

Paul Baker, B.A.Sc., P. Eng.
President ASHRAE Ottawa Valley Chapter, 1988-1989



Paul has always had a flair for the dramatic. He came out of an experimental high school theatre arts program at Lawrence Park Collegiate in Toronto. During his undergraduate years as a nuclear engineering student at the University of Toronto he was a core cast member of Skule Nite – the engineers’ comedy variety show. Then he married TV and stage star Holly Larocque and has since answered the call whenever he was conscripted to join her in performance. Since the turn of the Millennium that has meant playing the Radio Announcer in “*The Big Band Broadcast Starring Holly Larocque and the Mark Ferguson Orchestra*” both on stage and in the CBC TV Special of the same name.

Following graduation, Paul went to work for Johnson Controls based in Toronto and initially operated in a sales support role surveying commercial buildings across Canada and writing reports on areas where energy conservation measures would have an economical payback. Johnson Controls eventually transferred Paul to Ottawa where he has been involved in the sales, planning, and implementation of many projects. Some of the innovative and creative highlights include:

- A control system for the manufacture of Ultrapure Water and a gas monitoring system for Nortel Networks Carling Site that allowed the staff to complete maintenance and testing procedures without slowing production or compromising safety.
- A control system for the renovated East Memorial Building that resulted in state-of-the-art control without compromising the heritage features of the structure.
- An integrated control system for the new Passenger Terminal at the Ottawa Airport that encompasses HVAC, Lighting Control, Solar Blinds, Access Control, CCTV, Fire Alarm, Public Address, LAN, Gate Management System, Apron Drive Bridge System, Common Use Terminal Equipment, Baggage and Flight Information Displays into one holistic control system.

Paul’s ASHRAE involvement started on the Toronto Chapter Education Committee under the chairmanship of future regional chair Lloyd Algie. In the Ottawa Valley Chapter, he worked on various committees and chaired the Education Committee before being tapped on the shoulder to ‘go through the chairs’ toward his presidential year. That year was also the year that the Ottawa Valley Chapter hosted all of ASHRAE Society at the Annual Meeting. The Chapter decided to provide speaker gifts for all presenters at the Annual Meeting that year. This decision depleted the cash surplus that the Chapter had accumulated in previous years in anticipation of the Annual Meeting, but it was a first for Society and so well received by the speakers, that it has since become a standard practice at Annual and Semi-Annual Society meetings. Paul did not allow the extra work associated with hosting the world to reduce the focus on meeting Chapter goals. PAOE goals were exceeded. Also, at Chapter meetings, Paul kept the business sessions short and fast paced and he encouraged a return to the days of fellowship among the members when the social hour reconvened after the formal presentation ended. Following his time on the Board of Governors, Paul acted as Chapter Historian for most of the 1990’s.