



A Remembrance and
Celebration of the Life of

Robert Lenthall Jefferies

March 13, 1936 – July 8, 2009

Professor Emeritus
University of Toronto

Monday, November 9, 2009
The Great Hall, Hart House
University of Toronto

Welcome

Professor Locke Rowe, Chair
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Toronto

Professor Spencer Barrett
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Toronto

Marion Hamlin
Sister

Corey Goldman
Associate Chair (Undergraduate)
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Toronto

Rachel Jefferies
Daughter

Professor Emeritus Tom Hutchinson
Environment and Resource Studies
Trent University

Professor David Hik
Biological Sciences
University of Alberta

Alison Jefferies
Daughter

Closing Remarks
Professor Locke Rowe



Carex aquatilis (Water Sedge)



Puccinellia phrygonodes (Alkali Grass)

Reception and refreshments to follow
Guest books are located in the reception area



To his students and colleagues, he stood out as a gentleman of unusual grace and generosity. Professor Rowan Sage

Bob Jefferies was born in 1936 in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, England. He grew up in Somerset, where his mother encouraged his interest in natural history. He received his PhD in Plant Ecology in 1962 from Bristol University. From 1962-64, he was a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Emanuel Epstein at the University of California at Davis. In 1964 he was awarded a NATO/DSR fellowship, married Susan Locke, and moved to the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England to work with Professor Jack Dainty. Bob was among a small group at UEA working on the establishment of a new departmental concept integrating the Biological Sciences and it was here on his Norfolk coast research-site, Stiffkey Marsh, that he developed his life-long interest in salt marsh ecology.

In 1973 Bob came to Toronto as a visiting professor with his wife and two daughters, Alison and Rachel, accepting a faculty position in the Botany Department the following year. From 1978 to 2009, he took graduate students and international collaborators to the Cape Churchill peninsula to investigate plant-herbivore interactions and the responses of plants to changes in salinity. His studies of nesting Snow Geese and tundra plants, and the consequences of climate change and human intervention, helped to make this one of the best-understood northern ecosystems with important world-wide implications. This work influenced management policy in the North and the establishment of Wapusk National Park. Because of Bob's expertise in Arctic ecology, he was part of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

In 2002-03 Bob was awarded the Distinguished Visiting Professorship at the Bodega Marine Laboratory at the University of California at Davis and in 2004, the Gerard P. Baerends Chair in Biology at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. He was also a Visiting Professor at Aarhus University, Denmark and the University of Sydney, Australia.

Bob published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and four edited books. He was a dedicated teacher; he taught over 30,000 students in BIO150, Organisms in their Environment, which he helped create. He supervised twenty-five MSc and PhD students, many of whom hold influential positions in universities and elsewhere, often developing public policy in ecology and the environmental sciences. He was an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Ecology* for many years and on the editorial board of *Global Change Biology* since its inception.

Canada has lost one of its most important Arctic biologists at a vital and significant time. Bob will be sorely missed for his scientific expertise, his dedication to teaching, and for his wit and empathy. His scientific and professional legacy will live on in the work of his colleagues and students. We hope his five grandchildren, Alessandro, Luca and Chiara Cohen, and Molly and Kate Jones, will value and emulate his intellectual curiosity, love of natural history and kind manner.

Susan Jefferies and family would like to thank the speakers, Locke Rowe, the faculty and staff of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and the University of Toronto for this celebration of Bob's life and work. We are also grateful for the scholarship in Bob's memory to further important research being done in ecology at the University of Toronto. Special thanks to Corey Goldman for organizing this event and for all his thoughtfulness and help over the last months.

Robert L. Jefferies Scholarship

For those wishing to contribute to the scholarship, online donations are accepted on the Faculty of Arts and Science's giving web site at <https://donate.utoronto.ca/give/show/12>.

Donations can also be addressed to "University of Toronto" (with "Robert Jefferies" in the memo line) and sent to:

Office of Advancement, Faculty of Arts and Science
100 St. George Street, University of Toronto, M5S 3G3



Salicornia europaea (Glasswort)

Compilation of music performed by Miles Davis, courtesy of SOCAN

Ushers: Deborah Tam and graduate students Kate Edwards, Emma Horrigan and Murilo de Melo Peixoto; grandchildren Alessandro Cohen and Luca Cohen

Plants courtesy of University of Toronto Greenhouses; Bruce Hall, Chief Horticulturist

Cover photo: Mike Serafin