

DAVE THOMAS M.Sc., P.Geo – HONOUR ROLL

CANDIDATE FOR 2018

This is not the Dave Thomas who founded Wendy's, nor is he Dave Thomas the actor who portrayed the character Doug McKenzie on SCTV (Second City Television) but he *is* the Dave Thomas who worked first for the Saskatchewan Geological Survey for 14 years and then for another 24 years for Cameco, the international uranium mining company based in Saskatoon.

IN THE BEGINNING WAS HOCKEY...

REGINA PATS

Dave played on the Regina Pats hockey team during the 1971-72 and 1972-73 seasons and was on the team that beat the Quebec Remparts to win the Memorial Cup in 1974. The team was inducted into the Saskatchewan Hall of Fame in 1980.

INSPIRATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION

The inspiration to get into geology came when Dave saw a film presentation by a Calgary oil geologist on field exploration at a career fair at high school. He attended the University of Regina 1974 – 1978 graduating with a bachelor's degree in geology. His thesis was *The geology of the Compulsion River area, Saskatchewan*. He continued his studies in Regina to obtain an M.Sc., in geology in 1983 with the thesis: *Distribution, geological controls and genesis of uraniferous pegmatites in the Cree Lake Zone of northern Saskatchewan*.

THE SURVEY YEARS

Dave joined the Saskatchewan Geological Survey in 1980 and from 1981 to 1984 was Resident Geologist in Uranium City with responsibility for the Athabasca Mining District. During this time he published reports for the Survey's Annual Summary of Investigations on mining activity in the district during the year. He also led field trips for Survey staff and visiting mining company geologists.

In 1984 he was moved back to head office in Regina and became a Project Geologist in the Precambrian Division of the Survey working on structural and metallogenic studies with a focus on gold and base metals in the La Ronge Gold Belt, the Glennie Domain and the Flin Flon-Creighton district.

Together with Charlie Harper, he mapped the La Ronge Gold Belt which was during the 1980s the focus of renewed gold exploration that had commenced in the late 1940s with the operation of the Decade Mine. A series of compact, high grade deposits were developed and mined in the 1980s during the Survey's mapping program: the Star Lake Mine, the Jolu Mine, the Komis, and Fork Lakes Mine.

In 1991 he became Provincial Co-ordinator of the NATMAP Federal-Provincial program, an initiative to investigate in detail the exposed and sub-Phanerozoic areas of the Precambrian Shield. The work involved co-ordinating the results of exploration by mining companies, and field mapping and research by university researchers, and geologists from the Geological Survey of Canada, Manitoba Geological Survey and Saskatchewan Geological Survey.

SURVEY INTERLUDE

Dave was Program Chairman of the Saskatchewan Geological Society in 1984 and served as its Vice President in 1985.

PUBLISH AND BE DAMNED... (*The Duke of Wellington*)

GOVERNMENT REPORTS, JOURNAL PAPERS AND MAPS

During his time with the Survey Dave published:

- 33 Sole Authored Reports with 23 accompanying maps (mostly 1:20,000 uncoloured map sheets)
- 32 Joint Authored Reports – for Saskatchewan Geological Survey, Geological Survey of Canada, Geological Society of Australia, and Geological Association of Canada/Mineralogical Association of Canada
- 7 Co-Authored Reports – mainly field trip guides and conference presentations
- 6 Joint-Authored Journal Papers for Economic Geology, Canadian Mineralogist, Geological Society of America Bulletin, Mineralogical Magazine and Mineralium Deposita

CAMECO BECKONS...

In 1994 Dave left the Survey to join Cameco.

A CAMECO DIGRESSION...

Cameco (an acronym of **C**anadian **M**ining & **E**xploration **C**ompany)

- A home-grown company formed in 1988
- Assets of the Provincial Crown Corporation **Saskatchewan Mining & Development Corporation** (SMDC) merged with assets of the Federal Crown Corporation **Eldorado Nuclear Ltd.**
- Eldorado Nuclear Ltd., had operated the Beaverlodge Uranium Mine near Uranium City.
- Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation started as an offspring of **Saskatchewan Department of Mineral Resources** in 1974
- Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation Act 1978 established it as a Crown Corporation with its head office in Saskatoon.
- Eldorado Nuclear Ltd., had evolved from **Eldorado Gold Mines Ltd.**, founded in 1927 to develop a gold mine in Manitoba

FOR THE WORLD IS WONDROUS LARGE, SEVEN SEAS FROM MARGE TO MARGE...

(*Rudyard Kipling*)

A CAREER WITH CAMECO...

From 1994 onwards Dave worked for Cameco in various capacities as Director of Geoscience, Director of Exploration New Business and finally in 1999 as Chief Geologist. His work on gold, base metal and uranium exploration properties took him all over the

world from various parts of Canada and the United States to Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Australia, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Niger, Tanzania, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Mongolia, and South Korea. His particular interests were in the McArthur River uranium deposit (Zone 2) and the Kumtor gold deposit in Kyrgyzstan.

He represented Cameco on various research organizations such as CAMIRO (Canadian Mining Industry Research Organization) and AMIRA (AMIRA International Ltd is a member-based organisation of minerals companies and suppliers which develops, brokers and facilitates collaborative research projects).

He visited and assessed over 38 prospects, deposits or mines in seventeen countries while with Cameco, each the subject of internal reports and presentations probably more numerous than his published work at the Survey.

He retired from Cameco's Exploration Department in 2018.

CHANGE IS GOOD – IT ALLOWS ONE TO INDULGE IN ENDLESS NOSTALGIA

During his 42 years in geology, which added up to a cumulative ten years away from home, Dave has seen many changes:

- In field mapping; from pace & compass to hip chains to GPS
- In field camps; from communication by mail, SBX-11 radio to satellite and cell phones
- In cartography; from Mylar, ink-pens, stencils and Letraset to computer mapping programs
- In report writing; from typewriters to word processors to do-it-yourself computer publishing programs
- In presentations; from quartz-bulb projectors, 35 mm slides and overheads to LED projectors and PowerPoint
- In poster displays; from hand-coloured maps, foam-board mounted photographs & wool pointers to CorelDraw and colour-printed posters

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Dave & Karen were married in October 1976. They raised three children, Keltey, now 36 who is working as a nurse in Calgary; Keegan now 33, a fireman/EMT in Fort McMurray and Caitlin, now 30, an interior designer in Vancouver. Each of them has family: Keltey has a daughter Pippa aged 2 ½ years. Keegan has two sons Tanner aged 6 ½ year, Broderick aged 3 months and a daughter Gracelyn aged 4 ½ years. Caitlin has one son, Ryder aged 13 years.

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