



The Rock Record – August 2022

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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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President’s Blurb

Hi Everyone.

Turning the calendar page to August reminds me that we’re now on the back half of summer. Good thing I’ve had several opportunities to goof off....with more to come.

The Williston Basin Petroleum Conference returned to Regina in May. It was nice to hob-nob with friends and colleagues I’ve not seen since the plague arrived. Revenue from the associated core workshop supports our many activities while providing an opportunity for geologists to actually look at rocks. This year we renamed the core workshop to the **Dr. Don Kent Core Workshop** to honour Don’s many contributions to our society and to our understanding of the geology of the Williston Basin.

We’ll be having our first golf tournament in a few years. Nadene Joy recently joined the SGS executive as Business Manager and jumped right in with Monica Cliveti to organize the event. It’s being held on Friday, September 9th at 1 pm at Green Acres Golf Club and looks to be a doozie. And Monica has graciously offered to host a party after the tournament at her home in White City. Please check out the details and register on the SGS website.


Our Program volunteers, Brendan Bishop and Dave Thomas, are already organizing the fall speaker program so if you have ideas for speakers, please contact them. We hope to provide in-person/video link lunchtime talks as often as possible.

Many thanks to the contributors. This is our community newsletter so please consider contributing yourself.

The Saskatchewan Geological Society is now on **LinkedIn**. Follow the page for updates on upcoming luncheon talks, events, and recent research on the geology of Saskatchewan. <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sas-geosociety>. If there is anything you would like featured on the page or have any suggestions, please reach out to Brendan Bishop at bab495@uregina.ca.

Check this out:


The SGS will be again hosting a field trip in a few weeks! Our organizers John Lake, Dave Thomas and Mike Thomas have put together a spectacular trip to Flin Flon. It's cheap, it's fun and it's fun, so consider coming along. Attending provides an excellent opportunity to learn from others passionate about these rocks. You can register on the SGS website.



2022 Annual Field Trip

Flin Flon Greenstone Belt and Ordovician Carbonates

WHEN : Friday 26th August – Tuesday 30th August, 2022



The Paleoproterozoic Early Paleoproterozoic Flin Flon greenstone belt is a world class volcanically hosted massive sulphide (VMS) district.

The field trip will visit superb exposures of...

- Volcanic and sedimentary rocks with well preserved primary structures and stratigraphic relations
- High strain zones illustrating the transition from Missisquoi Group conglomerates to banded tectonites
- Calcalkaline early successor arc plutons
- Drill core display from the Hudson Bay 777 VMS deposit
- Ordovician dolostones

Cost: **\$600.00... REGULAR AND \$300 ... STUDENTS**

includes... transportation from Regina to Flin Flon and return, accommodations, lunches, beverages, field trip guidebook

Registration:


To register, visit our website and fill out the accompanying registration form ([link](https://sgshome.ca/events/registration/)) <https://sgshome.ca/events/registration/>

Principal Field Trip Leader:


Dr. Michelle DeWolfe, Mount Royal University, Calgary

The SGS is privileged to have Dr. Michelle DeWolfe of Mount Royal University as the principal leader for the 2022 annual field trip. Dr. DeWolfe's PhD research focused on the hanging wall sequence to the Flin Flon VMS deposits and her primary research interests include: volcanology, in particular in submarine environments, and the volcanic and magmatic controls on the location and formation of volcanogenic massive sulphide (VMS) deposits during the evolution of volcanic complexes and associated hydrothermal systems.

SGS Field Trip Committee:
John Lake, Mike Thomas, David Thomas



Pillow basalt flow, Amisk Group



Paleoweathered clasts, Missisquoi Group



Remembering Don Kent

Dr. Don Kent has had such an impact as a researcher, teacher, mentor and friend to many in our extended geological community so we've invited anyone to share some personalized comments or stories about Don. He passed away on June 8th.



In June, 2021 Don was presented with the 2021 Canadian Professional Geoscientist Award - this is Geoscientists Canada's highest honour. This award recognizes the achievements of an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the development and practice of professional geoscience and who has advanced public recognition of the profession in Canada in their capacity as a registered professional geoscientist. Dr. Donald Kent, is a distinguished award-winning geologist with long-standing research interests in the geology of carbonate hydrocarbon reservoir rocks. His contributions to understanding the petroleum geology of Canada, in particular the Williston Basin, provided much of the foundation upon which petroleum exploration in Saskatchewan was based.

