

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists
of the
Province of Manitoba

Merit Award

Presented to

ALAN K. VOWLES

Dipl. (Geol.), P.Geo.

Alan K. Vowles is a Project Geophysicist with the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. in Flin Flon, Manitoba, and a past President of Wavemill Energy Corp. He was directly responsible for the technological advancement which enables the surveying (borehole geophysics) of horizontal holes and 'up' holes from underground drill stations to depths in excess of 1000 metres. This new surveying technique has been adopted by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting as well as Falconbridge and other mining companies. Under Alan's leadership, the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Flin Flon Geophysical Department, past and present, has been directly responsible for several discoveries including the Chisel North Mine at HBM&S in northern Manitoba.

In addition to his geophysics work, Alan and his brother managed to find time to develop the wavemill – The Wavemill® is a new technology that harnesses the energy contained in ocean waves. The Wavemill® converts this alternate energy to a usable form to power a variety of processes. One of these is the production of freshwater through desalination of seawater. The generation of electricity and production of hydrogen fuel are other planned applications. Initially validated through trials at the National Research Council, the Wavemill® holds Canadian, U.S. and several international patents. In 1996, it was recognized as the best environmental invention of the year at the Canadian GreenVention awards. Alan is currently President of Wave Energy Technologies Inc. and is developing and patenting the WET EnGen™ which is an advancement on the previous technologies.

There is another side to Alan outside of his daily responsibilities to Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. In Alan's 'spare time', he and his wife Heather started a business in Flin Flon called Earth Creations Limited. The company manufactures and sells copper sculptures, particularly as mining industry souvenirs. Alan also shows his artistic abilities in oil painting, with his most famous being a portrait of Tom Creighton, presently hanging in the Manitoba Legislature.

The Association is pleased to recognize Alan K. Vowles for his accomplishments and for his many contributions to advancing borehole geophysics and mine surveying technology; and, his contributions to research in renewable energy technology. He is most deserving in receiving the APEGM Award of Merit for 2006.

28 February 2006