

## REAL-WORLD METEOROLOGY

*A series of profiles celebrating a half-century of Certified Consulting Meteorologists*



**Who:** William “Bill” Thompson

**What:** Consulting meteorologist

**When:** CCM since 1972

**Where:** Calgary, Alberta, Canada

**Why:** Thompson’s early years included experience with a national weather service, a regional flood-warning organization, and the environmental departments of an oil company and an energy regulatory agency. Consulting provided him with an opportunity to use this variety of experience to operate on an independent basis.



**How:** At the time of application, the process consisted of a written exam followed by an oral exam. The examining committee consisted of highly credible members of the weather service and research institutions. The exam was rigorous. The process has recently been enhanced to ensure that consultants remain active and technically competent.

**In His Own Words:** “I became an active consultant in 1986. By about 1990, most of my projects were international in nature. One of my larger projects was in the installation of a real-time hydrometeorological data acquisition system in the Karakoram Mountains of Northern Pakistan. Other projects included an upgrade of a wave forecast system in the Arabian Gulf, hail mitigation in Argentina, and transfer of radar technology to Dominican Republic Weather Service (ONAMET) meteorologists. I have also worked on projects in several other countries.

“Typically, many weather-related projects are undertaken by firms whose primary interest is not meteorology. For those of us not affiliated with a research institute or a national weather service, accreditation serves three purposes. First, it sets a standard for training and experience. Second, endorsement by the AMS provides a level of comfort for potential clients. Third, it enhances the profile of meteorology as a discipline within international lending institutions and aid organizations. At least two of my projects can be attributed to referrals as a result of certification.”

*For more information on the Certified Consulting Meteorologist (CCM) Program, please visit the AMS Web site at [www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html](http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html).*