

MOUNT MICHENER



Courtesy of Onig Cavoukian, Cavouk Portraits

The Right Honourable Roland Michener at the summit of Mount Michener (undated).

Named in honour of The Right Honourable Daniel Roland Michener

P.C., C.C., C.M.M., O.Ont., Q.C., C.D., B.A. (Alberta),
M.A. and B.C.L. (Oxon.), LL.D., D.C.L.
Governor General of Canada 1967 – 1974

Chancellor of Queen's University,
recipient of the Royal Victorian Chain from the Queen,
High Commissioner to India, Ambassador to Nepal,
Speaker of the House of Commons,
Provincial Secretary of Ontario, Barrister.

Daniel Roland Michener was born on April 19, 1900 in Lacombe and raised in Red Deer. His parents, Senator Edward Michener and Mary Roland, both natives of Lincoln County, Ontario, were pioneers in central Alberta. His wife, and indispensable partner, Norah Evangeline Willis, C.C., Ph.D., LL.D., Litt.D., was born in Manitoba and raised in Vancouver.

On August 26, 1979, in a ceremony at this site the Honourable Peter Lougheed, Q.C., Premier of Alberta, formally announced the naming of this prominent natural feature in honour of one of the Province of Alberta's most illustrious figures. Mount Michener, with its triangular peak, is a landmark in the upper valley of the North Saskatchewan River.

Mount Michener, a 2,545-metre peak, forms the north end of the Ram Range, a portion of the Front Ranges of the Rocky Mountains. The mountain is mainly comprised of cliff-forming Devonian and Mississippian limestones which were deposited in shallow seas some three hundred and sixty to three hundred and twenty million years ago.

The Rocky Mountains began to form in the Late Cretaceous Period and reached their culmination in the Early Tertiary Period some fifty million years ago. During this mountain building period, thousands of metres of rock were thrust upward and slowly pushed northeastward along major faults until their width had been shortened by eighty to one hundred and twelve kilometres. The contorted beds near the summit of this mountain are risible evidence of the tremendous forces which acted upon these rocks.

Mount Michener has been sculptured to its present-day form by millions of years of weathering and erosion, in which running water and glacial ice have been the dominant agents.



Portrait of His Excellency the Right Honourable Roland Michener, Governor General of Canada, and his wife Norah Willis Michener, September 25, 1967.

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