

**CHARLES THOMAS HARPER**  
**SASKATCHEWAN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**HONOUR ROLL CITATION – 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2011**

***THE EARLY YEARS...***

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1949, just a week before Newfoundland entered Confederation, Charlie Harper was born. His early summers were spent with his family on a pheasant farm on the outskirts of Saskatoon and his winters in Pennsylvania where his father was studying for his Master's Degree in Wildlife Management. With the family finally settled in Regina by 1954, he attended a number of Elementary Schools: Strathcona, Peart, and finally Grant Road School; moving on to Campbell Collegiate High School after Grade 8. His boyhood summers were spent with his family at their cottage on the north shore of Buffalo Pound Lake, and it was here, picking up arrow-heads on the beach and collecting fossils from the Cretaceous boulders out of the shoreline cliffs of glacial till, that his love of archaeology, geology and the natural world grew.

***ON TO UNIVERSITY...***

In the same year that Canada celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation, Charlie entered the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, graduating in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Engineering. His Bachelor's Thesis, entitled *Comparison of a Porphyry Copper Prospect to a Genetic Model*, was based on field work undertaken in south-central British Columbia in 1970. Charlie met Marlene in 1970 and they were married a year later on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1971. He continued his geological education at the University of Saskatchewan, being awarded a Master's Degree in 1975 for his thesis *The Geology of the Zinc-Lead Deposit at Sito Lake, Northern Saskatchewan*.

***WORKING WITH THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF SASKATCHEWAN...***

Charlie worked for the Saskatchewan Geological Survey as a summer student from 1968 to 1969 and again from 1971 to 1973. By April 1974, Charlie had started a permanent position with the Survey as a Project Geologist in charge of mapping and mineral deposit studies in the Precambrian Shield of Saskatchewan. His first project (1974 -1975) was the regional Northern Iron Ore Exploration project, the results for which were published in 1983 as the report *Iron Ores of Northern Saskatchewan*. Then in 1976, he commenced a four-year project on uranium metallogeny which took him to Maurice Bay on the northwest shore of Lake Athabasca; and to Dawn Lake and Cluff Lake in the Athabasca Basin.

***THE CARSWELL, LA RONGE GOLD BELT, MUDJATIK DOMAIN...***

Marlene and Charlie's daughter Sara-Rose was born September 17, 1979 and at the end of that same year Charlie began a three-year Ph.D. at Colorado School of Mines which entailed summer field work for the Survey on the Carswell Structure, based at Cluff Lake, and fall and winter studies in Golden, Colorado. He was awarded his doctorate in 1984 for the dissertation: *The Geology and Uranium Deposits of the Central Part of the Carswell Structure, Northern Saskatchewan*, a work which provided strong evidence that the structure itself was the result of a meteorite impact. Geological mapping with the Survey continued in 1984 in the La Ronge Gold Belt, starting in the Waddy Lake area and continuing in successive field seasons to 1987 through Tower Lake to Windrum Lake. Field work in 1988 saw him at Ithingo Lake in the Mudjatik Domain, mapping iron-formation related gold mineralization.

***IN THE EDITOR'S CHAIR; CROSSING THE BRIDGE; THE EMPTY QUARTER***

Then in November that year, Charlie became Manager of Cartography and Publications with responsibility for geological and technical editing, production and printing of Survey reports and maps. Short field projects undertaken at the same time included those at Deception Lake in the Rottenstone Domain and on Missi Island, Amisk Lake. By 1996 he was once more engaged in full-time field work as part of the Geological Survey of Canada - Saskatchewan Geological Survey, La Ronge - Lynn Lake Bridge Project, mapping from his earlier La Ronge Belt areas northeast towards Reindeer Lake. In 2001 Charlie started work on the Phelps Lake Reconnaissance Geological Mapping Project, that was to cover the entire 1:250,000 scale northeast corner map-sheet of Saskatchewan. The project, one of the largest to be undertaken by the Survey in recent times, was completed in 2004.

Then in 2005 came the three-year Northeast Wollaston Domain Project, a combination bedrock and Quaternary geology study that revised the order of the Wollaston Supergroup stratigraphy and determined the presence of an extensive metamorphosed saprolite horizon developed on the Archean granitoid basement beneath.

***WORKING WITH INDUSTRY...***

After a brief foray into industrial minerals, Charlie left the Survey in 2008 to take up work as Chief Geologist with Triex Minerals, a junior company active in uranium exploration in the Athabasca Basin. Since May 2009, he has been working as a consultant for a number of companies in Northern Saskatchewan, most recently for Golden Band Resources and Great Western Minerals Group.

### *COVERING THE GROUND...*

In his forty-two year career in geology, and as many field seasons, Charlie has spent an incredible ten years in the bush! During that time he has mapped at scales between 1: 20,000 and 1: 100,000 over 13,500 square kilometres of Precambrian Shield: that's about the size of Northern Ireland or the State of Connecticut, or the island of Jamaica; equivalent to nearly 12 per cent of Saskatchewan's shield area. Not including his three theses, he is the sole author of 50 reports, maps, papers, open files and abstracts and the co-author of another 65. In his numerous field camps he has supervised and trained about one hundred geology undergraduates, many of whom have gone on to make a career for themselves in exploration or academia.

### *HIGH SOCIETY...*

Charlie has been an active member of the Saskatchewan Geological Society since 1974, during which time he has been Program Chairman (1978-1979; 1999-2000), co-chairman of the technical program for the symposium *Economic Minerals of Saskatchewan* (1986), co-editor of the symposium volumes *Modern Exploration Techniques* (1990) and *MinExpo '96 – Advances in Saskatchewan Geology and Mineral Exploration*; and a member of the Geological Highway Map Committee (2000-2003) and the Northern Geoscape Committee (since 2004). Charlie is also member of the Society of Economic Geologists (since 1976), the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan (since 1976), the Saskatchewan Archeological Society (since 1984) and the Geological Association of Canada (since 2003).

### *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE...*

Despite all this, and the ten years in the bush, has Charlie found time for a life outside of geology? Happily the answer is yes! As well as marriage, and helping raise a daughter who now has a career in the Diplomatic Service, Charlie has enjoyed playing hockey and soccer, and competing in cross-country skiing, swimming, running, canoeing and kayaking, winning many awards, trophies and medals along the way. He has been Commodore of the Wascana Racing Canoe Club (1993-94) and editor of its newsletter (1991-1996), as well as editor of the Saskatchewan Canoe Association Newsletter (1993-1995; 1997-1998). Most recently Charlie has been Chairman of the Flatwater Sprint Canoe and Kayak Division of the Saskatchewan Canoe Association (2001-2002) and has officiated at regattas across western Canada. His stamp collection, started at the age of eight, rivals that of King George V or F.D. Roosevelt.

Charlie, welcome to the Honour Roll!

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