ODBITUARY

DR. JOHN L. JAMBOR
1936–2008

John Jambor died on January 18, 2008, after struggling with cancer for 10 months. He knew that he had lived his life well and was content in his acceptance of the inevitable. After receiving his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in geology from the University of British Columbia, he joined the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa in 1960 and moved to CANMET in 1975. During this period, he received his PhD from Carleton University in 1966. In the early 1980s, when acid drainage from mine wastes was gaining prominence, his familiarity with oxidation processes led to numerous collaborative and productive studies related to the generation and attenuation of acid drainage.

John “retired” to Vancouver in 1993. However, he worked as hard in “retirement” as in his first career, continuing his research in environmental mineralogy as an adjunct professor at both the University of Waterloo and the University of British Columbia, and as the Principal of Leslie Research and Consulting. He was the recipient of several national and international awards. From the Mineralogical Association of Canada, he received the Hawley Medal (1970), the Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal (1977), the Berry Medal (1991), and the Past Presidents’ Medal (2002), and he held an Honorary Life Membership since 1982. He received the Barlow Medal and the Julian Boldy Memorial Award from the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum and was recently recognized with a Life Membership. He was further honored by having a nickel hydroxide mineral, jamborite, named after him. John’s lifelong affair with innocuous-appearing supergene minerals resulted in his being the discoverer or co-discoverer of many new mineral species.

Dr. Jambor published widely in the fields of mineralogy, petrology, crystallography, and mineral deposits (134 refereed publications and over 200 other publications). He also assumed many editorial responsibilities. He served as Scientific Editor of The Canadian Mineralogist (1971–1975), Co-Editor of The Canadian Mineralogist (1975–1977), New Minerals Editor for American Mineralogist (1989–2007) and Consulting Editor for Exploration and Mining Geology (1991–1999). Dr. Jambor has also been the editor or co-editor of seven special issues, short courses, and related books, as well as series editor for five Mineralogical Association of Canada short courses.

John Jambor was a modest man who was surprised and pleased to learn that he had made an impact on the lives of his colleagues. Those who worked with John, however, would not share his surprise, because John Jambor was an outstanding scientist with the highest professional standards. He was exceedingly generous professionally and was always willing to provide advice and technical assistance to his colleagues and even strangers. His editorial skills were legendary, and he could always reduce a page of text to a few cogent sentences containing the essential features of the original more verbose composition. His knowledge, expertise and camaraderie will be sincerely missed by those who knew him. Requiescat in pace.

John is survived by his son Jay and his wife Lynne. Donations to support cancer research can be made to the Jambor Foundation, #700 – 4980 Kingsway, Burnaby, British Columbia, V5H 4K7, Canada.

Lynne Jambor and John Dutrizac

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

FRANK HAWTHORNE,
OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF CANADA

Distinguished Professor and Canada Research Chair Frank C. Hawthorne, Department of Geological Sciences, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth and Resources, University of Manitoba, shown here with Dr. Elena Sokolova (Department of Geological Sciences), on the grounds of Rideau Hall, Ottawa, was formally inducted on October 6, 2006, as an Officer of the Order of Canada by the Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean. The Order of Canada is Canada’s highest civilian honor, with membership awarded to those who exemplify the Order’s motto, Desiderantes meliorem patriam. Created in 1967, the Order was established to recognize lifetime contributions made by Canadians. Officers of the Order of Canada are appointed in recognition of achievement and merit of a high degree. On this occasion, thirteen officers were appointed, including artists, business people, human rights activists, and scientists. Frank is the first mineralogist to become an Officer of the Order of Canada. We reproduce the citation:

Frank Hawthorne is one of the world’s foremost authorities in mineralogy and crystallography. Distinguished Professor of Geological Sciences at the University of Manitoba, he has developed several innovative approaches and methods that have generated a new appreciation for the processes that underlie the formation of crystals. A respected mentor to young scientists, he has also served with distinction in many professional organizations, including the Mineralogical Association of Canada, the Canadian Geoscience Council, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

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