

**INDUCTION INTO THE SASKATCHEWAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME – 2019**

In 2019, Dean was inducted into the Saskatchewan Oil Patch Hall of Fame, The ceremony was attended by Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe, Saskatchewan Energy and Resources Minister Bronwyn Eyre, Alberta Premier Jason Kenney, as well as his family and several colleagues.

**THE 2020 CANADIAN SOCIETY OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS – STANLEY SLIPPER GOLD MEDAL**

This is awarded annually to a CSPG member for one or more of the following achievements: initiating and leading exploration or development; making significant discoveries applying new technologies to exploration & production; teaching and training petroleum geologists and was given to Dean by the CSPG in 2020.

**PAPERS, ABSTRACTS, WORKSHOPS & COURSES**

Over his forty-year career in geology Dean has published numerous technical papers relating to the Williston Basin, its geology, paleogeography and related petroleum potential. These have mainly been papers in the Williston Basin Symposium volumes published annually after the Williston Basin conferences held alternately in Bismarck, North Dakota and Regina, in abstracts published in conjunction with core workshops hosted by the Saskatchewan Geological Society and also in the abstracts of papers presented at the CSPG conferences in Calgary.

**LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS...**

Apart from enjoying time with his wife Judith and family Kate, Drew and Jamie, Dean has developed many personal interests and hobbies including fishing, skiing, camping & canoeing, game bird hunting, collecting and restoring vintage cars, specifically Model 'A' Fords, piloting light aircraft, gardening, and wood construction projects.

One of his most memorable and enjoyable community roles was serving the Boy Scouts of Canada as Akela of the Strathcona 214 Boy Scout pack in Calgary from 1993 to 2003.

**IN CLOSING...**

Dean's contributions to the development of Saskatchewan's oil resources have been significant, his numerous technical papers and conference presentations have had a considerable impact on our understanding of the geology of the Williston Basin.

*Abridged from the citation by Mandy M. Williams, P.Geol., with additions by David MacDougall, P.Geol., from the CSPG Stanley Slipper Award citation.*



**Dean Potter, M.Sc., P.Geol**

**President & CEO of Burgess Creek  
Exploration Inc.**

# **Dean E.G. Potter**

## **President & CEO of Burgess Creek Exploration Inc.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Dean Potter, President & CEO of Burgess Creek Exploration Inc., Calgary has had a 40-year long notable career in Oil and Gas Exploration in Western Canada, finding several oil pools in southeast Saskatchewan, contributing numerous publications to further our understanding of the geology of the Williston Basin, founding three successful, private, junior oil and gas exploration companies and receiving several distinguished awards from his peers along the way.

### **THE EARLY YEARS**

Dean was born in Regina in 1953 and grew up on the family farm 8 km west of Regina, a property he still owns and farms today, growing and marketing peas, beans, lentils and wheat. His early schooling was at Sherwood No.460, a one-room rural school southwest of Regina, and then at Grand Coulee Elementary. From there he attended Campbell Collegiate High School.

### **UNIVERSITY**

Higher education was at the University of Regina, where he obtained a B.Sc. Honours degree and , an M.Sc in Geology. Field mapping in the Precambrian Shield of northern Saskatchewan, identifying base metal prospects in Precambrian metasediments was the foundation for his master's thesis *Zinc-lead mineralization in the Wollaston Group stratigraphy, Sito-Fable Lakes area, Saskatchewan.*

### **MARRIAGE & FAMILY**

Dean married Judith Casson, also a geologist, in 1976. They have raised a daughter and two sons: Kate now a pediatrician, Drew a petroleum engineer and Jamie, a geologist.

### **A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP...**

#### **...A FORTY-YEAR CAREER IN GEOLOGY**

##### **SASKOIL 1980 - 1985**

In 1980, Dean moved into the petroleum industry and worked as an exploration geologist for SaskOil, mapping prospects across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. With SaskOil he was responsible for the generation of viable exploration prospects in a wide variety of stratigraphic horizons under the supervision of experienced geologists and geophysicists.

##### **PRECAMBRIAN SHIELD RESOURCES (WHICH BECAME MARK RESOURCES INC.) 1985 - 1992**

In 1985, he moved to Precambrian Shield Resources (which later became Mark Resources Inc.) a petroleum exploration company based in Calgary and established a regional office in Regina which focused on exploration in the Williston Basin of southeastern Saskatchewan.

In 1991, Dean received the *Saskatchewan Oilman of the Year Award* from Premier Grant Devine at the Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Show, in Weyburn Saskatchewan, in recognition of his company's 1989 Minton pool discovery (Ordovician, Red River Formation) in southeast Saskatchewan.

##### **UPTON RESOURCES 1992 - 1998**

In 1992, Dean left Mark Resources to launch the exploration department for Upton Resources, a small southeast Saskatchewan-focused oil company, initially as Vice President and subsequently as Senior Vice President of Exploration. Between 1992 and 1997, Dean directed Upton's growth from 850 to over 5,000 barrels of oil production per day. Dean's work with his team at Upton, led to a discovery in the Gainsborough pool in 1994.

##### **SITO GEOCONSULTING LTD. 1998 - 2005**

In 1998, Dean left Upton to establish his own geological consulting company, Sito Geoconsulting Ltd., working Williston Basin projects on both the U.S. and Canadian sides of the border. U.S. plays in the Rocky Mountain basins, as well as consulting projects in Alberta, B.C. and the United Arab Emirates.

##### **FOUNDING THREE PRIVATE JUNIOR OIL EXPLORATION COMPANIES**

Since 2005, Dean has founded and been president of three successful oil exploration & production companies...

##### **MEDORA RESOURCES INC. 2005 – 2009**

In 2005, Dean founded Medora Resources Inc., a private exploration and production company that developed assets in southeast Saskatchewan, including the Goodwater, Colgate, Crystal Hills, Parkman, Edenvale, Kisbey, Star Valley and Fairlight areas. Under Dean's direction, Medora built up to 1,600 barrels of oil equivalent per day of production.

##### **ELKHORN RESOURCES INC. 2009 - 2015**

In 2009, Dean founded Elkhorn Resources Inc.. with production was focused on the Midale beds discoveries in the Northgate area, and additional production in the Openshaw, Portal, Pinto and Florence areas of southeast Saskatchewan. It was at Elkhorn where Dean incorporated advances in drilling and completion practices to unlock previously unrealized potential in the Midale trend. Finding carbonate reservoirs away from the subcrop edge and then fracturing them was a new idea, and Elkhorn's production quickly grew to over 3,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day before the company was sold to Vermilion Energy Inc. in 2014.

##### **BURGESS CREEK EXPLORATION INC. 2015 - PRESENT**

In 2015, Dean founded a third private company focused in southeast Saskatchewan, Burgess Creek Exploration Inc.. Burgess Creek discovered and developed an extension of the Macoun pool, and has production from the Tilston, Alida, Frobisher and Midale formations across southeast Saskatchewan totaling more than 1,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day.