

IN MEMORY OF DR. PETR ČERNÝ (1934–2018)



PETR ČERNÝ passed away peacefully at Grace Hospital in Winnipeg on April 7, 2018 at the age of 84. He had fought for the past many years against the symptoms of Parkinson's disease, aided in his battle by his past graduate student Karen Ferreira, who served for much of this time as Petr's communication link to the outside world.

Born in Brno, Petr Černý left what was then communist Czechoslovakia for Canada in 1968. He was a proud "cancelled Czech" – his own words. Petr was Canada's foremost expert to date on the subject of granitic pegmatites, and a global leader in this field as well. His academic accomplishments were numerous and include: over 400 scientific publications dealing mostly with the mineralogy, geochemistry, genesis, evolution and economic geology of granitic pegmatites and their parental granites; medals from the Mineralogical Association of Canada, the Geological Association of Canada and the Österreichische Mineralogische Gesellschaft; and the F. Posepnu Gold Plaque of the Czech Republic's Academy of Sciences.

Petr will also be remembered as a true patron in his field. He fostered the growth of emergent scientists. He led in a collegial manner, encouraging cooperation amongst scientists over competition, something one sees less and less of these days. In a visit to Petr's house one might encounter geoscientists from the Czech Republic, Finland, the United States, Slovakia, and other parts of Canada, all of whom considered Petr a friend, not just a colleague.

Petr Černý was very much a scientist of his generation. He preferred to analyze, interpret and synthesize; he was not one for speculation. He amassed immense quantities of information and wrote about much of what he learned; unfortunately, he simply did not have time to transfer all of his knowledge. He was also a man of his generation and bore some of its trademarks. He encouraged free speech; he himself was outspoken and was not one for political correctness. He was quick to apologise when wrong but could be unforgiving about those who deliberately and unabashedly malign. His friends, colleagues and past graduate students will fondly remember him for his unique vocabulary, his idiosyncrasies, his ever-so-sharp dry wit, and his wonderful store of anecdotes.

Petr leaves behind his wife Iva of 52 years and his stepchildren Susan and Mirek. He was preceded in death by his beloved bear-themed hunting dogs, Karhu, Grizzly and Medvěd. His family and pets kept Petr grounded. He would otherwise have been completely consumed by his passion for pegmatites; he was one of the hardest-working people I have ever known.

T. Scott Ercit

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