



The University of Vermont  
FACULTY SENATE

**Resolution in Memoriam  
William Metcalfe  
Professor Emeritus of History  
1935-2021**

**Presented by David Massell  
Professor  
Department of History  
January 24, 2022**

The UVM Departments of History and Music are grieved to report that a beloved colleague and friend, Dr. William (Bill) Metcalfe, Emeritus Professor of History, passed away on November 22, 2021. Born in Toronto, Ontario, Bill earned his B.A. in History from the University of Toronto. He completed his Ph.D. in history at the University of Minnesota in 1967.

By that point, Bill had joined the UVM History faculty, in 1963, with a specialization in English history and a homegrown passion for Canada. During his 35-year career at UVM, he served as Chair of both the History and Music departments, as well as Director of the Canadian Studies Program. Bill was instrumental in promoting the study of Canada in the United States as longtime editor of the *American Review of Canadian Studies* and a leader of the Association for Canadian Studies in the United States. In 1993, that Association awarded him the Donner Medal for “distinguished achievement, scholarship and program innovation in the area of Canadian Studies in the US.”

Bill’s leadership as public intellectual of Canada was matched by his remarkable impact as a conductor on the Vermont music scene. He co-founded the Vermont Mozart Festival, and founded the UVM Baroque Ensemble, Vermont Gilbert & Sullivan Players, and the Oriana Singers of Vermont. Together with his wife, harpsichordist and pianist Elizabeth, the Metcalfes touched the lives of thousands and shaped the cultural life of the state. In 2015, the Vermont Arts Council awarded Bill and Liz the Walter Cerf Medal for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts.

The multi-talented Bill also played a good game of tennis and softball, holding down first base for the “Histrelits”, made up of members of the History, Religion, and English departments in the UVM summer league. Bill’s colleagues and friends will sorely miss his generous mentorship, hearty laugh and wry wit.