

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

ALFRED POETKER, P.ENG.



Alfred Poetker became registered with APEGM in 1967 and was a member of Council from 1998 to 2002. He served on the Registration Committee for six years, the MAA-APEGM Joint Board Committee for two years, the EGIAR Joint Board Committee for four years, the Member Competence Board committee for two years, the Nominating Committee for one year, and the Bulletin Committee for two years.

Alf graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering in 1965 and completed his Graduate Studies course work in Environmental Engineering in 1972.

He started his engineering career with the Manitoba Water Resources Branch in 1985 and was Chief Engineer of the Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB) from 1969 to 1978. In 1978, Alf established A.J. Poetker & Associates. In 1981, he partnered with two other engineers to form Poetker Engineering Consultants Ltd., and in 1990, the company merged with another firm to form Poetker MacLaren. Alf was President of Poetker MacLaren, which later became Cochrane Engineering, until 1995, when he stepped down to focus on technical projects with Cochrane until his retirement in 2007.

While with the MWSB, Alf was instrumental in facilitating the provision of water and sewer facilities for some 45 rural Manitoba communities, which at the time was a major advancement for Manitoba in terms of public health and community development.

As a Consultant, Alf has been involved in engineering projects in Manitoba, as well as in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Mexico, and Venezuela. Significant projects include the design of the first regional water treatment plant at Letellier, now a part of a much larger system operated by the Pembina Valley Cooperative providing water to a large part of southern Manitoba, and as Project Director for the Cartier Regional Water System. Alf also helped to establish the first public-private partnership water supply project in Manitoba, which serves four municipalities west of Winnipeg.

Alf was on the Board of the Consulting Engineers of Manitoba (CEM) from 1983-1990 and President from 1988-1989. From 1991-1994 he represented Manitoba on the Board of the Consulting Engineers of Canada and in 2007, he was presented the CEM Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of exceptional leadership, integrity, innovation, diligence, and unwavering respect for his fellow engineers and the citizens of Manitoba.

For many years, Alf was a volunteer lecturer at the MWWA's Annual Operators' School. He has been on his church council for over 25 years and on the Board of Trustees for five years, working with various church ministries and committees. From 2000-2009, he volunteered on a Community Based Language Program for immigrants. He served on the Board of the Family Life Network (a non-profit Christian media production agency) from 1996 to 2004.

From 1977 to 1984, Alf served on the Agassiz Drive School Parent Committee. He also headed the committee that raised funds for and built a new community playground structure. He obtained government assistance to hire students to run a skate park program for neighbourhood youth. He is also a member of the Fort Garry Horticultural Society.

The Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Manitoba is pleased to confer on Alfred Poetker the Outstanding Service Award in recognition of his commitment to the Association, the profession and the public.

