



The Rock Record - February, 2015

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*Please contribute to the SGS
Newsletter*

The SGS Newsletter is produced by the SGS executive. Letters, announcements, notices, comments, photos, news and information about SGS members, etc. are always welcome. Call an executive member or write to us at:

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Saskatchewan Geological Society Luncheon Talk

Monday, February 23rd

Ms. Deb Shewfelt, North Rim Exploration
Saskatchewan Potash – Understanding an Ancient
Dead Sea to Sustain Modern Life

Ramada Hotel, 1818 Victoria Avenue, Regina
Poplar Room, 3rd Floor

Lunch: 11:45 a.m.

Meeting talk: 12:15-1:00 p.m.

For lunch the cost is:

Members: \$15.00

Student Members: \$5.00

Non-Members: \$20.00

For those not having lunch the talk is free

Please contact Jason Cosford at cosford@jdmollard.com
or 306-352-8811 before noon, Friday, February 20th
if you are planning to have lunch.

DETAILS OF NEXT LUNCHEON TALK

Deb Shewfelt - Biography

After attaining an Honours B.Sc. in Geology and a second degree in Anthropology at the University of Manitoba, Deb continued her education at the University of Saskatchewan, where she attained a M.Sc. in Geology. Deb's early geological experience was gained in academic, industry and government forums in gold, base metal and uranium exploration. Since joining the North Rim team as a part owner and manager, Deb has consulted as a Senior Advisor to potash projects and is a contributing author of technical potash reports. She is also involved in the development of North Rim's innovative data management and educational outreach products.

Deb is passionate about geoscience educational outreach across the province at all educational levels and for technical and non-technical audiences. In addition to her consultation with provincial academic institutions, she is also a member of the Canadian Geoscience Education Network (CGEN), represents North Rim as a member of the International Minerals Innovation Institute (iMii) Education and Training panel, and is a member of the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Centre for Minerals Innovation steering committee.

ABSTRACT

Saskatchewan Potash - Understanding An Ancient Dead Sea To Sustain Modern Life

The Middle Devonian (~390Ma) potash horizons of the Saskatchewan Prairie Evaporite Formation are world-class deposits. The regionally extensive, consistent and high grade nature of these paleo-sedimentary basin deposits make these sylvite horizons *the* measuring stick against which other evaporite concentrations are considered. While these qualities perhaps evoke a predictive, simple, and unchallenging commodity from an exploration and mining perspective, numerous parameters influence the economics and practicalities of bringing these sensitive deposits to fruition and sustaining production to (literally) feed the world.

This talk will provide a brief overview of the depositional history, stratigraphy, mineralogy and texture of the Patience Lake, Belle Plaine and Esterhazy Members of the Prairie Evaporite Formation and will also touch on industry-norm potash exploration techniques and early-stage success indicators. Along with what it takes to make the "grade", challenges facing the potash industry will also be examined as they relate to safety, ground control and processing. Comparisons between select public mineral resource estimations completed for Saskatchewan potash projects will be examined as will the various mining techniques currently used by industry.



NEWS AND EVENTS

President's Blog

Our annual general meeting was one of the best attended in years and I attribute that largely to David MacDougall's efforts. David's idea to presell tickets for the meeting caused members to commit early and produced a better turn-out than sending out emails reminding people to attend. Ken Ashton's honour roll induction by David was exceptionally well done and provided extended entertainment! It helped the evening, of course, to have such a witty and wise honour roll inductee such as Ken Ashton. The Travelodge was once again a good venue and we intend to stick with that locality for another year.

We have discussed one change for next year's annual general meeting and would like your feedback about this idea. To keep doing things a certain way, just because that's the way they have always been done, is certainly easy but not always better. Therefore, we are contemplating to move the business portion of the meeting ahead of the dinner and social part of the evening. One suggested option would be to start the business meeting at 5 pm, simultaneous with some social function for spouses, followed by 6:30 pm cocktails, 7 pm dinner and 8-10 pm awards and social part to the evening. We are suggesting this because this will be less disruptive to the social portion of the evening. Please let either myself or David MacDougall know what you think of this proposed change for next year.

