

Remembrance of Robert W. Stroshein, P. Eng., Geologist University of Saskatchewan 1973

May 6, 2013

HANSARD 2757

Yukon Legislative Assembly

Whitehorse, Yukon

Monday, May 6, 2013 — 1:00 p.m.

In remembrance of Robert William Stroshein

Hon. Mr. Cathers: During Yukon Mining and Geology Week, I also wanted to pay tribute to Robert William Stroshein, a well-respected Yukon geological engineer and a true friend of prospectors across the territory, who passed away last year. First, I should note that actually the mining tribute was on behalf of the government members and the Independent member. I believe I missed saying that. This week is an appropriate time to pay tribute to Mr. Stroshein for his contributions to the Yukon. Robert William Stroshein was raised in Wadena, Saskatchewan. In 1973 he graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a degree in geological engineering, and the following year he came to the Yukon with Hudson Bay Exploration and Development, commonly known as "Hud Bay", and stayed with the company until 1986. As a project geologist for the last Hud Bay prospecting program in the Yukon using pack horses, Robert witnessed the passing of an era. His broad experience included exploration, mining, feasibility studies and mine development and among his many achievements perhaps his most significant contributions to the Yukon mineral industry are made in the Whitehorse Copper belt, in the Mount Nansen and Macmillan Pass districts and in Grew Creek, Ketz River and Yukon Tanana terrain. He worked for a number of companies in various capacities, including the Government of Yukon, and since 2003 was a successful and independent consultant and contractor. Mr. Stroshein served as director and vice-president of the Yukon Chamber of Mines and also served on a number of boards of junior mining companies. He will be remembered by his family, friends and colleagues as a very kind man, whose quiet self-confidence, skill, humour, easygoing nature and love of life touched all those fortunate enough to know him. I believe Mr. Stroshein's wife, Susan Rousseau, is in the gallery here today. I would ask members to make her welcome.

Note by Allan Willy: In the early 1970's the Arts & Sciences Geology Students almost doubled by an influx of 2nd year Engineering students into the field of geological engineering. These students were experiencing a depression in jobs for most other engineering disciplines other than geological engineering so the decision was easy after having taken introductory geology. One of these students was Rob Stroshein. Now Rob was an engineer and I do not believe he became a member of the Ore Ganguer as he was a member of the engineering student society. However, Rob was in all our classes and in the Spring of 1971 he was in our Zortman field camp. I remember in 1972 that apparently Rob won the 40 beer contest for the geological engineers by putting down 40 glasses of beer at Sutherland Pub on a Saturday. Story goes after the 40th beer four of his fellow engineers carried him to the washroom to visit the big porcelain telephone parked there to make a commendable effort which would have earned him the Blue Goose Award had he been an Ore Ganguer member. I remember him on an evening in Zortman sitting in the restaurant while he told me and a couple other Ore Ganguers, Norm Holton and Phil Coleman (my Zortman field partner), the Perarry joke. This was a joke that went on and on and on for as long as you were capable of stretching it out and Stroshein got it to close to a half hour. We sipped our beers, except for Norm who sipped his coke, and silently

listened to the story of Perarry. Now I will not get far into it but it appears a guy found a cute furry little creature one day about the size of a baseball and when he got near a cute little head popped out of the fur ball and said "Perarry's hungry!" So the guy fed the little creature some bread. He took Perarry home and over the months passing kept feeding it. It grew and grew and finally grew out of his home. The guy put Perarry on a big dump truck and took it to the edge of a cliff and started tipping the bucket. The guy all of a sudden stopped and decided he wanted to see Perarry just one more time. He held some food out and the much bigger head popped out of the much bigger ball of fur and looked around first at the cliff and back to the guy and said "It's a long way to tip Perarry!" You have to sing it! Well, Robert Stroshein became indelibly etched on my mind after that long drawn out joke and I tried on quite a few people over the years but just never managed to tell it the way he told it. RIP Robert Stroshein geological engineer and teller of long drawn out jokes!