

In Memoriam: Glenn Conley

by M.P.B. Nicolas

Glenn Conley passed away peacefully from cancer on September 21, 2020 in Winnipeg at the age of 74. Glenn grew up in Winnipeg's North End where he attended King Edward School and Sisler High School. He attended the University of Winnipeg, followed by the University of Manitoba where he received his M.Sc. in Geology in 1986. Glenn was a man of big stature, towering over most of us. He was also quiet and reserved; a gentle giant. He loved woodworking, often talking about how, in his retirement, he planned to make furniture that he could sit in comfortably. Glenn also enjoyed cooking, camping, and reading. He enjoyed visiting Fort Whyte Alive where he found stillness and harmony.

Glenn had a passion for computers. He excelled at programming and database structure, pioneering several geological databases in his 28-year career at the Manitoba Geological Survey (MGS). Glenn started with the MGS in 1987 as the first (and, to this day, only) Database Geologist. Armed with a strong geological background and the endless possibilities that the new world of computer databases provided, he dove right in; when he started, Glenn was the only person to have a computer to himself. His first big project was to create early versions of what are now the Manitoba Oil and Gas Well Information System and the Manitoba Stratigraphic Database. Working with fellow MGS colleague Ruth Bezys, Glenn converted and entered paper-based data from MGS files into a newly created digital database, which, at the time, was an enormous feat. Glenn's tireless effort and patience creating these databases truly set the groundwork for Manitoba's digital future.

I had the benefit of working with Glenn as a student and as a colleague. To a young student he was intimidating, if only in stature, as he was always helpful and patient. When I worked with him, most closely on the Williston Basin



Targeted Geoscience Initiative 2 project, I really got a sense and appreciation for how much he knew about databases. Glenn understood a database's forward-looking applications and, most importantly, its limitations. After his retirement, I saw Glenn at an MGS event. He expressed the excitement he felt that the wood he had ordered for his furniture was due to arrive any day. I hope he was able to make his 'Glenn-sized' chair and enjoy it.