From Janis Dale:

Dr. Don Kent is one of the original five members of what is now the Department of Geology at the University of Regina. His devotion to teaching was evident throughout his career and his impact lasts to this day, best seen by his sedimentology course and associated labs where students get hands on experience using cores from the Core Lab. In addition, Don was selected to chair the first national committee to develop the course requirements for professional accreditation for Geoscientists (APEGs) that still stands today. Don continued to teach for many years after his retirement, a blessing for department heads. After retirement, he and Dr. Bob Macdonald graciously developed and taught a fourth-year course covering the Geology of Saskatchewan, which allowed new generations of geology students to benefit from their combined knowledge. The impact of his teaching and the affection and respect with which Dr. Kent is held is best illustrated by the fact that in 2005 the undergraduate geology students renamed their club the DM Kent Club of Geology to honour him and show their appreciation for his contribution to their education and experience at the University of Regina!



Don's love of field trips and experiential learning is legend in the department. He set up a field trip fund for the students that has been used for many excursions including one to Iceland! I first met Don on an SGS field trip to North and South Dakota. I had just moved to Saskatchewan and knew next to nothing about the geology of the prairies. "What's the Bakken?" I asked, the look on the group's faces was priceless except Don and Jim Christopher who set out to explain the entire history of the Paleozoic! This broke the ice and set off a barrage of questions from the others who now felt confident to ask after my ridiculous question! Don later teased me that he was trying to shift me from surface geology to the subsurface!!

From Dale Wright:

It is with sadness that I hear of Don's passing, he goes to the great rock hunt in heaven, to heck with streets of gold! It was Don who first convinced me to venture into soft rock, I had been headed down that schisty path into metamorphics when I took his first night class in sedimentology. This was when he still had a day job at DNR. It was the next year that he came on board the staff at U of S (that dates us) and early that fall he headed up a field trip into the quarries of the Interlakes of Manitoba. We had a van and a station wagon and headed into Manitoba for a long weekend. It turned out to be hot, sunny and dry that weekend so the local watering establishments were in high demand by us young and impressionable geology students. It was at one of these establishments, after a long hot day in the dusty quarries that we retired to wash the dust down. I was sitting at the isle end of the table with Don across from me and the rest of the gang spread town a long table. We had just received our order and had the first few gulps down, and were starting to go over our experiences in the quarries and relax. You must understand that I was not your typical clean cut university student at the time, after spending my summer in northwestern Saskatchewan exploring for uranium for Denison Mines, I had let my personal grooming lag a bit and with full bushy red beard and with long fuzzy, windblown hair, I made a bit of a spectacle. As I was leaning over conversing with several guys down the table, I felt my shoulder forcefully jerked back so I was in the upright position. Looking up I was met by the drunken face of a local rancher, cowboy hat included, yelling into my face about him having to pay taxes and who the hell was I to come into his local bar. Don was out of his chair before I could even register what was happening. He spun that guy around and cold cocked the cowboy before anybody could react. He went down like a ton of bricks. The bar went quiet as everyone in the establishment registered what had just happened. Luckily the bar tender had been paying attention and came rushing over, grabbed the cowboy by the scruff of the neck and with the help of one of his customers dragged him out and literally threw him out the door onto the street. The bar tender returned and made many apologies, I guess our business was valued and my esteem for Don Kent went up through the roof. We were good friends from that point on, and yes, I did follow into soft rock.

From Dongqing Chen

I was greatly saddened by the death of Dr. Don Kent. When I enrolled at the University of Regina for Ph.D. studies in 1995, Dr. Kent was Head of the Department of Geology and Chair of the Ph.D. Supervisory Committee for my doctoral program. I had many good opportunities to learn from Dr. Kent. I took his class Geol 800 Review of a Current Problem in Earth Sciences and worked as teaching assistant to his class of Geology of Carbonate Rocks. As a recent immigrant, my English was still quite poor at the time. Dr. Kent was very kind and let me record his lectures using an old brick recorder so I could listen to them again to catch anything I missed. Dr. Kent was a good instructor, and I remember the patient manner with which he would answer all the students' questions. The chapter of "Paleogeographic Evolution of the Cratonic Platform - Cambrian to Triassic", which he authored in the Atlas of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin (WCSB), was foundational to my understanding of the WCSB's geology.



