

J. Stewart Marshall



Born on 18 July 1911, in Welland, Ontario, John Stewart Marshall was the son of a school inspector, John Wells Marshall, and Catherine Amelia, nee Stewart. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts from Queen's University in 1931 and a Master of Arts in nuclear physics the following year. Marshall was awarded an 1851 Exhibition scholarship, which enabled him to study at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge. He spent four years at the laboratory, the last year of which was funded by a research fellowship from the Royal Society of Canada. Marshall earned his Ph.D. from Cambridge in 1940.

Marshall returned to Canada and married in Ottawa in December 1940. He worked with the National Research Council and was later seconded to the Canadian Army Operation Research Group. During World War II, his significant contributions involved identifying and interpreting weather-related radar echoes. After the war, Marshall joined the McGill University faculty as an Assistant Professor and established the Stormy Weather Group. He was appointed Associate Professor in 1947 and Full Professor in 1954. Marshall's leadership in fundamental cloud physics research and his early adoption of radar as a research tool established McGill as a global leader in the field.

In 1959, Marshall assumed the presidency of the Executive when it relocated from Toronto to Montreal. He organized a meeting with the Learned Societies in June 1960 at Queen's University in Kingston. As President, Marshall visited and spoke to each of the Centres, hoping to establish that as a tradition. As Past President, he convened a session on precipitation physics at the National Meteorological Congress in Montreal. In 1966, Marshall assumed the Presidency of the science section of the Royal Society of Canada.

Marshall retired from McGill University in 1979. In his honor, the J.S. Marshall Radar Observatory at McGill University was named for him. He passed away on 29 March 1992, leaving behind a legacy of groundbreaking work in radar meteorology.