

In Memoriam David McRitchie



Dr. David McRitchie passed away on September 15, 2008 at Fernie Hospital in British Columbia.

Dave was born in Newcastle, England in 1941 and received his Ph.D. in geology from Kings College, University of Durham in 1965. He was part of a group of British-trained geologists who came to Canada in the mid-sixties to begin professional careers. As with everything that Dave undertook, he put all his energy and passion into his new job and life in Canada. He began his career as a project geologist, mapping in southeastern Manitoba on the revolutionary multicomponent co-operative program known as 'Project Pioneer'. Boundless energy, enthusiasm and a positive attitude made working with Dave both delightful and, sometimes, exhausting. Following completion of Project Pioneer, Dave was put in charge of the Burntwood Project and, along with his coworkers, mapped the Kisseynew Domain, beginning a life-long passion to map and understand the geology of northern Manitoba.

A born leader, Dave was promoted to Director of the Geological Services Branch in 1975. Dave was instrumental in building what is now the Manitoba Geological Survey into what many have described as one of the best provincial geological surveys in Canada. He encouraged his staff to initiate and take ownership of their projects. He also encouraged them to build on growing knowledge

by mapping in areas of interest to them, and he fought for adequate time for staff to complete projects before moving them to new areas.

Although Dave never lost sight of his responsibility to protect and nourish the provincial survey, he recognized early that co-operation with and inclusion of federal geological staff on projects in Manitoba was necessary, both to "get the job done" and to broaden and enrich the experience of his own staff. Dave's collaborative approach with his federal counterparts was welcomed. Over the years, federal geologists and administrators sought his input on federal-provincial matters. The successful implementation of the Intergovernmental Geoscience Accord, which has defined the way in which federal and provincial jurisdictions inter-relate, is part of Dave's legacy.

Although geology was an important part of Dave's life, his boundless energy had many other outlets. His home was under constant construction, with the house and garden continually growing; when this work was not enough to keep him busy, he built and maintained walking paths and cross-country ski trails on his property. Dave was an avid spelunker, hiker and naturalist. He was the main organizer of many caving ventures with the Speleological Society of Manitoba; his efforts were encapsulated in the publication *Caves and Karst in Manitoba's Interlake Region*, a proud collaborative achievement for him. He loved the mountains and, after his retirement in 1997, he moved to Fernie, British Columbia. Not content to be a passive participant in hiking and cross-country skiing, he was involved in building new organizations, including the Fernie and District Search and Rescue, where he participated in numerous rescues, ran training sessions and undertook fundraising.

Dave will be missed by his colleagues at the Manitoba Geological Survey. He created a geological survey where an energetic and passionate approach to mapping and understanding the geology of Manitoba still lives on. We are all saddened by his untimely death, as we have lost a courageous, energetic and passionate member of our geological community. Dave is survived by his wife Laura, his sons Ryder (Connie) of Calgary and Devin (Jaime) of Winnipeg, daughter Lara (Chris) of Calgary, stepdaughter Jocelyn Brown (Lorne) of Vancouver, stepson Reuben Mills of Victoria and his grandchildren Kyra and Isabel McRitchie and Oliver and Nate Brown. He is predeceased by his first wife Brenda.

In Memoriam Werner Weber

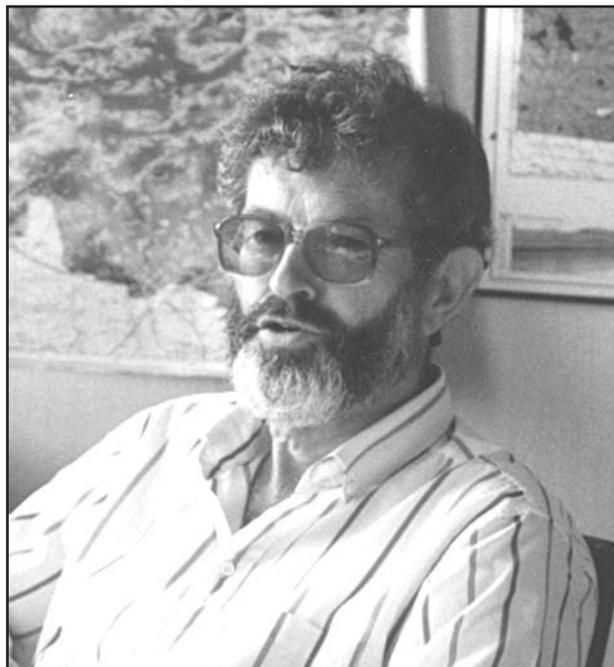
Dr. Werner Weber was born January 25, 1934, in Reiden, Switzerland, and passed away April 23, 2008.