This brings me to the final paragraph in which I will rant a little bit. Some background first. The PTRC is currently leading an initiative that involves the Society, the Sask Geological Survey and a number of other agencies to put together a Geological App for mobile devices that will feature the province. This App will be loosely based on the Society's Geological Highway Map. It's a great idea and my rant is not about the App but more about the highways in our province. As I am writing this, I am driving on #1 Highway, BC bound. Just to be clear, when I say I am driving, it's not me who is actually behind the wheel; I am just a passenger at the moment. After Medicine Hat you encounter many roadside pull-outs in Alberta, some bigger some smaller, some with washrooms some without, some scenic some not so much. The point is, there is one of those every 50 km or so. Do you know how many road-side turnouts exist between Whitewood and Maple Creek along the Saskatchewan portion of #1 Highway? None. I don't think there is a single one. There used to be one between Regina and Pense, but that one has been used to store dirt for years and is therefore not functional for its originally intended use. The weighscale just west of Regina would have easily been converted into a larger reststop, but it was demolished and converted back to prairie. Why am I ranting about road-side turnouts? Because I think they are needed to sell our province a bit. Despite the digital age we live in, people still appreciate to be able to get out of a vehicle and read an information bulletin, historical or geological fact. There are enough spots along #1, #11 and #16 Highways that would lend themselves to advertise the natural and geological beauty of our province, as well as speak to the fact that a large part of our wealth is due to our natural resources. Whether it is a hard copy geological map or a digital app, one of the key fundamentals for these products to fully work are some places along our highways where you can stop and relax. Maybe some of the bigger resource companies would be willing to sponsor such roadside turnouts for promoting themselves as well as the province.



Annual Bonspiel

Our 11th annual bonspiel will take place on March 7th at the Tartan Curling Club. You can sign up as a team of four or individually. Prepayment is required this year. Please get your entry forms from Monica Cliveti. For further details please see poster below or visit: <http://sgshome.ca/events/bonspiel>.

SASKATCHEWAN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
AND THE
D.M.KENT CLUB OF GEOLOGY
ANNUAL CURLING BONSPIEL



SATURDAY
March 7, 2015
6:30 pm sharp

Tartan Curling Club
1464 Broadway Ave., Regina

Costume Curling

\$ 15 per curler / guest
Covers ice, equipment (but bring your costume), prizes and pizza buffet
Please pay by MARCH 3 – Enter as a team of 4 or individually

Maximum 64 curlers (16 teams)
Please register early to be sure you have a spot

For further info and to get your entry form please contact
Michelle Hanson at michelle.hanson@gov.sk.ca
Monica Cliveti at monica.cliveti@uregina.ca
DMKent Club Executive at dmkentclub@gmail.com



**Come have FUN! Best Costumes and Best
Curlers win prizes!**





APEGS AGM

Please take note of the date and time of the 85th APEGS annual meeting. A poster is pasted below. As geoscientists we tend to be underrepresented at this event. There are some very interesting speakers at this year's meeting and it is in a very convenient location. I don't think you need to register for the event. Please [go here](#) to find out more details.

85th Annual Meeting and Professional Development Conference

Through the Decades - We see more



April 30 - May 2, 2015
Hotel Saskatchewan
Regina SK

Thursday April 30

- Evening Welcome Event

Friday May 1

- Professional Development Streams and Luncheon
- President's Reception

Saturday May 2

- Business Meeting
- Partners Program
- Youth Science Day
- Volunteer Luncheon
- Awards Banquet

Professional Engineers and Geoscientists
We see more. 
www.apegs.ca



OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

SGS 2015 Field Trip

Our fieldtrip this year will go to Montana. Stay tuned for further details, which will be provided in one of the upcoming newsletters by field trip committee chair John Lake. Highlights will likely include visits to the Stillwater Complex and Shonkin Sag.

Luncheon Speaker Program

If anyone has any ideas for luncheon speakers please contact Jason Cosford (cosford@jdmollard.com) or Maria Velez (maria.velez@uregina.ca).

Membership

SGS membership is on a calendar year basis. Please renew your membership for 2015 if you have not already done so. The most convenient way to renew your membership is to do it online and pay by paypal; you do not need a paypal account to do this: <http://sgshome.ca/membership>.

Honour Roll Committee

We are looking for new members to join the Honour Roll Committee. A lot of the work of the Society is done by committees. Most of these involve a few meetings a year, but are really not that onerous. If you are interested to join this committee please contact David MacDougall (dgmacdougall@accesscomm.ca).

Geological Calendar Committee

We have a committee now, which includes in no specific order Monica Cliveti, Michelle Hanson, Bernadette Knox, Jason Cosford, Ken Ashton, Janis Dale and Ralf Maxeiner. Our goal is to produce a calendar which will feature our province's geology from north to south, Archean to Quaternary, microscopic to landscape. Please submit your photos for consideration to Ralf.Maxeiner@gov.sk.ca by the end of March.

OUR 2015 CORPORATE SPONSORS

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PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE
AGRIUM, VANSCOY POTASH OPERATIONS
CAPRICE RESOURCES LTD
POTASH CORPORATION OF SASKATCHEWAN
HUSKY ENERGY
CLAUDE RESOURCES
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