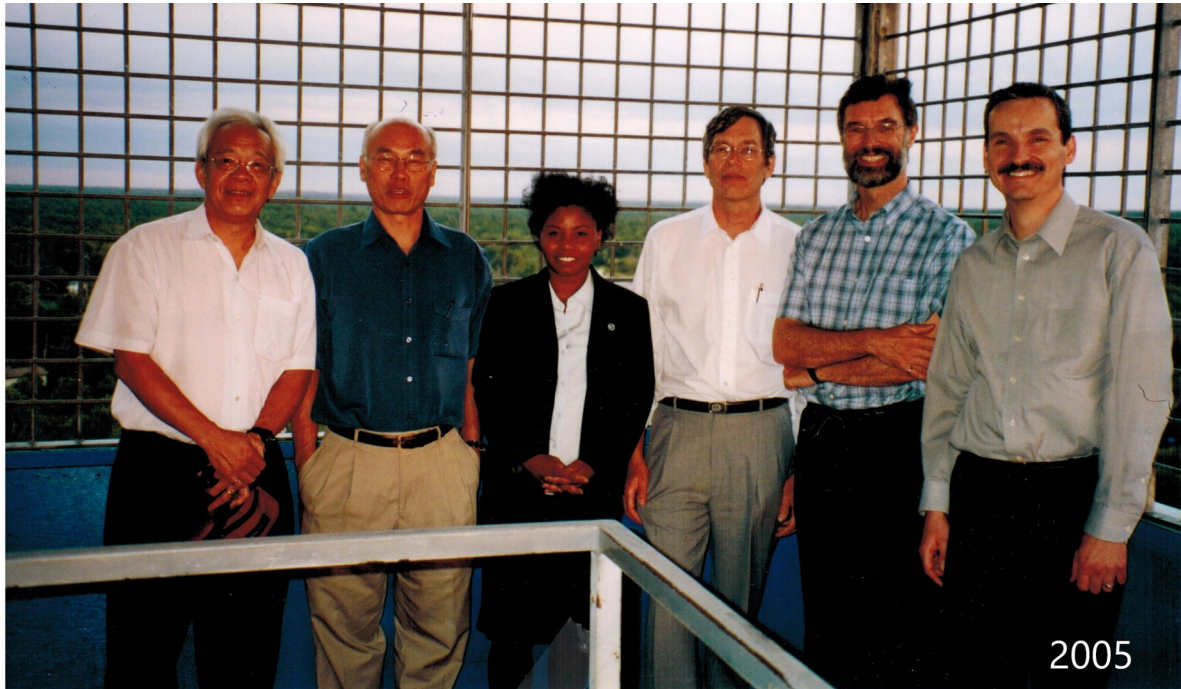
Left: 1997 - Reconstruction of the Canadian navigation lock at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Right: 1998 - Meeting with Steve Hung, official of US navigation agency at Massena, NY.

**Photo 93 International Joint Commission Canadian Chairman Visiting (2002)** Peter taking the Right Honourable Herb Gray, IJC Canadian Chairman and former deputy prime minister, on his tour and meeting with the hydropower and navigation officials.



## 18.2 Post-Retirement and Consulting Work (2003-2012)

### **Photo 94 Plan Of Study For The Upper Great Lakes (2005)**



Peter - co-author and member of the IJC team that developed the 2005 plan of study to examine past and current issues related to the hydraulics of the St. Clair - Detroit River system, and to improve the regulation of water levels and flows in the upper Great Lakes system. This photo was taken in Parry Sound, Ontario, a part of our travel to present the study plan to the public. Left to Right: Peter Yee, Allan Chow, Cynthia Sellinger, Paul Pilon, David Fay, Scott Thieme



