

ARTHUR EARL SOREGAROLI

1933 - 2017

**Gone to the great mineral show in the sky…**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved husband, father and grandfather, Dr. Art Soregaroli. He slipped away from us peacefully in his sleep, with his devoted wife of 55 years, Rosalie, at his bedside. Art is also survived by his children, Carla and Brian (Michèle), his grandchildren, Cameron and Natasha, and sisters, Carolyn Leichliter (California), Myrtle Johnson (Harold, California) and Margaret Williams (Iowa). He was predeceased by his brother, Robert (Barb, Minnesota).

Art’s many accomplishments and honours during his illustrious mining exploration career speak for themselves. But his legacy truly lies in the lives he touched along the way. He lived with consummate integrity, championed the underdog, stood up for justice, and reached out to those who were in need of a lift. His friendly, genuine and kind disposition endeared him to many, and his keen sense of humour, accompanied by that mischievous twinkle in his eye, constantly enriched our lives.

He was highly intelligent, keenly observant, and always enthusiastic to share his deep knowledge of the natural world. If you showed even a remote interest in geology or minerals, he was a willing and earnest partner in conversation for as much time as you would afford him.

Art was born and raised in small-town Madrid, Iowa, USA, where he learned to hunt and fish and appreciate the land and nature. He excelled at team and individual sports throughout his youth, always playing several inches above his height class. He served in the Korean War as a ‘Computer’ with the US Military, and upon his return used the GI Bill to start down his path to a successful and fulfilling career in geology.

He completed his undergraduate degree at Iowa State University, and his Masters in Geology at the University of Idaho. He then went on to pursue his Doctorate at the University of British Columbia in 1962, where he met and wed Rosalie. They started their family as he completed his PhD in Geology while working for Noranda Mines. During this time, he also embarked on two other life-long love affairs: one with mineral collecting and the other with ice hockey, both of which kept him actively engaged until well into his retirement years.

Art returned to UBC as a professor of Economic Geology in the early 1970s before taking a position with the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa. The mid-70s saw his return to Vancouver as Vice President of Exploration for Westmin Resources, a position he held until he announced his retirement in the early 1990s. This first attempt to retire was pre-empted by an offer from Teck Corp. for him to combine both his expertise in exploration and economic geology with his love of mineral collecting.

Throughout his career, from his early days with Noranda to his retirement several decades later, Art was very active with industry associations and spearheaded many initiatives. Highlights of his service to the mining community included driving the effort to acquire and display the world-class Pinch mineral collection by the Royal Ontario Museum, and resurrecting the Britannia Mine site, near Vancouver, BC, stewarding it as President for many years toward its new life as the BC Museum of Mining.

Art was highly accomplished in his career, authored numerous scientific publications, and was regarded as one of the pre-eminent geologists in Canada. He held elected and appointed positions with, and received awards from many industry associations, including:

- Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM, Vice President, District 6 Proficiency Medal (1986), Julian Boldy Award (1989), Distinguished Service Medal (1991), A. O. Dufresne Award (2000))  
  
- Geological Association of Canada (GAC, Duncan R. Derry Medal (1987))  
  
- Society of Economic Geologists (SEG, President)  
  
- Association of Exploration Geochemists (AEG, President)  
  
- Canadian Mining Institute (CMI) and the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC)  
  
- President and an editor of the highly respected publication the Mineralogical Record  
  
- Editor of authoritative books on the minerals of Russia and Peru.

Art finally retired from his exploration career in the late 1990s, and his irrepressible love of mineral collecting and travel took him and Rosalie to many exotic destinations in the years that followed. With the new millennium, his discretionary time was soon directed toward a new-found passion: his grandchildren. Always a teacher, he spent many hours playing with and guiding them during their formative years.

He will be greatly missed by us all.

A Celebration of Life will be held in Art’s memory in late November. For details please contact us via email at [**remembering.art@gmail.com**](mailto:remembering.art@gmail.com).