

W.C. BRISBIN

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**H.D. Bruce Wilson**  
**1916-2009**



H. D. Bruce Wilson was born November 10, 1916 in Winnipeg, and died July 4, 2009, at the Grace Hospital in Winnipeg. He obtained a B. Sc. at the University of Manitoba in 1926, a M. Sc. at California Institute of Technology in 1939, and was awarded a Ph. D. (Economic Geology) at California Institute of Technology in 1942. As he was finishing his Ph. D. thesis in 1941, he accepted a position with Inco Ltd. as a Research Geologist. He became Assistant Head of Exploration for Inco in 1945 and initiated work in the Thompson area of Manitoba.

Bruce joined the faculty of the University of Manitoba as Assistant Professor in 1947, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1949, Professor in 1956, and became Head of the Department of Geology and Mineralogy in 1965. He retired in 1981.

His first appointment had an immediate effect on the Geology student body at that time. He came to the department with an academic background in metallogenic research, and a practical background in exploration and in mineral deposits. Very quickly he attracted increasing numbers of undergraduate and graduate students to the department, many of whom remember him for his teaching, and research, and his influence on their careers.

His appointment as Head in 1965 brought many new perspectives to the department. His industry contacts provided students with summer field experience and geoscience research topics. Bruce also shared his scientific insights with industry and with government, and became somewhat of a visionary as well. He authored landmark papers on layered intrusions, magmatic ore deposits, and on the distribution of metals in minerals and rocks. He was the primary instigator of Project Pioneer, a collaborative field research program with the Manitoba Mines Branch, and later developed the Centre for Precambrian Studies at the University. These endeavors were accompanied by the growth of departmental research in modern geochemistry and geophysics of the crust. During this period he encouraged the development of field courses in both geology and geophysics, and the setting up of the Star Lake Field Station. The field training received by students, then and now, is a testimonial to Bruce Wilson's foresight.

Bruce also contributed to the geosciences on national and international levels. In Canada he was a member of the National Research Council, and also served on committees of the Canadian National Advisory Committee on Research in the Geologic Sciences. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1960. He was also a Fellow of the Geological Association of Canada and President in 1965. He was awarded the Miller Medal for the best published paper in 1959 by the Canadian Institute in Mining and received the Canadian Centennial Medal in 1967, and the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Jubilee Medal in 1977.

Dr. Wilson had a strong international reputation. He became a Fellow of the Geological Society of America, and a Fellow (1975 President) of the Society of Economic Geologists. He was also one of the first recipients of the Lindgren award of this Society. He worked with the United Nations Development program for mineral deposit in Turkey, Tanzania and Russia and Siberia. Over many years his geologic advice was sought also by Inco, Falconbridge, Selco, Union Carbide, and Rio Tinto, and by Manitoba Minerals Ltd., the provincial mining exploration company.

*BRISBIN: H.D. Bruce Wilson*

Dr. Wilson's career was distinguished in all respects and he will not be forgotten. Former students, colleagues and friends have established the H.D.B. Wilson Bursary to acknowledge his legacy and to perpetuate his memory.

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*(Author's title given as of the time of writing)*