## Photo 95 St. Marys Rver and Lake Superior Outflow Control Works

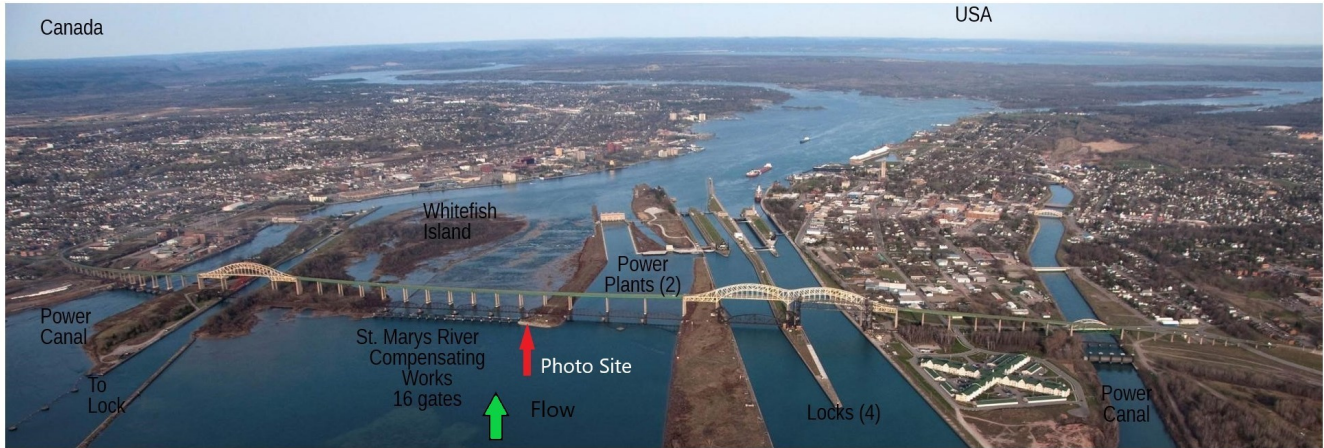
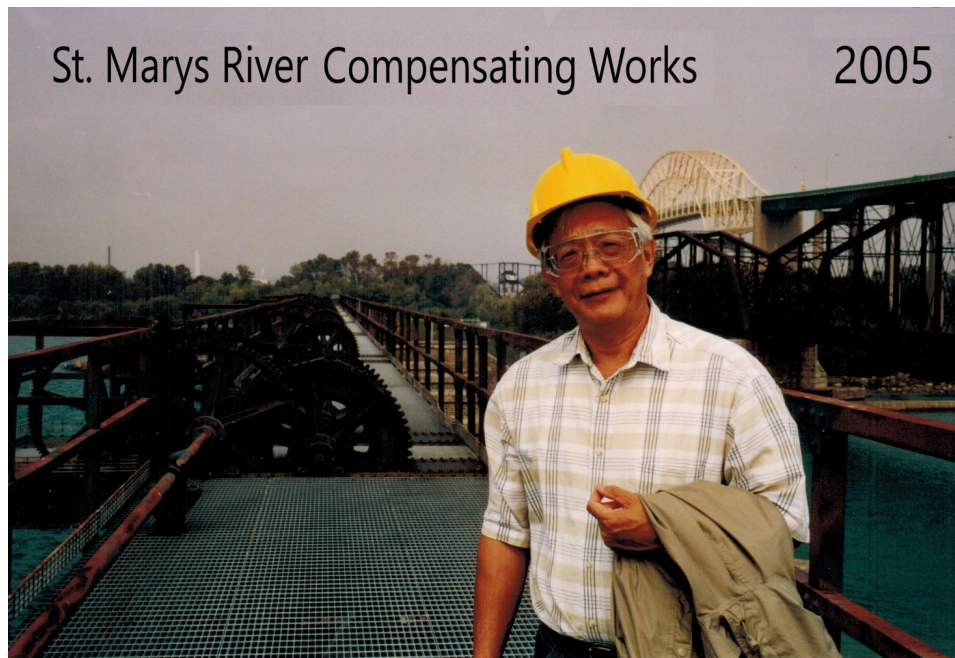


Photo source: International Joint Commission.

## Photo 96 St. Marys River Compensating Works (2005)



After presenting to the public our plan of study in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, I walked to the St. Marys River Compensating Works which is used to regulate Lake Superior outflows. My career had come full circle as it was one of my earliest tasks in 1972.