Werner devoted 30 years of his professional life to the Manitoba Geological Survey. When he and his wife Brigitte arrived in Winnipeg from Switzerland in the spring of 1966, large portions of the province were geologically unmapped and poorly understood. Werner brought to the job a fresh attitude, a strong academic background, a desire to make an impact and an easy-going manner that made working with him an enjoyable and enlightening experience. During his career with the Manitoba Geological Survey, Werner was instrumental in mapping large areas, supervising major projects and undertaking compilations of the geology of the province. When Werner retired in 1995 he left behind a remarkable geological legacy that included a much-improved understanding of the fundamental geological make-up of the province.

Werner first made his mark during a revolutionary multicomponent co-operative program, entitled 'Project Pioneer', focused in southeastern Manitoba. Over the next five years on Project Pioneer, Werner demonstrated excellent research skills and a pragmatic approach that helped bring this project to fruition. Besides his input into mapping, he was also one of the editors and principal authors for the final report on the project. This project and the ensuing report are widely viewed as being breakthroughs in the approach to mapping Precambrian terranes. In fact, this project was so well received that it became a template for the way in which multidisciplinary geological investigations in Canada's Precambrian Shield should be undertaken.

Following the success of Project Pioneer, Werner was appointed as a project co-ordinator, a role that in subsequent years led him to spearhead co-operative surveys in the far northwestern corner of the province (Kasmere Project) and in the Superior Province (Greenstone Project). During the latter part of his career Werner became increasingly interested in unraveling the complexities of highly metamorphosed terrains and the geology of greenstone belts flanking the Thompson Nickel Belt in the adjacent Superior Province. Werner was a founding member of the Friends of the Nickel Belt, which conducted very popular field trips through the Thompson region for both industry and government geologists. In 1985 he was responsible for compiling the geology of the Superior Province for the new *Geological Map of Manitoba*. This major undertaking, which allowed Werner to capture many of the ideas he had been developing for more than 20 years, was a major milestone in the geological understanding of the province.

Later in his career, in his capacity as Senior Precambrian Geologist, Werner continued to generate technical reports and maps while helping his staff plan their work



in Manitoba's Precambrian Shield. He was instrumental in initiating new co-operative projects, many of which included research contributions from universities in Manitoba, elsewhere in Canada and the United States. Many of the projects also involved close co-operation with staff of mining exploration companies and colleagues at the Geological Survey of Canada, an organization within which he had many friends. This team approach to major mapping projects has been instrumental in Manitoba becoming one of the best studied and understood geological jurisdictions in Canada. Werner served terms as councilor for the Geological Association of Canada and gave innumerable talks at GAC and other geological conferences. He was the main driving force behind the Survey's involvement with LITHOPROBE.

Werner will be remembered by his colleagues and friends as a warm, sincere, patient and supportive individual, a person to whom others could turn for good advice. His professional integrity and honesty were unquestionable, and he will long be remembered by his geological colleagues as one who never missed the mark in his field observations, and could be depended upon to see the humorous side of many difficult situations. He will certainly be missed by his many close friends and colleagues in the geological community. Werner is survived by his wife Brigitte, his children, Christian and Lauren (Rachel, Eric and Clara) Weber of Ottawa, Andrea and Clancy (Turner, Christopher and Julia) Weber Ethans of Winnipeg, and Patrick and Kinna (Kali, Theron and Zoe) Weber Demers of Québec.