Glossary

- ***Earthquake*** – A sudden violent shaking of the ground, typically causing great destruction, as a result of movements within the earth's crust or volcanic action.
- ***Seismic waves***- Seismic waves are waves of energy that travel through the Earth's layers, and are a result f earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, magma movement, large landslides and large man-made explosions that give out low-frequency acoustic energy.
- ***Focus or Hypocenter-***The seismic waves radiate out from a central point, called the focus or hypocenter, like ripples moving outward from a pebble tossed into a lake.
- ***Epicentre***-The location directly above the hypocenter, on the earth's surface, is called the epicentre.
- ***Plate tectonics theory***-Plate tectonics is the theory that the outer rigid layer of the earth (the lithosphere) is divided into a couple of dozen “tectonic plates" that move around across the earth's surface relative to each other, like slabs of ice on a lake.
- ***Continental Drift***-Continental drift is the movement of the Earth's continents relative to each other, thus appearing to "drift" across the ocean bed.
- ***Richter Scale***-The Richter scaleis a mathematical device to compare the size of earthquakes. The magnitude of an earthquake is determined from the logarithm of the amplitude of waves recorded by seismographs.
- ***Faults***-A fault is a thin zone of crushed rock separating blocks of the earth's crust. When an earthquake occurs on one of

these faults, the rock on one side of the fault slips with respect to the other.

- ***Foreshocks***-A foreshock is an earthquake that occurs before a larger seismic event (the main shock) and is related to it in both time and space.
- ***Aftershocks***- An aftershock is a smaller earthquake that occurs after a previous large earthquake, in the same area of the main shock.
- ***Magnitude***-Earthquake size is a quantitative measure of the size of the earthquake at its source. The Richter Magnitude Scale measures the amount of seismic energy released by an earthquake.