BECOR
Building Envelope Council Ottawa Region

Lunch and Learn – Plus

Jacques Rousseau BRAG Session

including

Connecting Industry to Talent

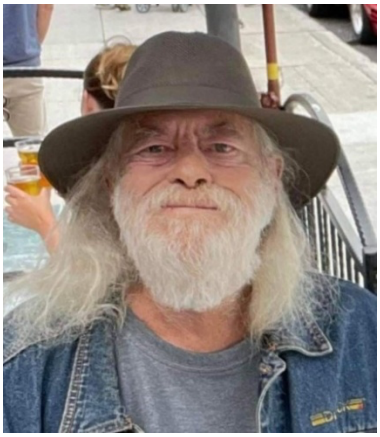
Wednesday, January 20, 2027, Noon to 4:30 PM

Sala San Marco, 215 Preston Street, Ottawa

Jacques Rousseau BRAG Session

Jacques Rousseau passed away in 2022 and in December of that year, BECOR revived the tradition of the BRAG Session - in Jacques' honour. Jacques was a founding member of BECOR, which began in 1988. He was one of its greatest promoters and fundraisers in the early years. Through his efforts, BECOR established itself as a leading promoter of the fledgling building science industry in the late 80's. He had a personality greater than life that was exemplified through his bellicose laugh.

Jacques also felt that our politeness as Canadians caused us to be hesitant to brag about ourselves, even though Canadians were – and still are – world leaders in Building Sciences. So, he felt that we should brag more about our accomplishments. As a result, one of his most lasting initiatives for BECOR was the format of the BRAG Session. The BRAG Session was meant primarily as a social session with short presentations (10-15 minutes) from members, and with minimal questions. Presentations were meant to brag and highlight something that presenters were most proud of that would benefit the building industry as a whole. The sessions were meant to be an unapologetic announcement of achievement. We wanted to hear success stories from our members. The primary stipulation was that there would be no negative questions or criticism from the audience.



Jacques was the Director of Building Research at CMHC through the 80's and 90's when the Building Science industry started to come into existence. He was responsible for the development of existing CMHC technical guidelines for residential buildings. He worked with other building research groups at NRCC, PWGSC, & NRCAN and architectural and engineering firms and contractors in the private sector, to establish best practice guides for the residential sector. He put CMHC on the map internationally for their technical guidance to cold weather design and construction. He was a founding member of both OBEC (1986) and BECOR in 1988. His unwavering commitment to research and technology transfer found a perfect fit to the mandate of BECOR. He put the full resources of his department to the establishment of BECOR. Within the first five years, BECOR generated considerable cash surplus to allow to comfortably carry out its mandate without financial pressures. He was always a figure larger than life itself as demonstrated by his infectious personality and incredibly loud laugh. It is fitting that one of his gifts to BECOR is the Brag Session format. It started as a self-promotion session generally set for the month of December that included an open bar and refreshments.