

Contributor Profiles: Richard K. Guy



Richard's connection to *Crux Mathematicorum* has been invisible to most readers. But for the nine-year period 1986–1995, while Bill Sands was Editor-in-Chief, they shared an editorial office at the University of Calgary and discussed a fair proportion of the problems published in *Crux Mathematicorum* during that period. From 1991 to 2003, Richard was also on the

Editorial Board of CRUX. This overlapped Richard's own 25-year period of service as Unsolved Problems Editor of the *American Mathematical Monthly*. Richard also founded the *Skoliad*, and continues an occasional collaboration with the Olympiad Corner Editor, colleague Robert Woodrow. Readers may have noticed a short article by Richard printed in the February 2007 issue [2007 : 37–39].

He has published 300 papers; he has edited *Reviews in Number Theory* (1973–1983) and *Proc. Symp. Appl. Math.* 43(1991) for the AMS; he has collaborated with John Conway and Elwyn Berlekamp in writing the four volumes of *Winning Ways*, with Hallard Croft and Ken Falconer in *Unsolved Problems in Geometry*, with John Conway in *The Book of Numbers*, and with Loren Larsen and Paul Vaderlind in *The Inquisitive Problem Solver*; and he wrote *Unsolved Problems in Number Theory* and *Fair Game* on his own.

When not doing mathematics, he still likes to wander or ski in the mountains, usually with his wife Louise. The picture shows him on the summit of The Towers on his 90th birthday in September 2006, with Mt. Assiniboine in the background.

According to Richard, he is the luckiest Guy in the world! There are many reasons for such a claim, the most important ones being

(i) he has been married to the best wife imaginable for 66 years; together they raised 3 children, and they currently have 5 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren;

(ii) he was paid for doing what he liked—doing mathematics and telling other people about it—for 43 years;

(iii) for the last 25 years, he has continued to be honoured and rewarded for doing the mathematics he likes to do; and

(iv) he has been privileged to know and work with some of the best mathematicians in the world: Elwyn Berlekamp, John Conway, Pál Erdős, the Lehmers, Eric Milner, Alexander Oppenheim, John Selfridge,