

Citation for Earl A. Christiansen

Earl Christiansen is a “self-professed prairie boy”. He was born and raised in Saskatchewan and has confided to friends that he has a very fond memory of milk cans. The money he received from hauling them to Shellbrook helped to finance his education. After completing his secondary school education, he enrolled in the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan where he was awarded the Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture. However in his final year of that program, he took an introductory course in Geology and realized that it was the field in which he wanted to work. He began a Master’s program in Geology at the U of S that required him to catch up on undergraduate geology classes. His Master’s thesis on the glacial geology of the Moose Mountain area became the template for five additional glacial geology reports of investigation covering the Swift Current, Qu’Appelle, Regina, Wynyard and Kindersley areas. After completing his Master’s, Earl moved to the University of Illinois where he obtained a Ph.D., the subject of his Ph.D. thesis being the glacial geology of the Swift Current area. Upon his graduation from the University of Illinois in 1959, his former professor at the U of S, J.B. Mawdsley, forcefully, invited Earl back to Saskatchewan by telling him in a letter that if he didn’t return and take up a position with the Saskatchewan Research Council, he would shoot him. He obliged and entered into employment with the Research Council as head of the Quaternary and Groundwater Geology Division. For the next 18 years he directed an extensive shallow drilling and surficial geology mapping program that resulted in four additional reports of investigation and nine bedrock geology maps covering various regions of Saskatchewan. In addition, the program spawned nine scholarly papers published in the Journal of Geology and the Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences.

Earl left the Research Council in 1977 to establish E.A. Christiansen Consulting Ltd. His company was involved in more than 150 projects in the sub-disciplines of groundwater, waste disposal, urban geology, engineering geology, environmental geology and drift prospecting. During his consulting years he developed a close working relationship with Dr. Karl Sauer, a geotechnical engineer at the University of Saskatchewan, which led to the collaborative publication of several scholarly papers in the Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences and Canadian Geotechnical Journal. In total, Earl has authored or co-authored 65 papers, guidebooks, circulars, reports of investigation and maps on Quaternary Geology and Groundwater Geology in Saskatchewan. He has been a three-time recipient of the Thomas Roy Award in recognition of contributions to engineering geology in Canada. In addition, in 1992, he received *the Canadian Geotechnical Society Prize for an outstanding contribution to the geotechnical profession through a publication in the Canadian Geotechnical Journal*. He was also awarded the *Engineering Achievement Award in recognition of technical excellence and achievement in engineering* in 1993.

Earl Christiansen pioneered Quaternary Geology and Groundwater Geology in Saskatchewan he is most deserving of induction into the Saskatchewan Geological Society’s Geoscience Honour Roll.