

Herman V. Zwanzig

Manitoba Geological Survey

2005 Winner of the Provincial Geologists Medal



The Provincial Geologists Medal is awarded by the Committee of Provincial Geologists to an individual who has produced outstanding work at one of Canada's provincial or territorial geological surveys. The award recognizes major contributions in the areas of geoscientific research and related applications that serve the mandates of the respective geological surveys.

The Provincial Geologists Medal is awarded annually; in 2005, the winner was Dr. Herman V. Zwanzig of the Manitoba Geological Survey. Herman received his award in September from the Honourable Keith Ashfield, New Brunswick's Minister of Natural Resources, at the Energy and Mines Ministers Conference 2005 in St. Andrews, New Brunswick.

Herman Zwanzig received an Honours B.Sc. in Geology from the University of Western Ontario, an M.Sc. from the University of Manitoba, and a Ph.D. from Queen's University. He has been with the Manitoba Geological Survey since 1972 and is presently the project leader for mapping and thematic studies in the Lynn Lake and Flin Flon metavolcanic belts, the Kiseynew Gneiss Domain and the Thompson Nickel Belt.

Herman's participation in LITHOPROBE studies of the Trans-Hudson Orogen has revolutionized our understanding of the crustal architecture and tectonic processes accompanying amalgamation of the major geological building blocks of northern Manitoba. Herman accomplished his important contributions by bringing to bear knowledge first gained during his Ph.D. thesis work in the Canadian Cordillera under Ray Price. As a result of Herman's work, the Trans-Hudson Orogen is now one of the best understood and documented Precambrian orogens in the world.

Although Herman's contributions were generated as a result of his scientific curiosity, they have had far-reaching impacts on mineral exploration. His work has provided a much-needed context for mineral exploration in this richly endowed area, which hosts the nickel deposits of the Thompson Nickel Belt, volcanogenic massive sulphide deposits of the Flin Flon and Lynn Lake belts, and the orogenic lode-gold deposits of the Lynn Lake, Assean Lake and Snow Lake areas. His work has most recently aided in definition of areas with high diamond potential. Exploration company geologists routinely seek field excursions, advice and consultations from Herman prior to and during their exploration programs.

Herman has published the results of his work in a large number of Manitoba Geological Survey and international journal publications. These contributions have stood the test of time and remain as relevant today as when first written. Herman has also been generous with his time by giving many technical lectures. These lectures are characterized by excellent science and elegant graphic images that portray complex ideas in simple terms. Teaching part of a recent course at University of Brandon, Herman made the geology of northern Manitoba come alive in terms of modern tectonic processes by seamlessly weaving together theoretical concepts with practical applications.

Herman has truly contributed greatly to the Manitoba Geological Survey and the geological community at large through his commitment to the search for scientific truths. Herman's enthusiasm for geology and courageous pursuit of new ideas and techniques during his 33-year career makes him a deserving winner of the 2005 Provincial Geologists Medal.