Dr. Kent actively participated in and sponsored many geological activities. At age 77, he joined the 2010 SGS field trip to the Bighorn Basin in Wyoming (3rd from right in the following photo). Dr. Kent was a strong hiker and in good spirits. Everyone in the photo was so happy. Dr. Kent was greatly admired and will be fondly remembered.



From John Lake

Don and I coauthored many Core Workshops for the CSPG in Calgary during the 2010s. The subject did not matter to Don. We agreed to disagree on our opinions of what we were presenting. A "maybe I was right" was as far as Don would concede that I was on the right track. Don sat in the chair and caught up with his grad students who had emigrated to the Big City. They all respected his integrity, teaching skills and geological knowledge and were glad to see him. We enjoyed each others company.





October 2015, Avonlea Badlands.

Don shared his field knowledge on all the Field Trips that he led. He showed us the way that Field Geologists would correlate the surface exposures of the Williston Basin in Manitoba, Montana, the Dakotas and Wyoming to the subsurface in southern Saskatchewan. We had many adventures and saw some pretty cool rocks. The Field Trip stories are legendary in the Saskatchewan Geological Society. We met a lot of eccentric and very knowledgeable geologists who were excited to share their findings with us. His last field trip was to the Avonlea Badlands in 2015 and showed us how Petroleum Exploration was conducted using Anticlinal Theory originally postulated by William Logan - Father of Canadian Geology. A former Undergraduate Student of Don's happened to call me when we were out scouting out the field trip. He did not take Sedimentology as he was planning a career in Mining. Don did not forget and gave him heck for not taking the course after all those years.

I visited Don at the Care Home shortly before he passed away. He was anxious to tell me that he thought that there is upside potential for Jurassic Oil accumulations east of the producing pools in southwest Saskatchewan. Always looking out for the welfare of the Province so we can have a better standard of living in the future. Don's philosophy was that the Geologist who sees the most rocks, wins!

Don was a Winner! A Coors Light cheers to Dr. Don Kent.



From Fran Haidl

I first met Don Kent 47 years ago when I decided to pursue a career in Geology and registered in the B.Sc. Geology program at the University of Regina. Don was assigned to provide me with advice regarding the basic classes required and the various options I would have regarding the different fields of Geology. He provided me with excellent advice then and continued to do so throughout my time at the U of R and throughout my geological career. I learned quickly that Don Kent was a very special person. He shared his knowledge and his passion about geology with his students, his colleagues and many others in the geological community and beyond. Don always emphasized the importance of having fun learning geology and this was very easy to do on field trips with him. Don was well-liked by his students and many, including me, became his longtime friends.

Hairuo Qing, Dept. of Geology, UofR

I met Don in 1998 when I came to Regina for my job interview. Ever since, I had such a privilege to have Don as my best mentor, friend, and colleagues. I had a number of collaborative research projects with Don on dolomitization in the Williston Basin over the years. Don took me to a field trip to the see Winnipegosis outcrops along Manitoba border. I was amazed at his knowledge and I learnt a lot from Don from this field trip. Don guest-lectured in my carbonate course many times, shared with me and my students his experience on modern carbonate in Bahamas. Don and I attended a number of CSPG and AAPG conferences together. We shared many interesting discussions that could extend into dinner time and late evenings. Don would gladly, and humorously, introduce me to his colleagues and friends at the conferences, "Hairuo is my replacement at UofR", "just as dolomite replaces limestone".



Dinner with Don and Joyce during 2008 AAPG Conference in San Antonio. The dinner conversations with Don continued at 2 am on a sidewalk in front of the hotel due to the fire alarm; we were both in our pajamas although it was not a PJ party.

Don was one of founding professors of the Department of Geology. He was instrumental in the continuous evolution and development of the Department of Geology as we see it today. Don would do everything he could to help the Department and geology students. Even after his retirement, Don taught some graduate courses a number of years without remuneration. During my visit to Don at Spruce Lane Care Home in



December 2021, in addition to exchange our family news, I was able to updated Don about the latest developments within the Department, because I know deep in his heart, he still cared about Geology Department. I planned to more visits; unfortunately the widespread of Omicron in 2022 restricted my planned visit. Don made significant contributions in our understanding of geology in the Williston Basin. He left with us a legacy of publications on sedimentation and diagenesis of carbonate rocks for the benefit future geologists in generations. Over the years, Chao and I, had privilege to have Don and Joyce to our home for a Chinese meal and several Christmas parties. Don also invited us over to his place to enjoy a big juicy steak with his favourite beer, which of course we all know was Coors light.



