



## Peter Dorpalen

I spent most of my early years in Canton, New York, where my father taught at St Lawrence University. When he was hired by Ohio State University, we moved to Upper Arlington, and I

After high school, I attended Earlham College, majoring in physics with the intent of continuing into engineering. But after four years of social science and humanities courses, in addition to science and math, I was not sure about that career path. I ended up selecting urban planning as a career and attended the OSU city and regional planning masters program.

At Earlham I met my future wife Mary. Not only had I fallen in love with her, but I also fell in love with her home state of Connecticut and New England. After graduate school I was fortunate to be hired by a regional planning agency in Connecticut.

Mary and I shared a life-long love of the outdoors: hiking, bicycling, backpacking, skiing, and travel together. Our greatest adventure, however, was our twins, Nathan and Erica. Sadly, Nathan died in a hiking accident in Norway in 2010 while attending graduate school there. Our daughter is now an assistant editor for Yale University Press, and Mary and I became grandparents last year. Mary



died in January from cancer, after decades of being in remission. She had retired from a career as a teacher and director of special education for local and regional school systems.

My work in regional planning got me involved in a wide range of projects, from plans and studies to setting funding priorities for projects, to initiating and overseeing regional services. A major component was transportation planning, mostly highway and local bus, but the work varied from land use and economic planning to overseeing a regional minibus service for the disabled to coordinating a hazardous waste program.



I am retired after 41 years in regional planning, the last 21 as executive director of the council of governments for the Waterbury, Connecticut region. I enjoy spending more time outdoors and keep busy maintaining a section of the New England National Scenic Trail near my home, scouting out and constructing – with the help of many volunteers – a new hiking trail in northwestern Connecticut, babysitting

my grandson Nathan, taking hikes in the woods with friends and my dog, and tending a mostly organic backyard vegetable garden.