

HONOUR ROLL CITATION FOR LASZLO MIKLOS FUZESY

EARLY YEARS

Laszlo was born 4th November 1928 in the cathedral city of Szeged, southern Hungary close to the border with what was then the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia) and Romania. He had an older sister who was a teacher and whose husband was a cello player in the Budapest Symphony Orchestra in Hungary. It was in Szeged that Laszlo was raised and received his early education.

Laszlo was born into a very different Hungary from that of today. As a separate country following the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in November 1918 and after two turbulent years that followed, Hungary emerged as a kingdom – but without a king. Instead, the country was ruled by a regent, Miklos Horthy, a former admiral in the Austro-Hungarian Navy.

THE WAR YEARS 1939-1945

Hungary joined the Axis in 1940: between 1938 and 1941 Hungary annexed territory from three of its neighbours, nearly doubling its size. It was to defend this Greater Hungary that Laszlo was conscripted into the army.

IRON CURTAIN

As the tide of war turned, first the Germans, then the Soviets invaded Hungary. In 1946, Hungary became a People's Republic under a strict and authoritarian communist regime, behind an impenetrable barrier that Winston Churchill dubbed 'The Iron Curtain'.

During the communist era, Laszlo attended Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), the oldest and largest public research university in Hungary, based in Budapest and founded in 1635. He graduated from there in 1953 with a degree in mining geology.

TORN CURTAIN – THE 1956 HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

By 1956, the oppressed population of Hungary were tired of a Stalinist government dominated by the Soviet Army. On 23rd October several student protesting against the government outside the Magyar Rádió building were gunned down by security forces. In the next few weeks riots broke out in major cities, local militias were established and a new government led by Imre Nagy was promising free elections. By the end of October there was a temporary lull, but on 4th November the Soviet Army began their ruthless suppression of the revolution. By mid-November, over 2,500 Hungarians and 700 of the Soviet Army had been killed and 200,000 people had fled the country, the majority into neighbouring Austria. Amongst those who escaped was Laszlo Fuzesy.

THE GREAT ESCAPE – TO AUSTRIA AND ON TO CANADA

Laszlo had been identified as a participant in demonstrations at a mine outside Budapest and was in danger of imprisonment or execution. On New Year's Eve, Laszlo with a friend Emery Caplan

and a number of others, stole a car and headed at full speed to the Austrian border, crossing under rocket fire, but escaping unscathed.

After spending some time in an Austrian Refugee Camp, Laszlo emigrated to Canada via Great Britain on board the M.V. Britannic. He arrived in Regina in February 1957. The Leader Post article features a story about the arrival of Hungarians by train in Regina on February 21, 1957. Laszlo's last name in the article is quoted as Gyori, possibly because he was hiding his identity. Gyori is a town near the Austrian border through which he may have travelled on the way out of Hungary so it is possible this name came to mind or maybe the reporter misunderstood it as Laszlo's last name.

UNDERGROUND SURVEY – RESEARCHING SUBSURFACE GEOLOGY

Laszlo went to work as soon as he arrived in Regina, joining the Saskatchewan Department of Mineral Resources in late February. He took English classes in the evenings. The only word he knew when he arrived in Regina was 'hotcakes' since the pronunciation "hot" in Hungarian means *six* and "cake" means *blue*. So whenever he went to a restaurant he ordered hotcakes since he was able to pronounce this word. It didn't take him long to be totally turned off hotcakes!

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

He met Anne at the Department of Mineral Resources then located in the Walter Scott Building on Albert Street, south of the Legislative Building. Anne worked in the sub-basement that is now used for storage and Laszlo worked on the second floor. They were married on 2nd May 1959. They had two children, a daughter Mary born in 1960 and a son Tom born in 1962.

CAMBRIDGE INTERLUDE

After producing two major reports for the department, Laszlo received a government scholarship and moved with his fledgling family (Mary then aged 7 and Tom aged 5) to Cambridge in 1967 to pursue his Ph.D. He was a member of Churchill College, studying at the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences. His Ph.D., thesis was entitled *Petrology of the Lower Magnesian Limestone in the Neighbourhood of Selby, Yorkshire*. During this time Anne worked nearby at the Scott Polar Research Institute next to where Mary and Tom attended elementary school.

RETURN TO THE SURVEY

After returning from England, Laszlo worked at the Subsurface Geological Laboratory on Dewdney Avenue East, where the core and chip samples from the exploratory drilling for oil is stored and researched. Anne worked at the Survey Headquarters in the TD Bank on Hamilton Street, correlating and compiling the Assessment Work Catalogues that list the hard-rock exploration reports submitted by industry. In all she published ten Assessment Catalogues covering the four Mining Districts of Saskatchewan: Reindeer, La Ronge, Athabasca and Southern, as well as the key report *Potash in Saskatchewan* (No.181, 1982). Towards the end of his career, Laszlo's office was at the TD Bank Building.

LASZLO'S REPORTS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

During his time with the Geological Survey, Laszlo published four major reports and seven Summary of Investigation papers on the sub-surface geology of Saskatchewan. Department of Mineral Resources Report No.51 (1960): *Correlation and subcrops of the Mississippian strata in southeastern and south-central Saskatchewan* was groundbreaking and stood as a major reference on the Mississippian oilfields of southeastern Saskatchewan for the decades of the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Likewise, his DMR Report No.210 (1980): *Geology of the Deadwood (Cambrian), Meadow Lake and Winnipegosis (Devonian) Formations in west-central Saskatchewan* remains the only study of the Paleozoic formations of the Meadow Lake region of west-central Saskatchewan. Although it is difficult to quantify the impact of the Survey's reports, it is likely that Laszlo's work and that of all the others who research and publish reports on the oil bearing and potential oil-bearing strata has done much to stimulate oil exploration and production in the Province.

Two of Laszlo's Summary of Investigations papers dealt with the geology and mineral potential of a broad area between La Loche, Pinehouse and La Ronge in northern Saskatchewan, where sedimentary rocks thin out from the basin towards the exposed Precambrian Shield. Information and ideas from these reports were incorporated into Saskatchewan Energy and Mines Report 234 *Metallogenic Map Series: Île-à-La-Crosse, NTS Area 730*. Laszlo's last three Summary papers were concerned with the geology and petrology of the potash-bearing Middle Devonian Prairie Evaporite.

HIGH SOCIETY

Laszlo was President of the Saskatchewan Geological Society in 1971 and became Past President for just the one year following. He also became a member of the Association of Professional Engineers of Saskatchewan in the days before geology was governed by the Professions Act.

RECREATION, HOBBIES & PAST-TIMES

Laszlo loved to be active – he played golf, was a member of the Wascana Winter Club where he played badminton and curled, participated in many oilmen's curling bonspiels; played tennis at the Lakeshore Club in Wascana, and also played squash.

Laszlo was a people person and enjoyed meeting and talking with people. He also enjoyed music, especially classical and Hungarian, and was an avid photographer.

TRAVEL

Laszlo enjoyed travelling - he was quite homesick for Hungary so over the years the family took many trips there to visit his family and friends. He also often visited Hungary on his own.

FOR THOUGH THE DAY BE NEVER SO LONG, AT LAST THE BELLS RINGETH TO EVENSONG...

Laszlo and Anne both retired from the Geological Survey in May 1987. Regrettably, before he could enjoy much of his retirement, Laszlo died in November that year.

A TOAST TO LASZLO AND HIS WORK