**BILL SLIMMON – GEOLOGIST, COMPILER & CARTOGRAPHER SASKATCHEWAN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY HONOUR ROLL CITATION**

Our Honour Roll candidate for 2017 is Bill Slimmon, who worked for the Saskatchewan Geological Survey in one capacity or another from 1978 until his retirement in 2017. This year that organization celebrates its 70th Anniversary, so that Bill was associated with the Survey for over half of its existence.

*IN THE BEGINNING…*

Bill was born in Estevan on 1st January 1957 and was raised with his two sisters on the family farm near Stoughton, southern Saskatchewan. He attended Stoughton Central Elementary and High School from which he graduated in 1975. In the fall of that year he headed to the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in geology. In 1979 he completed his final undergraduate year at University of Regina, graduating in the fall.

*ROLL OUT THOSE LAZY, HAZY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER – STUDENT DAYS IN THE BUSH*

In 1978 he was hired by the Survey as a summer student. His first field season was working with Horst Stolz, Garth Drever and others on the Lake Athabasca Submarine Radiometric Survey around Stewart Island and Spring Point. The following year he worked with Project Geologist Charlie Harper on the Athabasca Uranium Project, in the Maurice Bay area. After graduation he obtained a position in 1980 with the Survey as a full-time temporary (contract) geologist with the duty of compiling bedrock geology maps from existing Survey maps at various scales for publication as a 1:250,000 series. Then in 1981 he was back in the field as Senior Assistant with Blaine Scott in the Phelps Lake area in the far northeast corner of the province and again in 1983 and 1984 as Senior Assistant to Charlie Harper, first in the Nevins-Forsyth Lakes area and latterly on the La Ronge Gold Belt Project, in the Waddy Lake area.

*MAKING ENDS MEET (COMPILATION)*

Compilation work continued in the off-time between field seasons, the first map to be published being the Broughton-Macdonald 1:1,000,000 two-sheet, hand-coloured compilation in 1981. Between 1984 and 2005 there followed eleven major compilation maps, mostly at 1:250,000 scale each with corresponding compilation bibliographies. In 1990 he started work on the 1:1,000,000 Geological Map of Saskatchewan, to replace the 1981 edition. Before publication in 1999, it had already become the digital foundation for the Geological Atlas. In related work Bill was also author, co-author or joint-author of seven geochronology reports and data files, seven conference program and proceedings volume abstracts and twenty-four scientific papers.

*SURFING THE WAVE OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE*

Bill’s long career with the Survey saw many technological advances. The first personal computers had been introduced to the Survey in 1982. Fieldlog, the first digital notebook program, was introduced in 1991 and around the same time the computer mapping program AutoCad began to be used for plotting maps, and CorelDraw for producing posters. Up until then maps had been largely hand-drawn on mylar using pen and ink, Letraset and Letratone transfers, protractors and stencils. Early published compilations were hand-coloured, photographed and colour-separated by the drafting department and the printers.

*PARTY CHIEF & MULTI-TASKER*

In the summer of 1986 Bill became a full-fledged Project Geologist with his own field crew, mapping the Hebden Lake area as part of the La Ronge Gold Belt Project. Other projects followed: Pine Channel area north of the Fond-du-Lac River (1987), Gee Lake (1988), Sadler Lake (1989), Table Lake (1991), Hanson Lake – Sturgeon-weir River area (1992), Comeback Bay on Amisk Lake (1993), and Konuto Lake (1994). From this field work he produced nine reports and twelve accompanying maps for the Annual Summary of Investigations.

*THE BIRTH OF AN ATLAS*

In 1994 Bill gained his M.Sc. for the thesis: *Geology of the Gee-Sadler lakes area and its relation to the tectonics of the Glennie Domain, Saskatchewan, Canada.* In 1995 work started on the Geological Atlas of Saskatchewan, the first CD edition of which, completed in 1997, was released at the 1998 Open House. Augmented editions were released annually and Bill gave a series of talks at the Open Houses to illustrate its development, use and potential. In 2000 the Atlas was made available on-line. Further additions to it involved a team that included Brad Champagne (Mines Branch) and Tom Schmidt (Oil & Gas Division), whose staff provided the layers of data to show such things as mineral dispositions, and oil and gas wells. At the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists Awards Banquet in Regina in May 2017 the Atlas Team was awarded the APEGS Exceptional Engineering/Geoscience Project Award.

*RECOGNITION & RESPONSIBILITY*

In November 1996 the Leader-Post published a half-page article under the banner headline *GIS DAY – Discovering the World through GIS.* Finally some recognition! In 2010 Bill became Assistant Chief Geologist of the Data Management Unit with staff responsible for Mineral Disposition assessment submissions, Assessment Files, geophysical surveys and interpretation, the Precambrian Laboratory and its core collection in La Ronge and four GIS staff in charge of map production. He retired from the Survey May 31st 2107.

Having made a preliminary visit to Vienna on the Survey’s behalf in June 2016, Bill was given a three-month contract in the fall of 2017 with the International Atomic Energy Authority working on a digital Atlas of global uranium deposits.

*HOME, HOME ON THE RANGE…*

A year before his final field season, Bill married Arlene Bisson on September 18th 1993. Together they have raised a daughter and son, both of whom are now at the University of Regina, each studying for a degree in engineering. Despite his many seasons on the bush, Bill is still fond of camping, though in accommodations more luxurious than in the old days! He enjoys gardening, owns a blue sports car, collects lava lamps, skis and likes to relax with a beer (preferably Traditional). Now, after his trips to Austria, travels previously limited to Canada, the United States and Mexico, may now have broadened to include Europe.

Bill, may you enjoy many years of retirement – welcome to the Honour Roll!