



OCA Wall of Honour

John Adjeleian (1923-2004)



John Adjeleian was the leading structural engineer in Ottawa for the past 50 years. Sadly, John passed away on Oct. 14, 2004.

Born of Armenian parents in Worcester, Massachusetts, John completed his bachelor's degree in civil engineering at McGill University and later a master's degree in structural engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Sensing a golden opportunity in a growing market, John moved to Ottawa in the mid-1950s with the aim of filling a niche in the then underserved structural engineering business.

John founded Adjeleian & Associates in 1960, a firm that would specialize in structural engineering services. By 1988, the firm had enjoyed significant success and under his leadership, Adjeleian Allen Rubeli Limited would go on to provide services to more than 4,000 projects throughout Canada and around the world, many of which were recognized for their outstanding structural design, including Toronto's SkyDome.

Professionally, John was a leader and an entrepreneur who earned the respect of his peers in carrying out professional business practices. As a man, he was always generous with his time. He was an enthusiastic member of the Kiwanis Club and always welcomed people to meet in his home, at his engineering office, and at his office at Carleton University, where he lectured on civil and environmental engineering.

John set the standard for his profession, both in business and academia. In 1990, he was appointed Professor Emeritus by Carleton University and in 2003, the university's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering established an annual lecture series in his name to recognize his contributions to the university, to his profession and to society. He was appointed as a Fellow of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering in 1984 and in 1992 was named an Honorary Member of the Ontario Association of Architects, one of the highest honours the OAA bestows on someone outside the architectural profession.

John's goal was always to strive for excellence, integrity and honesty. He was respected as an outstanding structural engineer not only by his peers but also by the community at large.