Citation for Terry Hennigar, Laing Ferguson Distinguished Service Award

(AGS Colloquium, Truro, Feb 8th, 2020)

Terry Hennigar is fondly thought of as the Grandfather of Hydrogeology in Nova Scotia. His career spans over 50 years of comprehensive experience in engineering, environmental science, hydrogeology, water resources management, and groundwater protection. It began at Acadia in 1963 when Professor Rupert McNeill introduced a new course in the curriculum at Acadia University that dealt with groundwater. At the time it was the only course in Atlantic Canada that focused on society's very valuable groundwater resources.

Terry was instrumental in the very early stages of the development of the field of hydrogeology. In 1964 the Nova Scotia Dept. of Mines had just established a 'Groundwater Section' within the Minerals Division. The province had recognized groundwater as a 'mineral resource' and Terry was hired as a full time 'Groundwater Geologist' in May 1965. His first project was investigating groundwater resources in the Annapolis-Cornwallis valley, at the same time registering at Dalhousie University for an MSc degree in Hydrogeology, which he completed in 1968 while still working with the Department of Mines.

Terry also served as an adjunct Associate Professor at Dalhousie and the Technical University of NS for 22 years teaching graduate courses in hydrogeology, where he supervised thesis research by graduate students; conducted research in groundwater resource evaluation, management, and protection; and planned, organized, and participated in workshops, seminars, courses on hydrogeological field methods, and conferences. He has also carried out forensic scientific and engineering investigations for insurance companies and legal firms in the process of claim settlements and litigation related to water supply and contamination cases and managed several projects utilizing geothermal energy. Across Canada he is thought of as one of a handful of individuals that helped hydrogeology develop into a subdiscipline of geoscience in its own right. Terry has also been a pioneer in Atlantic Canada in the use of low gradient earth energy as a reliable and efficient method of heating and cooling in our climate. Heat pumps using the temperature gradient between ambient air and that of the earth's relatively constant temperature at given depths are gradually being applied as a 'green' and sustainable method of heating and/or cooling.

Terry Hennigar's pioneering work in Maritime Canada, dedication to student research and development of a professional community amongst educators, consultants, industry and government established hydrogeology as a important and respected discipline. He is also a strong supporter of student activity at conferences and field trips. Terry exemplifies a requirement of the Laing Ferguson Award that the candidate "foster public appreciation of Atlantic Geoscience over a long period of time".
He is most deserving of this award.

Ian Spooner,
Acadia University