

## Victor K. Prest fonds, F 5

**Fonds:** Victor K. Prest fonds

**Reference code:** F 5

**Dates of creation:** 1965-1991

**Physical description:**  
6 centimetres of textual records

**Scope and content:**

Fonds consists of records created and accumulated by Victor K. Prest, mainly concerning Boulder-Dating Programs in Prince Edward Island (PEI) and New Brunswick (NB). Some records concerning the dating of boulders in Maine and Quebec are also included.

Includes the report *Potassium-Argon (K-Ar) Dating of Glacial Erratics*, K-Ar Age Determination forms, Requisitions for Isotopic Age Determination forms, handwritten notes, as well as correspondence and memos to and from Victor Prest.

**Biographical sketch:**

Victor Kent Prest was born in Edmonton, Alberta, on April 2, 1913, the only child of John (Jack) Prest and Elizabeth (Buckley) Prest.

Prest's early education was obtained at the MacKay Avenue School in Edmonton. In 1925, the family moved to Toronto and then relocated to London, Ontario, where he continued his early schooling at Tecumseh Public School and London South Collegiate High School. In 1930, the Prest family moved to Winnipeg where Victor completed his secondary education at Kelvin High School.

Prest worked as a summer assistant for the Manitoba Mines Branch in 1934 and the Geological Survey of Canada in 1935 and 1936. During this time, he also received his Bachelor of Science (Honours) from the University of Manitoba in 1935 and his Masters of Science in 1936.

While registered for PhD studies at the University of Toronto, Prest was also Party Chief of the Ontario Department of Mines from 1937 to 1940. In 1941, he received his PhD from the University of Toronto, where he also served as an assistant in the Geology Department and the Royal Ontario Museum.

He joined the International Nickel Company as a geologist for a year in 1941. In 1942, Victor married Patricia Horder in Toronto, after which they moved to Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, where Prest served with the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve (RCNVR) from 1942 to 1945, with the rank of Lieutenant.

From 1945 to 1950, Prest was a staff member of the Ontario Department of Mines in Toronto. In 1950, he transferred to the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa, where he worked until 1978. He was Chief of the Pleistocene Engineering and Groundwater Section from 1951 to 1962.

Recognized for his contributions to Quaternary science in Canada, Prest is known for the Glacial Map of Canada (Prest et al., 1968), the map depicting the Retreat of Wisconsin and Recent Ice in North America (Prest, 1969), and his Quaternary Geology chapter in the Geology of Canada (Prest, 1970).

Prest participated in numerous field excursions in southern Canada, the northern USA, Alaska, and internationally. His Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) fieldwork took him on a High Arctic voyage that reached Ellesmere Island (Prest, 1958), mapping projects in Ontario (Prest, 1963), Quebec (Prest, 1966; Prest and Hode-Keyser, 1977) and the Maritimes. His map of PEI (Prest, 1973) remains seminal, and with his protégé Douglas Grant, he formulated the concept of an Appalachian Ice Complex (Prest and Grant, 1969; Prest et al., 1972; Prest, 1977).

After he retired from the GSC in 1978, Prest formed Veekay Consultants, which he operated from 1978 to 1994. He continued fieldwork into his seventies, which included traverses into dense bush around the Red Lake gold mining camp in Ontario. This work yielded a series of maps (Prest, 1980) that formed the basis for drift prospecting programs. His major syntheses included Canada's Heritage of Glacial Features (Prest, 1983), the Late Wisconsin Glacier Complex paper and map (Prest, 1984), glacial lake history in the Lake Ontario basin with Ernie Muller (Muller and Prest, 1985), and maps of North American paleogeography (Dyke and Prest, 1987). His two final publications dealt with the history of interpretation of the Laurentide Ice Sheet (Prest, 1990) and the long-distance dispersal of the distinctive erratics from the central part of the ice sheet (Prest et al., 2000).

Awards received by Prest include: first recipient of the Johnston Medal from the Canadian Quaternary Association (1978); Association Québécoise pour l'Etude du Quaternaire (Honorary Member, 1987); Kirk Bryan Award (1990) and the Distinguished Career Award (1993) from the Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division of the Geological Society of America; Gold Medal from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (1995); Fellow with the Royal Society of Canada; as well as an Honorary Member of the International Union for Quaternary Research.

Prest was also a member of the Geological Association of Canada, the American Quaternary Association, and a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.

Victor and Patricia had two children, Sherron (Sherry), Gail (Prest) Armstrong, and Wayne Horder Prest. Victor Prest died in Nepean, Ontario, on September 26, 2003.

**Restrictions on Access:**

No restrictions on access.

**Terms Governing Use:**

There are no restrictions on reproduction for research and private study.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:**

The immediate source of acquisition is not known.

**Associated Material:**

- Geology of Malpeque-Summerside area, Prince Edward Island, 11 L/5, 11 L/12 and parts of 11 L/4 and 21 1/82, 1972 (QE185.G340P214 n71-45 PEI)
- Geology of Charlottetown map-area, Prince Edward Island 11 L/3, 1964 (QE185.G340P214 n64-16 PEI)
- Geology of Tignish map-area, Prince County, Prince Edward Island, 1962 (QE185.G340P214 n61-28 PEI)
- Occurrences of uranium and vanadium in Prince Edward Island, 1969 (QE185.G340P214 n68-74 PEI)
- Retreat of the last ice sheet from the Maritime Provinces--Gulf of St. Lawrence region., 1969 (QE185.G340P214 n69-33 PEI)
- The geology and ceramic properties of shale from Bacon Point, Prince Edward Island, 1964 (QE185.G340P214 n63-35 PEI)

**Related material:**

None

**Accruals:**

No further accruals are expected.

**Former codes:**

None

**Notes:**

An envelope containing three file folders was found in the University Archives and Special Archives that had "V.K.P. glacial erratics, Maritimes - package should be used for future use and research on boulder dispersion & K/AR dating in the Maritimes" written on the cover.

**How to order:**

Consult the online list to identify the records that you require. Order using reference code and container number.

**Finding Aid:**

File list available.

**Authority Record:**

Prest, Victor K.

Victor Kent Prest was born in Edmonton, Alberta, on April 2, 1913. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) from the University of Manitoba in 1935 and his Masters of Science in 1936. In 1941, he received his PhD from the University of Toronto. Prest served with the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve as a Lieutenant and subsequently worked at the International Nickel Company, Ontario Department of Mines, and the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC). After retiring, Prest formed Veekay Consultants.

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