

Memorial of John L. Jambor, 1936–2008

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John Jambor died on January 18, 2008, after struggling with cancer for 10 months. He knew that he had lived his life well and was content in his acceptance of the inevitable.

After receiving his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in geology from the University of British Columbia, John Jambor joined the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa in 1960 and moved to CANMET, also part of Natural Resources Canada, in 1975. At the Survey he worked initially in the Petrological Sciences Division and later in the Economic Geology Division. During this period, he received his Ph.D. from Carleton University in 1966. John's life-long affair with innocuous-appearing supergene minerals dates back to his bachelor's thesis and his work at Galena Hill in the Yukon. In the early 1980s, when acid drainage from mine wastes was gaining prominence because of its environmental and economic liabilities for the metal-mining industry, his familiarity with oxidation processes led to collaborative and productive studies with geochemists who were investigating the generation and attenuation of acid drainage. Late in 1993, John returned to his roots in the Vancouver area, continuing his work in environmental mineralogy as Adjunct Professor at both the University of Waterloo and at the University of British Columbia, and as the principal of Leslie Research and Consulting. He has been the recipient of several national and international awards: including, from Mineralogical Association of Canada, the Hawley Award (1970), the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal (1977), the Berry Medal (1991), and the Past Presidents' Medal (2002) awarded to scientists who have made significant contributions to the mineralogical sciences during their career. He has been an Honorary Life Member of MAC since 1982. He received the Barlow Medal from the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and recently was recognized with a Life Membership. He has been further honored by having a nickel hydroxide mineral, jamborite, named after him.

Dr. Jambor has published widely, making important contributions in the fields of mineralogy, petrology, crystallography, and mineral deposits (134 refereed publications and over 200 other publications).

Dr. Jambor also contributed to the earth sciences through his editorial duties, of which the most significant are Scientific Editor of *The Canadian Mineralogist* (1971–1975); Co-Editor, *The Canadian Mineralogist* (1975–1977); New Minerals Editor, *American Mineralogist* (1989–2007); Consulting Editor for Exploration and Mining Geology (1991–1999). Dr. Jambor has also been editor or co-editor of seven special issues, short courses and related books, as well as series editor for five Min-



eralogical Association of Canada short courses. In recognition, he has been awarded the L.G. Berry Medal (MAC), Honorary Life Membership (MAC), and the Julian Boldy Memorial Award (CIM Geological Society). Dr. Jambor's interests included environmental mineralogy when environmental mineralogy was not even named as a science.

John's personal interest in scientific work, whether directed to pure or applied objectives, never waned. His career at the Geological Survey and CANMET (Natural Resources Canada) spanned 33 years, followed by 14 years as Principal of Leslie Research and Consulting in British Columbia. He worked as hard in "retirement" as in his first career. He had special relationships with many fellow scientists and colleagues including David Blowes, John Dutrizac, and Louis Cabri, along with many others too numerous to name. Those who have had the privilege of working with John know how much he genuinely valued all those collaborations. His delight in identifying new minerals was a joy to see, and he was the discoverer or co-discoverer of many new species. His eyes would literally light up and then he was a happy man. He knew in his heart of hearts that freezers in the kitchen were invented to hold core samples and the "good china" was "good" because it was the right depth and shape for evaporation procedures.

The Group of Seven wine club was an important part of John's life. He was happiest in the company of that Group. The triumphant and superbly memorable blind tastings were always a source of happy reminiscence. He kept something aside for the 200th anniversary of the Group of Seven get-togethers and, though he would not expect it, we know there will be a glass or two raised in his memory.

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John started curling in 1963 as a “therapeutic” alternative to working on his Ph.D. The years that John and Lynne curled 150 times a year were great fun. John made life-long friends at CityView (Nepean-Ottawa, Ontario) and at Tunnel Town (Tsawwassen, British Columbia) most of whom never knew what he did for a living, but grew to appreciate the quietly skilled competitor with a love for wine and a great appreciation for the game he loved. John’s only instruction to Lynne on moving from Ontario to British Columbia was to find out where the curling clubs were so we could be within a half-hour of the closest one. He was competitive yet knew how to be graceful no matter what the result. He curled at least two times a week until he could physically no longer do so and was glad that his illness was diagnosed after he had completed his commitments to his curling team. That was John.

John Jambor was a modest man who was surprised and pleased to learn he had made an impact on the lives of his colleagues. Those who worked with John, however, would not share his surprise, because John Jambor was an outstanding scientist with the highest professional standards. He was exceedingly generous professionally and was always willing to provide advice and technical assistance to his colleagues and even to relative strangers. His editorial skills were legendary and he could always reduce a page of text to a few cogent sentences, which contained the essence of the original more verbose composition. Traveling with John was always an enjoyable experience as wines were carefully selected to match whatever fare the restaurant could provide. His knowledge, expertise, and camaraderie will be sincerely missed by those who knew him. Requiescat in pace.

John Jambor is survived by his son Jay and his wife Lynne; his sisters-in-law Margaret Heenan and nieces Aretha and Madeline, and Janet (John) Davies, nephews on the McCarthy side particularly William (Dolores), and his far away daughters Allison and Leslie Jambor and granddaughter Shizen.

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