



# Planning Matters USA

January 2010

## Below the surface

The University of Manitoba is preparing future geoscientists to take advantage of Canada’s growing mining and exploration industry to uncover a treasure trove of buried minerals.

Canada has long been touted as a country of beauty, but its wealth in natural resources beneath the surface proves that its beauty is more than skin deep.

Nearly everything that developed nations use comes from materials mined below the Earth’s surface. These materials are an especially high priority in developing nations such as China and India, which are gaining strength economically but lack the natural resources to produce goods such as utensils, glass and wire. Civilization cannot exist without a continuing supply of raw materials such as iron, aluminum, copper, nickel, gravel and brick, to name just a few.

Ian Ferguson, head of the Department of Geological Sciences, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, points out, “If you can’t grow it or recycle it, you have to mine it!”

Canada is one of four prominent mining countries in the world along with Australia, South Africa and Russia. Canada contributes approximately 19% of the world’s mining economy, in con-

trast with the U.S., which provides about 8%.

“Canada is really significant on the world stage,” emphasizes Ferguson. With a treasure trove of buried minerals, especially in its Precambrian-Shield region, and many companies active in mining and exploration, Canada has great potential for economic development.

And the University of Manitoba is preparing future geoscientists to take advantage of this. The Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources offers

two programs in the geological sciences department – geology and geophysics. These programs are structured to allow students to obtain professional registration and move into the minerals, energy or environmental industries.

The university’s supporters are getting behind this movement too. In 2006, Marjorie Eckman and her husband Philip, [BSc/38, BSc (Hons)/42] established a scholarship fund in



Marjorie and Philip Eckman.

the Department of Geological Sciences with an initial gift of \$11,500. Marjorie and Philip made the gift in honour of Philip’s *alma mater* and Dr. Justin DeLury, former head of the University of Manitoba’s geology department.

Philip had also wanted to acknowledge the mining career he had as a result of his education at the University of Manitoba. His career in mining took his fam-

## Who was Philip Eckman?

Louis Philip Eckman was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1918. He graduated from the University of Manitoba, Department of Geology in 1938 [BSc/38] and in 1939 took the “pre-Master’s” course. It was during these years that he developed a great fondness and respect for Dr. Justin DeLury, then head of the department. In 1942, Eckman graduated from Queen’s University with a BSc with Honours in Mining Engineering. He was a life member of the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

His entire 45-year career was spent with three Canadian mining companies: Ventures Limited, Patino Mining Corporation and Hudson Bay Mining & Smelting

Company Limited. He worked at posts from mine manager to vice-president of a U.S. exploration subsidiary. It involved 21 years residence in Canada, 15 in the United States, two in New Caledonia and six in Mexico. He had the unusual experience of managing an underground copper mine from early exploration through development, and from the construction production through to ore exhaustion. He was later engaged in exploration and mine evaluation. His exploration and mine evaluation work took him from the Yukon to Costa Rica, Newfoundland to



Philip Eckman.

the Queen Charlottes and Great Slave Lake to Michoacán, Mexico. He contributed to the acquisition of Inspiration Consolidated Copper Company in Arizona by Hudson Bay. The mining industry has greatly benefited from his con-

tributions, and he was asked to gift all of his research papers to the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming. This Repository contains the papers of noted Canadian and American mining professionals.

In the 1980s, Eckman suggested the time had come to establish a Canadian Mining Hall of Fame and he was pleased to see this and other proposals acted on.

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ily all over North America. “Phil loved mining. He thought he was the luckiest man in the world to be a mining engineer,” Marjorie says, adding she shares her late husband’s appreciation for the University of Manitoba.

“I really do feel a kinship for the University of Manitoba because of my husband’s love for it and the achievements of the university.” Marjorie adds that the generous people of Winnipeg and the “forward-looking university” are great incentives to her.


The Eckmans felt strongly about their award and Marjorie plans to leave a larger bequest in her will to boost the fund in the future.

Marjorie says that the ideal candidates for the Philip and Marjorie Eckman Scholarship would be students who truly enjoy their

field of study and are preparing for a career in mining.

Ferguson adds that although the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources doesn’t have a mining engineering program, students graduating from the Department of Geological Sciences are particularly well-prepared to work in the mining industry because they receive “a good broad

background” in the geological sciences as compared to other universities. Many of our graduates, he says, pursue careers in the mining or petroleum industries.

Marjorie Eckman is pleased with this. To be a small part of this field of learning through the funding of this scholarship is an honour Marjorie very much enjoys. 

*Although Marjorie Eckman was living in the U.S. when she made her gift to the University of Manitoba, she was able to claim a tax deduction because her husband had attended the university. Under the Canada-United States Income Tax Convention, a U.S. citizen or a Canadian citizen living in the U.S. is entitled to a charitable deduction for gifts to a Canadian university, provided he, she or a family member is or was enrolled at that university. To find out more about making international donations, go to [http://umanitoba.ca/admin/dev\\_adv/living\\_usa.html](http://umanitoba.ca/admin/dev_adv/living_usa.html) or contact Beth Proven, Manager, Planned Giving at 1-800-330-8066.*