

# A yearly tradition—Silver Society participation at the 1920s party at Spadina House



Sunday, July 20th, Philip and I manned the Silver Society Booth at the 1920s Party at Spadina House, one of the wonderful historic Toronto homes, right next to Casa Loma. Our theme this time was a “True or False” quiz.

We had crowds of people guessing, giving them two choices for each item. Our argyle was often identified as teapot. Everybody recognized the cherry pitter. Our tricky item was a hairpin used by the Peranakan Chinese in Malaysia which we had placed upside down, most people thought it was a salt spoon!

The weather was fine, the costumes very elegant, or funny like the ones of the circus troupe.

All in all lots of fun, our contribution to make people appreciating antique silver.

We can't wait for next year.



## In Memoriam: Richard Flensted Holder (1942—2025)



It is with heavy hearts that the family and friends of Richard Flensted-Holder announce his passing in Toronto on October 6<sup>th</sup> after a short illness. He was pre-deceased by his older brother Larry (1948) and survived by his younger brother Brian (Merry Lynn) and niece Natalie and her three children Emerson, Everett, and Elliot in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Richard was born in Reid's Point, Kingston Peninsula, NB, in 1942. He spent much of his

childhood at the family homestead in Holderville along the St. John River.

Richard was proud of his family heritage. The Holders were United Empire Loyalists who left the American Colonies at the conclusion of the revolutionary war and were granted Crown land at Holderville. His mother's family were part of the Danish migration to Canada that occurred in the late 1920s. His Danish mother and grandmother encouraged Richard's love of music and opera. At an early age, he was playing the violin in a symphony orchestra. To honour his Danish family heritage, he added Flensted to his surname.

After earning a BA at the University of New Brunswick and teacher qualifications, he moved to Toronto in the late 1960s, where he took up a position teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) at George Brown College. Richard enjoyed teaching and made many life-long friends among the ESL faculty. Until his recent illness, he continued to meet other retired teachers for brunch in a selected restaurant.

His early years in New Brunswick fostered an interest in antiques and art. This led to a new career after teaching. Initially, he collected and sold assorted antiques part-time at the Sunday Harbourfront Antiques Market in Toronto. He read and studied objects in museums and antique shops and consulted with established dealers like Lorenz Biricz. Towards 1980, he decided to specialize in silver. He followed auctions in New York and London, often bidding on selected items. By the 1980s, Richard had established a reputation as one of the few knowledgeable silver dealers in Canada. He regularly rented booths at antique shows in Toronto, Montreal and New York and was soon admitted as a member to the Canadian Antique Dealers



Association. Active dealing and participation in antique shows only ceased about five years ago.

In 1969, Richard purchased a cottage on Ward's Island in Toronto Harbour. This was his spiritual home where until his passing, he entertained friends and cultivated a flower garden including a secret patch of trilliums. Richard also spent time in Holderville where he inherited the family farmhouse from his grandmother, at a condominium in Toronto reserved largely for business, and in his apartment on East 84<sup>th</sup> Street in New York which he was able to acquire in 1991. He made monthly trips to New York on business and to enjoy museums, the Metropolitan Opera, and classical concerts. He was gener-

ous in sharing his apartment with friends and family and only gave it up recently as part of down-sizing.

Always an intrepid traveler with a passion for knowledge, Richard was fortunate in later years to be able to take annual cruises with his brother Brian. Richard had many accomplishments: with Dorothea Burstyn, he founded the Silver Society of Canada in 1991 and served as its first President. He was already a member of The Silver Society in England and the New York Silver Society.

Richard enjoyed a wide circle of friends to whom he was devoted and generous. He will be missed because he fulfilled a meaningful role in their lives. His family and friends are grateful to the staff of St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, for the excellent treatment he received. Their medical care was second to none. RIP

Peter Kaellgren