Peter George Sutterlin and his twin sister, Inga (Kolberg), were born to Walter (a mechanical engineer) and Helen Sutterlin in Hamburg, Germany, on 15 November 1929. A younger brother Walter also was born in Germany. In 1932, the family immigrated to Canada, settling in Galt (now Cambridge), Ontario.

Peter was raised and educated in Galt and later obtained his doctoral degree in 1958 at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, studying under L.L. Sloss. When he completed his dissertation, “A Stratigraphic Analysis of the Uppermost Devonian in Southern Alberta and Northwestern Montana,” he began a productive career in sedimentary petrology working for British American Oil Co. (later Gulf Oil) until 1967. He then pursued his interest in teaching and research at the University of Western Ontario from 1967 to 1978. He later worked at CANMET (Ottawa), and then taught at Wichita State University. In 1977, he was a visiting professor of geology at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York, where he offered an advanced seminar in computer simulation.

His interests were in research and teaching, and he accepted a permanent teaching position at the University of Western Ontario. Research in numerical geology led him to Wichita State University (WSU) to teach and work on numerical geology problems with Dan Merriam. He stayed at WSU for 16 years, served on several university committees, and also was the director of general education. In 1999, he retired with emeritus status and returned to Canada. Upon returning to Canada, Peter continued to share his leadership and administrative abilities with his community for six years as president of the Heritage Merrickville Foundation and as chairman of the Merrickville Community Health Centre.

Peter gave short courses in computing, often coteaching with others. Two of his courses were Geological Trend Analysis (see Sutterlin and Merriam, 1985) and Workshop on Current Problems and Further Developments in the Use of Microcomputers (see Merriam et al., 1988). Peter often published with his students.

Neil Burk, a friend and colleague of Peter’s, had this to say about his work and contributions:

Peter was a pioneer in the early days of computing technology, especially in the field of geological information. While at the University of Western Ontario, he developed an innovative system for the storage and retrieval of geological data known as SAFRAS.

Peter loved music throughout his life and was a bass singer with several vocal groups; he sang everything from barbershop to classical. He was an appreciative listener and an enthusiastic singer, performing everywhere from nursing homes to Carnegie Hall. In his retirement years,
he continued to be very active in choir and barbershop quartet singing. He truly loved to sing!

Peter belonged to and was active in the International Association for Mathematical Geology, the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, and the Kansas Geological Society, and he served on the editorial board of *Computers & Geosciences*.

He died quietly on 7 August 2014 at age 84 in the Hilltop Manor Nursing Home in Merrickville, Ontario. He left behind his wife Ann (Woodley) of 60 years, daughter Linda Sutterlin-Duguid and her spouse Terry, son Paul and his spouse Lorrie, and four grandchildren, his twin sister Inga and her family, and brother Walter and his family.

I want to thank Ann Sutterlin for providing information on her husband and Neal Burk for sharing information on some of Peter’s geological activities.

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