**Photo 97 Report On Study To Improve Regulation Of Levels And Outflows  
In Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River System (2006)**

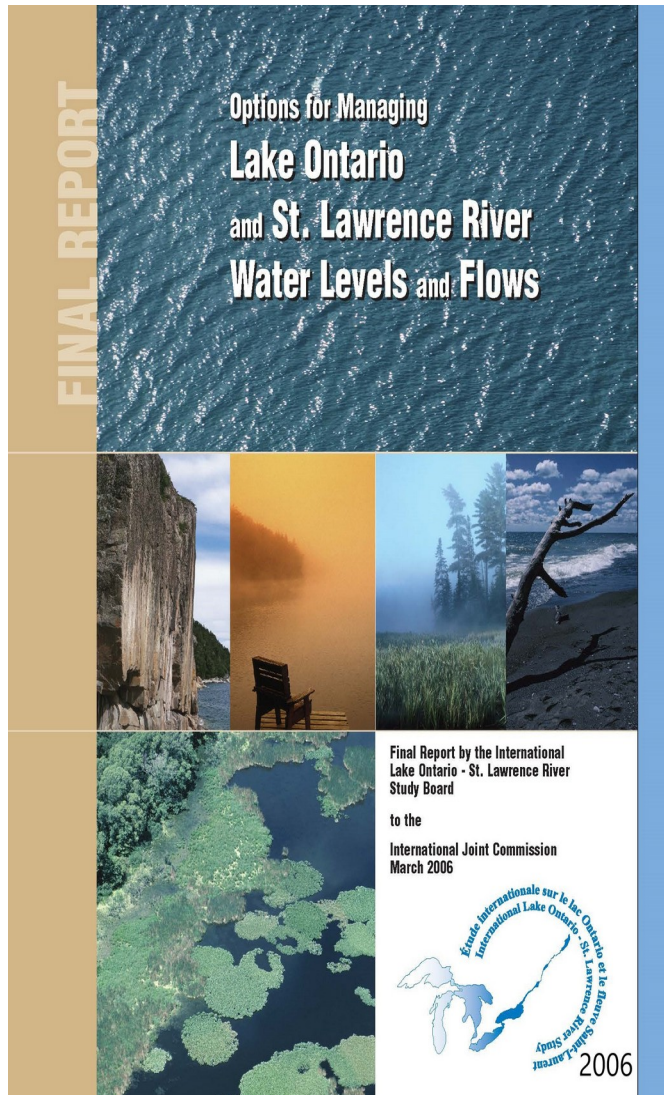


Photo source: Syed Moin. Peter was co-author and member of the IJC team that developed the 2001 plan of study. The 2002-2006 Study led to a new plan to regulate the water levels and flows in the Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River system.

**Photo 98 Upper Great Lakes Study Phase 1 and Phase 2 Reports (2009 / 2012)**



Photo source and report cover design: Syed Moin. Peter was editor of the Phase 1 report and author of several technical papers. The 2007-2012 Study led to a new regulation plan for regulating the outflows of Lake Superior and water levels in the upper Great Lakes system.

**Photo 99 Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Regulation Office Successive Managers (2003)**



Left to right: Successive managers and chief engineers of the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Regulation Office - Dave Witherspoon, Jim Robinson, Peter Yee, and David Fay. Photo taken by Rob Caldwell the current office manager and chief engineer.

Timeline

- 1972 Tail end of the 1968-1973 International Great Lakes Levels Board. International Joint Commission (IJC) water quality study of upper Great Lakes.
- 1972-1990 Secretary of Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data. 1990-2003 Canadian Co-Chair of Committee.
- 1972-1990 Oversaw operations of hydropower plants in Niagara River and flows at Niagara Falls, conducted hydraulic studies. 1978-1990 Secretary of International Niagara Board of Control.
- 1978-1981 Secretary of International Lake Erie Regulation Study Board.
- 1985-1986 Member of IJC Task Force on emergency structural and non-structural measures to alleviate the adverse effects of extreme Great Lakes water levels.
- 1990-2003 Chief engineer and manager of Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Regulation Office. Secretary of International Lake Superior Board of

- Control. Canadian Advisor to International Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Board. Canadian Co-Chair of Coordinating Committee on Great Lakes Basic Hydraulic and Hydrologic Data. Adoption of new vertical datum IGLD (1985).
- 2001 Canadian co-author of Plan of Study to improve Lake Ontario water level and outflow regulation. The 2002-2006 study led to a new regulation plan. Peter retired from full-time position in 2003.
- 2005-2012 Canadian co-author of 2005 Plan of Study to investigate - Phase 1: natural and human factors affecting water flows in the St. Clair - Detroit River system, and Phase 2: improve Lake Superior water level and outflow regulation. Editor of the Phase 1 final report and authored several technical papers, Canadian co-lead in hydropower study. The 2007-2012 Study led to a new regulation plan.

