

Dr. Donald M. Kent

The person to whom this award will be given, has become an active member of the Geological Society for so many years, that he has become an institution, one whom we find ourselves often taking for granted. Yet we know, those of us who have been around him for a long time, that without him, the Geological Society would have been only a promise of what it is today – a thoroughly vibrant, energetic and progressive organization.

So who is he? I have already removed half of the suspense! Let's see. He was Born in Medicine Hat, above the famed natural gas field by that name. In 1959 he had completed his M.Sc at the U of S on the Lloydminster Oilfield – All of it! There are now 200 oil pools in that oilfield, so that had to be a long time ago.

In that year, he published his first report for the Saskatchewan Department of Mineral Resources on the Ordovician. After that, he worked his way up the stratigraphic section into the Duperow Formation, with an authoritative big box study published as DMR report no. 99, in 1968. That was also the dissertation for his doctorate from the U of A. Then, it was up into the Mississippian with DMR Report 141, in 1974, and he is now our unquestioned authority on these rocks in the Williston Basin.

The times were also coincident with his change of venue to the Department of Geological Sciences of the University of Regina, in 1975. He has served there as chairman and professor of Geology over the years 1982-1988 and 1991 to 1996. There are many former students out there in the rocky world of professional employment who look up to him as their father confessor!

Over the years he has established his presence in the professional world by his accomplishments! He has seen the Saskatchewan Geological Society through thick and thin; from the lean days of the early 1960's, when the offices of the petroleum companies were moved to Calgary, and the membership and treasury had to be rebuilt. He has served on the executive committee more times than anyone I know! In fact, he was president in 1965, 1969, 1979, and 2001. He has served on the symposium committees and led more than 25 field trips, far more than anyone else; and with all of that has maintained a high quality scientific output in papers, posters and talks, nationally and internationally.

In the area of professional services, Don was awarded the Distinguished Service award by the Association of Professional Engineers and geoscientists of Saskatchewan in 2000.

One cannot speak of Don without mentioning football. As a measure of his contributions to amateur and professional football, Don was presented with the national Tom Cheney Award in 1996.

Ladies and Gentlemen: it is my privilege, on behalf of the Society, to make this presentation of the Saskatchewan Geological Society Geoscience Honour Roll Award to Dr. Don Kent.



Dr Kent and Dr Christopher accepting the Honour Roll plaque, AGM, 2004