

THE LES BECK - CITATION FOR THE SGS HONOUR ROLL 2007

Les Beck was born in Northumberland in the United Kingdom in 1932, and educated first at Gateshead Grammar School and subsequently the University of Leeds where he obtained his Bachelor of Science, Masters' and Ph.D. and the University of Durham where he was awarded a Diploma of Education. After two years of National Service as a Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force, he emigrated to Canada in 1957.

From 1957 to 1993 he worked for the Saskatchewan Department of Mineral Resources (Later Saskatchewan Energy and Mines) in the following positions:

- 1957 – 1960 Precambrian Geologist
- 1960 – 1964 Resident Geologist, Uranium City
- 1964 – 1966 Academic Leave to complete his Ph.D. at Leeds
- 1966 – 1969 Chief Geologist, Industrial Minerals
- 1969 – 1973 Chief Geologist, Precambrian Geology
- 1973 – 1975 Assistant Director, Saskatchewan Geological Survey
- 1975 – 1980 Director, Saskatchewan Geological Survey
- 1980 – 1993 Executive Director, Geology and Mines Division

While with the government, his geological work focussed largely on Precambrian geology and mineral deposits with only brief forays into the world of soft-rock geology. He has published over thirty reports and papers on various aspects of the economic geology of the province. Two major department reports *Mineral Occurrences in the Precambrian of Saskatchewan* and *Uranium Deposits of the Athabasca Region* have been used widely by both prospectors and exploration companies.

During the period 1972 to 1980 Les designed and introduced an accelerated program of geological mapping using full aircraft support to move mapping crews to and from traverse points. This program boosted map coverage of the Precambrian Shield from less than 20 percent to over 80 percent of its area and provided a much better understanding of the geological framework and mineral potential of the Shield. Moreover, the total cost of the program was only about a third of what it would have been to complete map coverage under the former one mile to the inch scale mapping, which required canoes and portages to reach and return from traverse locations.

Apart from working at the Survey, Les taught Economic Geology (Geology 470) and Geology of Uranium (Geology 870) at the University of Regina from 1970 to 1996 and was appointed an Adjunct Professor in 1977.

Since retirement from Energy and Mines in 1993, Les has worked as an independent geological consultant on a wide range of projects including gold exploration in British Columbia and

Saskatchewan, oil shale studies in Western Canada, land selections for Treaty Land Entitlements, and uranium exploration in Saskatchewan.

Les was formerly a Director of JNR Resources Inc., of Saskatoon and as Chairman of their Technical Advisory Committee was responsible for selecting much of their land package in the Athabasca Basin of northern Saskatchewan.

