

Ontario Prospectors Association - 2013 Award Winner

- **David Christianson**

Dave Christianson holds a Permanent (Lifetime) Prospectors Licence in the Province of Ontario; he has held same continuously since 1960 (53 years).

As an independent prospector he optioned numerous gold and base metal properties; he learned his craft from his father (prospector and claims inspector) , veteran prospectors and colleagues, in mining districts/camps throughout Northern Ontario. This “education” from successful mine finders instilled in Dave the awareness that he too had to transfer knowledge/“ give back” and share his abundant exploration abilities with younger prospectors by mentoring and also formally through the executive positions he held with the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association, all of which he did unselfishly. This education theme that Dave pursued throughout his career, also included the public, government(including ADMs and Ministers) and other industries on the land.

Dave Christianson was a seasoned exploration manager throughout his career, managing significant exploration budgets on a variety of gold and base metal projects. Mr. Christianson was President of the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors Association for much of the 1990s, providing leadership during a challenging time of low metal prices. Dave Christianson devoted significant time and effort as the senior Northwestern Ontario mineral industry representative, on the MNR led Lands for Life process, passionately defending such themes as: retention of high mineral potential lands for exploration as crown land, and access requirements in the industry.

Mr Christianson chaired a Forest Management Planning Committee(late 1990s early 2000s) representing NWOPA, that implemented a strategy and interface with the forestry companies of Northwestern Ontario. Dave met with key foresters and senior company officials in charge of SFLs(Sustainable Forest Licenses) to look for common ground/needs, develop relationships, and create awareness of what the exploration industry is about.

Dave was a member of the NWOPA Communication Committee. One of his key contributions was as editor and writer of the NWOPA newsletter (Bearshit and Blueberries)for a 10-12 year period. The publication provided NWOPA members and government (i.e ADM MNDM)with key industry information, insights and concerns of the day.

Dave, following his years as President, continued to give back to the organization, as a 5 year member of the Awards Committee, refining selection criteria and working with a three person panel on selections.

Dave earned the title “Director Emeritus” in 2001 from NWOPA.

He received the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005 from NWOPA, at the Northwestern Ontario Mines and Minerals Symposium's April meeting of that year. The symposium has grown to be a very successful technical and networking event that now hosts 600+ delegates annually, because of current and past dedication at the executive and board levels within the OPA and NWOPA , including long standing leadership from people such as Dave Christianson!