

In Memoriam: Paul Gilbert

Paul Gilbert passed away in Winnipeg on December 16, 2017.

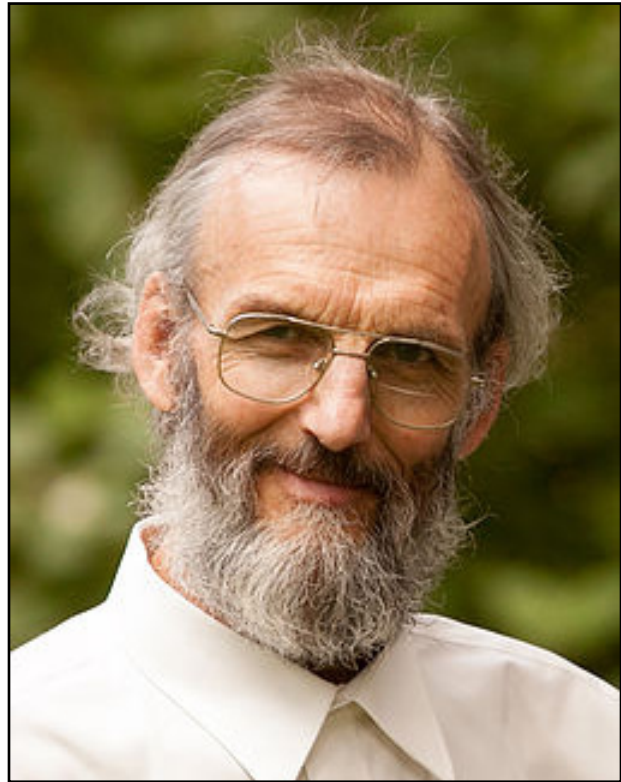
Paul was born in Piltdown, England on May 21, 1948 and completed a BSc in Geology at Bristol University, England in 1970. He and his wife Jeannie came to Canada in 1970 and made their home in Winnipeg.

Paul completed 43+ years of service as a geologist with the Manitoba Geological Survey (MGS), enjoyed rugged summer field seasons in Manitoba throughout his career, and authored or co-authored at least 163 publications. Major projects and milestones include:

- 1971–73: Paul's first mapping project on the Greenstone Project: Knee, Oxford and Gods lakes
- 1974–75: Karsakuwigamak Lake (NTS 64B5)
- 1976–82: Lynn Lake Project with E. Syme and H. Zwanzig plus mapping of eastern extension at Melvin, Barrington and Fraser lakes
- 1983–85: Island Lake project; also released final maps for the Greenstone Project which Paul compiled from the work of all the geologists who had contributed towards the project but had left the Survey
- 1986–91: Flin Flon North Flank Project: Tartan, Embury and Aimée lakes
- 1992–95: Wekusko Lake; 1993 final report for Melvin, Barrington and Fraser lakes
- 1996–99: Flin Flon North Flank Project: Lac Aimée, Naosap lakes
- 1999–2000: Max Lake—Aswapiswanan lakes area (Oxford House—Cross Lake area)
- 2001–04: Flin Flon North Flank Project: Wabishkok, Alberts and Blueberry lakes
- 2005: Wekusko Lake
- 2005–12: Bird River belt mapping
- 2012: Final report for Flin Flon North Flank Project
- 2013–2014: Bird River belt compilation

As for stories, there are many that relate to Paul's oneness of working and living in the bush, his great endurance, patience, maybe stubbornness, and always his kind helpfulness and boundless generosity. To pick one, as told by Ric Syme (MGS Director, 2000–2012):

Dave McRitchie (MGS Director, 1975-1997) was visiting Paul in the field one summer when Paul was recuperating from one of his inevitable knee problems. Paul always went so hard in the field that sooner or later he had a fall that caused him some pain for a week or two. Of course, Paul being Paul, he would not take it easy or seek medical care. Each time he was injured he simply got himself a suitable staff to lean on and continued work. On the occasion of Dave McRitchie's visit, Paul was walking with the aid of a staff and out they went, on a trip through Paul's field area. Dave McRitchie's way of operating was reminiscent of Paul's: go hard, find an outcrop, hammer the rocks



into small piles. So he did, leaving the limping, staff-wielding Paul behind. As Dave told the story, he was busy sampling an outcrop at the bottom of a hill when he heard something, and looked up. There, backlit by the sun, was a vision truly from the Old Testament ... the dark form of a heavily bearded biblical prophet, unbrushed hair blowing in the wind, clothing in tatters, leaning on a tall staff, surrounded by a brilliant halo of sunbeams. Very nearly a religious experience for Dave, certainly one he repeated to us often.

Paul was physically very fit and active, cycled wherever possible and enjoyed hiking and mountaineering trips in the Rockies. Paul was passionate about photography and choral singing. He believed strongly in animal welfare, and dogs especially held an important place in his life.

Paul was dedicated to his family and to helping others however he could.

In July 2014 he survived a severe cycling accident, and was quadriplegic and ventilator-dependent for the remainder of his life. Paul will be missed by friends and colleagues. We remain saddened by the loss of a most kind, generous and energetic member of the geological community. Paul will be remembered as the epitome of a gentleman. His gracious manner, gentle spirit, patient nature, and honest philosophy reflected in all he did. Paul is survived by his wife Jeannie, son Jonathan (Elliana) and grandchildren, and daughter Laura of Winnipeg, his sister Jancis (John Ham) of Lewes, England, and his brother Anthony, of Dalby, Australia.