

Dr. John F. Lewry 1939-1999

John Lewry was born in Middlesex, England, January 20, 1939. He attended Ealing Grammar School where he first developed his love of geology. John completed his bachelor's and Ph.D. in geology at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth and went on to teach Geology at Hendon College of Technology. In 1968, John emigrated from Great Britain with his wife, Marilyn, to take up the second appointed faculty position in the fledgling Department of Geology at the then University of Saskatchewan, Regina Campus. From the outset, John was heavily involved in field mapping, ultimately covering over 24,000 km² of the Precambrian Shield in northern Saskatchewan (more than any past or current full-time Saskatchewan Geological Survey geologist), while under contract to Saskatchewan Geological Survey. His broad research objectives required a multi-disciplinary approach and to this end he established numerous collaborative projects, not only with friends and co-workers within the Saskatchewan Geological Survey, but also with numerous geoscientists from all over North America, many of whom sought out John's recognized expertise. These collaborative efforts resulted in much of what we know today about the Precambrian geology of Saskatchewan, and established John as the foremost expert in this field. His ability to synthesize the observations he had made over the years, from the microscopic to the regional scale, together with analytical data acquired in his collaborative efforts, was nothing short of brilliant.

His records show that his findings and those of his co-workers were reported in more than 155 publications and oral presentations. As a result, he was supported by almost one million dollars in grants or contracts, received continuous NSERC funding since 1969, and was awarded the University of Regina Alumni Award for Excellence in Research in 1996. There were many other accomplishments and accolades of which John was equally proud, including his ten-year stint as co-leader of the LITHOPROBE Trans-Hudson Orogen Transect, and his membership on the NSERC Solid Earth Sciences Grant Selection Committee from 1995 to 1997.

John's teaching career was equally prestigious. He took immense pride in both the quality of graduates and in the program, teaching 14 different undergraduate and graduate classes during his 30 year career. John expected the same strong work ethic and high standards of his students as he did of himself, which was not always to every student's liking, but a sincere effort and a genuine interest was always rewarded. Many former students were influenced by his dedication, inspiration, intelligence, and infectious passion for geology in making their own career choices.

As impressive as those accomplishments are, John was also known for his wry sense of humour and his ability to enjoy 'the moment'. Of the countless tales and legends that surround John, many of the most memorable had to do with the great bush parties he threw in the DREE days, when virtually every float plane in northern Saskatchewan would descend into John's camp for a mid-season party. John saw conferences as workshops in which to discuss science and exchange information, rather than forums in which to further one's career. Consequently, many of his talks were presented informally, wearing work pants and

an old T-shirt. In spite of this intentional break with convention, the logic and eloquence of his presentation was always sufficient to properly focus the audience's attention on his most recent insight.



Marilyn Lewry accepting the Honour Roll plaque on behalf of her late husband, Dr. John Lewry