## 19.0 Home-Coming Visits

### 19.1 Regina, Saskatchewan

After leaving home in 1970, I returned once a year or every two years to visit my parents in Regina. Our family reunion included a visit to the cemetery.

#### Photo 100 Paying Homage To Grand-Parents In Regina, Saskatchewan



Left: 1988 - Visiting Grandpa Yee who took family's first step to Canada, Jonathan 1-year old. Right: 1998 - Visiting Grandma Chan. From left: My sister Nancy, father, mother, Peter, sisters Rebecca and Cynthia, wife Nancy, son Justin and daughter Christine. Photographer Jonathan.

**Photo 101 Happy Time With Parents (1998)**



Right to left: Children Jonathan, Justin and Christine, wife Nancy and Peter. The couple standing are my parents' long-time friends. In 1987, my parents closed the family store and retired. At long last, they were no longer tied down by the family store. Father returned to one of his main interests which dated back to his Hong Kong years - teaching ballroom dancing.

### Photo 102 Dance Room At Home and Students (1989)

Left: Classroom in parents home, ready to teacher! Right: Friends and students.



Initially, father taught a few friends from Regina's Chinese-Canadian community. As news spread, more friends joined including my parents' neighbours. Because they have retired and were teaching at home, scheduling was not a problem. Nowadays, it is very rare to find a doctor making house calls, but not for my parents. Occasionally, one doctor showed up, sometimes two, and one time three doctors at the same time. Timing and location were convenient after they had finished their shift at the hospitals. One friend came to learn without telling his family; he wanted to surprise his daughter at her wedding.

Whenever I visited my parents and saw their happy students, I was happy, and proud too. My son Jonathan would sit on the stairs watching grandpa teach, and I know that's the memory of his grand-parents Jonathan will cherish. The class at times was large, so father carried a whistle around his neck, but no thick wooden ruler (as in my case Tak Yan College)! Their retirement years were the happiest time of their life.

**Photo 103 Mother's Day in Regina, SK (1996)** Mother - front row second from right.



**Photo 104 Regina's Chinese-Canadian Elders (1996)** Elders referring to the men only, father on front row fourth from left.





## 19.2 Hong Kong

In 2014, my wife Nancy and I returned to Hong Kong, the first time in fifty years after I left Hong Kong.

### **Photo 105 Paying Respect to Grandpa Chan and Grandma Yee (HK 2014)**



**Photo 106 Touring Peter's Former Neighbourhood (2014)**



The building in the background is Lui Sang Chun at the junction of Lai Chi Kok Road and Tong Mi Road. This is one of the very few surviving and nostalgic scenes in my former neighbourhood.

**Photo 107 Next To Two Beauties (2014)** Left: visiting Lantau Island and referring to the beauty standing next to Peter. Right: Majestic Tree on Nathan Road near the current site of Antiquities and Monuments Office.



**Photo 108 Star Ferry Kowloon Waiting Area (2014)** Not much has changed since 1964.



**Photo 109 111 Ki Lung Street, Level 3 (ground level shown) (2014)**



**Photo 110 Reliving My Good Hope Moments - Desk, Stairs, Mount Good Hope (2014)** Left: The same student's chair I sat on 56 years earlier?



**Photo 111 Good Hope School With Principal Sr. Pauline (2014)**



**Photo 112 Tack Ching Primary School (2014)** Same classroom my father taught in 1954. At that time, I was attending primary class in the building across the street.



**Photo 113 Tack Ching Primary Site in Early 1950s (2014)**



**Photo 114 Classmate John Chan Cho Hung (2014) also SFX teacher.**



**Photo 115 SFX Classmate Tom Wong and Wife Jennie Riding Peak Tram (2014)**



## 20.0 Gratitude and Hope - Second Round

My journey that started in Maba, China has now put me halfway around the world. It is now time to say thanks to all the people who have been a part of my life. And thanks to Mother Earth too for all her natural beauties and scenes I have had the opportunity to admire, walk ,climb, and swim! Until the day when my journey ends, I will continue to read and learn, and write new stories.

**Photo 116 Three-Quarter Century Day, Boston, USA (2019)** Peter and Nancy on my three-quarter century day in Boston, USA.

