



The Enlightenment



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A Tribute to Retiring HALA President Rod Martin

By Don Hatch

After serving as president of the Humanist Association of London and Area (HALA) for eight long years, Rod Martin is stepping down to take a well-deserved rest. Throughout his tenure he provided proficient leadership as HALA continued to evolve and grow. In addition to leading the association, he was also often the speaker at HALA meetings, giving talks on subjects related to humanism. He was exactly the kind of president HALA needed to steer the ship, so to speak, in the right direction. We all owe him a deep debt of gratitude.



Rod has had a most interesting life. He was born in Kitchener Ontario into a family of Mennonite extraction. But the family was no longer part of the Mennonite community because Rod's grandfather was excommunicated for riding in a car. After high school, Rod attended the Ontario Bible College in Toronto and obtained a Bachelor of Theology degree. After graduation, being bilingual, Rod became minister of a French speaking Presbyterian Church in Quebec. After four years he decided the ministry was not for him and he left to enroll at the University of Waterloo to study psychology. Rod obtained his BA in 1979, his MA in 1981, and his PhD in 1984. In that year Rod became a Professor of Clinical Psychology at the University of Western Ontario, a position he held for 32 years. His specialty was the psychology of humour. He authored and co-authored more than 100 academic papers and book chapters, and in 2007 published a book entitled *The Psychology of Humor*, which was translated into four languages and has recently come out in a second edition.

Dr. Rod Martin

Rod has called himself a humanist for many years, but has recently become very interested in Stoicism. He feels Stoicism is a logical add-on to humanism and now proudly calls himself a stoic.

Rod is an avid cyclist and every summer he bikes and camps from a location in BC, through the mountains, and on to Calgary. He also often bikes to Niagara Falls and back in the spring. Rod and his wife Myra have three children, a son and two daughters and eight grandchildren, seven girls and one boy.

HALA is truly blessed to have had Rod, first acting as vice-president, and then as president. His shoes are proving to be exceedingly difficult to fill because so far, no one has come forward to take his place.

*Have
A
Happy
Winter
Solstice*



Solstice at Stonehenge