

## Remembering Peter Taws



It is with great sadness that the Taws family announces the sudden passing of Peter, age 55, on February 28, 2009, while vacationing in Florida.

Peter, beloved husband to wife Barbara, and loving father to Ashley (Derek) and Doug. Survived by brothers Andrew, Charles, Gordon, and sister Lori. Predeceased by brother Douglas and parents William and Norma.

A Memorial Church Service will take place on Wednesday, March 11 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at St. James the Apostle, 18794 Leslie Street, Sharon, ON L0G 4V0. Donations may be made to The Heart and Stroke Foundation, at 1-888-473-4636.

Peter was very active in the driving community from the very beginning of Combined Driving in Canada. Along with Udo Hochgeschurz, David Freedman and Rick Hardman, Peter brought well-known international trainer and coach Christian Jseli from Europe to help with Canada's first combined driving event. Peter was Rick's navigator and was part of the group that assisted with the founding of the Canadian Driving Society (now Drive Canada).

The first meeting of the Ontario Combined Driving Association (ACDA) was organized by Peter who became President with Mary Cork and Jane Lyndon as directors. The first combined driving events were held at the Hardman's, then at Susan Hodgson's property and eventually at Dr. Raymond Cormack's Tralee estate evolving into the first two CANAMs. Both the later events were World Championship team qualifiers and all the top drivers in North America attended.

CANAM later moved to Quebec – along with Jack Pemberton, Andre Paquin, Don Martz and Dave Wharton, Peter helped organize the first event at Ste-Justine de Newton managed by Michel Lapierre. Michel remembers Peter as a very friendly and generous supporter of driving.

Fred Gutoski met Peter in Ottawa at the CEF (now Equine Canada) Provincial President's meeting and helped organize the first Combined Driving Event in Manitoba. He attended many CDS meetings and was very helpful with fundraising for the team.

Peter worked with Jack Pemberton to bring the Carriage Racing Derby to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and served as Chef d'Equip for Canada at two World

Championships. Dr. Bernd Stanglmeier, team Veterinarian recalls the pleasant working relationship with Peter at the World Pairs Championship in Riesenbeck, Germany (1997) and the first World Singles in Ebbs, Austria (1998).

Dave Wharton was a member of the team and worked closely with Peter for a number of years and was able to forward this team photograph.



*Chef d'Equip Peter, front and center of the Canadian Team at the first World Singles Championship in Ebbs, Austrian, 1998*

Dave adds that in addition to his equine activities Peter was a multi faceted sportsman in his own right. He was a shooting enthusiast along with his son and an active crew member on his daughter's race car team. "While involved with combined driving, Peter work tirelessly to promote the sport, educate the organizers and officials and was always the first one to put his hand in his pocket when there was financial shortfalls. Peter was a kind generous sole who was always available to help others in times of need. He had a great impact in our sport."

The funeral will be held at 1100, on Wednesday, March 11 at St. James The Apostle, 18794 Leslie Street, Sharon, Ontario. [www.greenlafleur.com/stjames.com/](http://www.greenlafleur.com/stjames.com/)

Directions:

404 (Don Valley) North all the way to the end which is Green Lane East. Go West a short distance to Leslie Street and turn right. Continue on Leslie Street North. Church is 18794 Leslie Street before you get into Sharon.