

Association of Professional Engineers

of the

Province of Manitoba

Merit Award

to

WILLIAM GORDON McKAY

B.Sc.C.E., P.Eng.

Bill McKay received his Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Civil Engineering from Queen's University in 1940. After a year of post-graduate studies he joined the Public Health Engineering Division of the Department of Pensions and National Health.

Bill joined Underwood McLellan & Associates (now the UMA Group) in 1945. In 1952, after seven years as a project engineer and project manager, he became an Associate of the firm, and was responsible for the provision of engineering services in the development of Royal Canadian Air Force stations and P.M.Q. housing throughout Western Canada. In 1955, he was appointed General Manager of Underwood McLellan & Associates, and he played a significant role in the first major expansion of this consulting engineering firm. Bill McKay became President of the company in 1960, a position which he held until 1970. It was during his tenure as President that the organization experienced one of its major growth periods, both geographically and in diversity of services, to become one of the major consulting engineering groups in Canada.

From 1970 to 1984, Bill continued in management for the UMA Group as Corporate Secretary and also as a Senior Associate with the Manitoba Northwestern Ontario operation, responsible for the co-ordination of business development activities in this region, with emphasis on the rural areas. He also served as project co-ordinator for the Tanzanian Training Project for the Dar Es Salaam Water Supply, Tanzania, East Africa.

Throughout his professional career, Bill McKay maintained his keen sense of professionalism and service to the public, while utilizing the best technical knowledge and skills available. He became actively involved in professional associations and in Learned and Technical organizations related to the municipal engineering field. Given that one of the greatest periods of construction of the civil engineering infrastructure in Western Canada occurred during the 1950's and into the 1960's, it is obvious that Bill McKay's leadership has made a considerable impact on the enhancement of the quality of life for many Canadians.

Bill McKay exemplifies what every Professional Engineer should strive to be. His significant contribution to the profession in the area of technological transfer brings great honour to him and, in turn, to this Association. It is with great pleasure that the Association presents its Merit Award to Bill McKay.

October 25, 1991