

Dr. A.R. Byers SGS Geoscience Honour Roll Inductee

Dr. A. R. Byers was born in St. Agathe, Quebec, in 1911. He graduated from McGill University in 1936 with a Ph.D that followed receipt of an Honours B.Sc. at the same university. Dr. Byers arrived in Saskatchewan from eastern Canada in 1940 to take up a teaching position in the Department of Geology at the University of Saskatchewan. He became the third fulltime member of that department. His interests and background were Structural Geology, Precambrian Stratigraphy and mineral deposits. He arrived about a year after World War II began, at a time when faculty members at the University of Saskatchewan were required to take an active role in the university's military training programs, COTC and UNTD. All three geology faculty members were given commissions in one or the other of these training units, putting an additional burden on them with the result that their research suffered during the war years. However, both J.B. Mawdsley and Rod Byers were able to keep geologically sharp by carrying out summer geological mapping programs in northern Saskatchewan. Near the end of the war years, Dr. Byers embarked on long term mapping projects in the Amisk-Wildnest Lakes area that resulted in several publications on the structure, Precambrian stratigraphy and geology of mineral deposits of this region that includes the Saskatchewan portion of the Flin Flon mining area. In addition to his publications and research, Dr Byers like another inductee into the Honour Roll, had great zeal for his chosen field, and in his unassuming way passed that on to the many students who came under his tutelage. Many of them have not only made contributions to geoscience in Saskatchewan but also in other parts of Canada as well as in the global geological community. Dr. Byers retired from teaching in 1972 and moved back to eastern Canada where he took up residence for the next 19 years in the family home at Gananoque, Ontario. He died in 1991.

Rod Byers' fieldwork and research in the Flin Flon area laid the ground work for extension of the Flin Flon ore bodies into Saskatchewan and the discovery of other ore deposits in the area. He is most deserving of induction onto the Geoscience Honour Roll of the Saskatchewan Geological Society.