**Jim Savage**

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| Jim was born in Sudbury in 1940 where his father worked for Inco as a geologist. In 1947 the family moved to the town of Swastika near Kirkland Lake. With a combination of nature (dad's geology gene) and nurture (mining was in the air) it is not too surprising that Jim has followed a lifelong career in the mining industry.After finishing Grade 13, Jim moved south, where in 1963, he graduated from the Hamilton Institute of Technology. In  | E:\2013 12 Probus booklet Photos\Savage, Jim.JPG |

June of that year, he accepted a position at Timberjack. Art Jones also started at Timberjack on the very same day. As they were both new to town and without a place to stay, they ended up sharing an apartment for the next year and a half until both fellows got married. This all happened fifty years ago this month.

In 1968, Jim was hired by the exploration drilling company, Heath and Sherwood, based in Kirkland Lake, so Jim found himself living in his boyhood town, Swastika.

Within a short number of years he became branch manager. In 1986, when a group from the management team bought out the previous owner, Jim was appointed president. After his retirement, Jim and his wife, Marylin, moved to Sudbury where Jim had family. Later the Savages moved to Woodstock joining their children who now live in Guelph and Waterloo.

Around the time Jim started with H & S, the company developed a new process for drilling known as 'slim hole wire line core drilling'. In exploratory drilling, as the drill moves through the rock, the on-site geologists are keen to assay the mineral content at the drill head. In conventional drilling, every time the core is examined the entire drilling mechanism must be raised to the surface, one section at a time (a very time consuming process when drilling to 10,000 ft). The 'slim hole' method allows core samples to be extracted without dismantling the drill – the core at the rock face is pulled up to the surface by a wire attached to a device at the business end of the drill.

Slim hole wire line core drilling quickly attracted interest in Canada. Heath & Sherwood did several projects for Inco in the Sudbury area drilling to over 10,000 ft in the Precambrian shield. During the course of Jim's career, work assignments took him to sites in the Canadian Arctic, the USA, China, Sweden, Australia, Jamaica and South Africa. The South African mining companies were so impressed with the amazing capabilities of the Canadian equipment that they started to compete with one another on how deep into the ground they could go. When one company reached a record 17,792 ft they didn't want to stop, that is, until they realized that should the equipment fail the South Africans would be on the hook for half a million dollars in lost aluminum connecting rods.

It was clear from Jim enthusiasm for the topic that Jim's working career full of challenges and was very interesting and rewarding. He did a fine job of making a quite technical topic accessible to his fellow Probians.