

"LIGHT A CANDLE FOR ME."

rip•ple ef•fect

noun

1. the continuing and spreading impact of a treasured friend, peer or loved one

At our just completed 66th Annual IFEA Convention & Expo, our theme was 'Ripple Effect,' as we addressed the many broad challenges, issues and world events, whose ripple effects touch and impact us all every day. We also recognized our own power to turn the tides in our favor, that lies in our ability and commitment to work together with our global peers and the remarkable resources and talent that resides there to identify creative new solutions and possibilities.

But far more important, our goal was to leave all those attending with a clear understanding and appreciation on a far more microlevel, as we took time to reflect and remember the ripple effects that all of us and our respective events - individually and collectively - do and can have on others. Ripple effects that include:

- The joy that we create
- The stories that we help to tell
- The lives that we touch and motivate
- The support that we provide to our teams and professional peers
- The families, communities, and world that we bond together
- The leadership that we provide
- The creativity that we spark and share
- The dreams that we inspire
- The example that we set for others, as others have set for us

Ripple effects that we should never take for granted.

One of those missing from our convention was Thérèse St-Onge, CFEE, 2003 IFEA World Board Chair and 2006 IFEA Hall of Fame Inductee. Thérèse sadly passed away on September 27th, just two weeks before we all gathered

together for our annual reunion of friends and peers. Very few - if any - could compare with Thérèse's positive and passionate commitment to the IFEA; to our global industry; and to her friends and family, whom she valued and loved beyond words.

Thérèse fought a very long and hard, ten-year battle with thyroid cancer, doing her best to maintain the positiveness that was her hallmark. In the end, given a worsening prognosis and declining quality of life, she made the incredibly hard decision to choose a medically assisted death (possible in Canada) and passed peacefully with her beloved husband, Rollie, and her family by her side.

I had the very real honor to talk with Thérèse and Rollie the day before she left us, in a phone call to say 'good-bye.' It was perhaps the hardest call that I have ever been on, but a unique opportunity to reminisce; to laugh; to cry; and to underline a friendship that I know we will all treasure for being allowed to be a part of. Her call reminded me that the IFEA is far more than the professional association that we are incorporated to be. We truly are a global family. A family of friends, whose support goes far beyond just being professional peers. Thérèse asked me to please pass her love along to each of you - her IFEA family - whom she cherished, and to thank you all for being such an important part of her life.

There is a song from the musical 'Wicked' that says, "Who can say if I've been changed for the better. But because I knew you, I have been changed for good."

If you can have a goal, and leave a ripple effect, I hope that that is all of our legacies...to be that person for as many others, as possible.

One of Thérèse's last requests in our call was to 'light a candle for me,' which I did (literally) on the day of her passing, but I would ask all of you to please join me in keeping Thérèse's candle (her 'ripple effect') burning bright through all that you do - individually; through your events; through your communities; and around the world.

Thank you.

[Thérèse St-Onge 2006 Hall of Fame Video](#)



In Memory



THÉRÈSE ST-ONGE, CFEE

Canadian National Capital Commission

2003 IFEA World Board Chair

2006 IFEA Hall of Fame inductee