



Raymond Dahn, a founding member of the South Shore Worship Group (Halifax Monthly Meeting) died February 28, 2020 after a short illness. Ray and his late wife Margery hosted Meetings for Worship at their home in Centre, Nova Scotia for more than 40 years, welcoming hundreds of Friends during that time.

Born in New Jersey in 1926, Ray was a veteran of WWII who served in Belgium and Germany. His time in the service shaped his views on war. As he told a reporter for the local newspaper in a 2016 interview, "What I saw there convinced me that somehow, war has to be stopped."

Back in the US, Ray graduated as a mechanical engineer and he and Margery were married in 1950. As an engineer and administrator, he worked in communities throughout the northeastern USA. Prior to Ray and Margery's emigration to Canada in 1970, Ray was business manager of Friends World College in Long Island, New York.

It was the desire for a more peaceful, less materialistic life that convinced Ray and Margery to move to Nova Scotia with their young family. Ray continued in his engineering profession and the family worked hard to develop the farm woodlot, extensive vegetable gardens and a busy egg business. Their homesteading lifestyle was an inspiration to many others who settled in the area.

In retirement, Ray continued to work in the family woodlot and gardens as well as develop a new business. Many Friends and friends display dry-mounted laminated photographs and posters on their walls because of Ray's 'retirement' business. Fully retired at 80, he took up woodworking and created many treasured gifts for family and friends.

Ray's large family was central in his life and he cherished family times. He took great joy and interest in the many accomplishments and achievements of his four children, 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He and Margery had been married for 66 years when she died in 2016.

A quiet, thoughtful man with a mischievous sense of humor, Ray was well-respected for his wise counsel. On learning of his passing, one friend wrote, "He lived an authentic life and was an example to others." Another said she always paid attention, on the rare occasions when he spoke, because he usually had something worthwhile to say.

In addition to his involvement with Quakers, Ray was a member of the South Shore Chapter of the Council of Canadians where he served as treasurer and researched and developed a documentary film series. He was a founding member of People for Peace, a Bridgewater peace group which held weekly vigils in front of the local MP's office for a period of more than 20 years. Ray was also a volunteer driver with the VON and worked on a committee with others developing a research paper on private woodlots.

The South Shore Worship Group misses this kind and generous man and we are grateful that we had his presence among us for so many years.