Don and Joyce at 2011 Christmas Party at the Qing's.



2011 Christmas Party at the Qing's. Don and Janis shared a laughter, over Stephen Bend's joke.

I am grateful to Don for his friendship over the years, for his support to the Geology Department and for his contributions to geoscience.



From Stephen Bend

When I think of Don Kent, as a former colleague of the Dept. of Geology in the early 1990s, what immediately comes to mind was how 'student centered' Don was. This doesn't mean he was a 'push over', rather he always made time for students, was always well prepared in the classroom and understood the diverse needs of both undergraduate and graduate student alike. Don was passionate about his subject matter and teaching. I accompanied Don on several Field Trips in the early 1990s and witnessed a colleague with a passion and enthusiasm for sedimentology and carbonate geology in particular, and recognizing in Don, an instructor with lots of patience with students. It is true to say that I learned more about reef-building structures in a single visit to the carbonate outcrops in Manitoba than I did during my undergraduate years. Don was so passionate about teaching and his subject matter, that he continued to teach and mentor students well into retirement (at no cost to the University) and it is certainly fitting that Alumni and the student body chose to name the student geology club the D. M. Kent Club.

I learned a number of key elements from Don that helped me as Dept Head. Don's nemesis as Dept. Head was 'timetabling' and 'Faculty annual reviews'. I concur with his sentiment regarding the nightmare of 'timetabling', but it wasn't until I took over as Head I understood Don's perspective regarding the annual Faculty review. He never gave a negative review, and always tried to find the positives in each of his colleagues, even though each and every one of us lacked perfection. I understood his sentiment that it was 'unfair' to comment negatively in a review unless the matter had been initially discussed with a colleague and remedies collectively sought. He conveyed the importance of being 'fair minded' and the importance of always being open and accessible to both colleague and student alike. He also taught me the importance and significance of 'stakeholders' to the Department of Geology and how the Dept was intrinsically connected to the outside world though it's alumni, Govt. Agencies and various Industry sectors. Knowledge that became so important during the tough-times of the late 1990s.

Being a transplanted Brit, I had never heard of the CFL or even knew what a 'Rough Rider' was... but I soon learned! We all know Don was passionate about Canadian Football, initially as player, then Referee and ultimately as a CFL Official. He invited me to a couple of games and tried his very best to teach me the complexities of the game. He knew I was a keen runner, cross-country skier/biathlete and mountain biker, and I think it is fair to say that Don's knowledge and ability within the sport of football was at the very highest. But biking, I'm not so sure! I remember a sheepish Don standing in my office doorway with an arm in a sling only to tell me he thought he could ride his bike down a flight of steps and realizing, too late, and as he went over the handlebars that it wasn't a good idea. I'm not sure what became of the bike!

Don also went to great length to prepare impeccable lecture notes. The binder was so thick and heavy, and of course in those days handwritten. But I recall a desperate and irate Don when his lecture notes 'disappeared' one winter semester after class. He could have invoked the 'Spanish Inquisition' and sought the culprit. But he didn't, even though he was *really* upset at the loss. But his patience paid off as his lecture notes miraculously turned up a week or so later, and we all sighed a collective sigh of relief!

As I sit and write this, I can recall his voice as we talked and how he helped me as a Junior Faculty member prepare for role as Dept. Head and as a supervisor of graduate students. Don certainly had a lasting positive impact upon me, upon so many students and the Department. Even though he retired from the University in 1996, Don impacted so many even during his retirement. He worked tirelessly within APEGS and also in seeking to establish a Canada-wide knowledge standard for geology. His is a lasting legacy, with a recognizable and an indelible positive impact upon the Department and geoscience in Canada. He will be sadly missed.



From David Macdougall

I was not a student of Don's, but got to know him through the Society Field Trips. His insight into the areas of exposed geology that we visited in Manitoba, the Dakotas, Montana and further afield was always interesting to listen to. And yes, he always took the time to answer questions and elaborate on some of the finer points. Here are a few of the many pictures taken during these field trips.



Roadkill Café, Sturgis, South Dakota, June 1995.



Hebgen Earthquake Zone, Montana, August 1997.





K-T boundary near Eastend, August 2004.



And later that same day, a real treat – sharing an SGS lunch.





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to see what is available and then contact Samantha at
samantha.vandekerckhove@gov.sk.ca to order.



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