

Geoscience Honour Roll Citation – Tim Tokaryk

This evening's nominee for the Saskatchewan Geological Society Geoscience Honour Roll is Tim Tokaryk. Tim was born in Winnipeg. His early years were spent in a number of centres due to his father's profession, but he was able to obtain all of his secondary schooling at Ross Shepherd High School in Edmonton. Although he had some interest in science and history in school, he admits to having been more interested in sports, specifically football and hockey. His athletic prowess can be gauged by the fact that in grade 12 he was offered a post-secondary school hockey scholarship, but he was unable to accept due to a serious knee injury received during a football game that ended his sports career. One might speculate that had it not been for the injury and loss of the scholarship, his career might have taken a different path, and he might not have been at this induction.

While still in high school, Tim's interest in science led him to volunteering as a paleontology lab technician at the Royal Alberta Museum. About the time that Tim finished his secondary school education the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller was about to commence operations, and he applied there for an advertised position as a paleontology lab technician. It was during the time spent at the Tyrrell that he began honing his skills in vertebrate paleontology. Tim left the museum in 1984 to take the position of head earth science technician at the then Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. In addition to doing the usual laboratory technical work of collecting, preparing, cataloguing, and replicating fossil vertebrate bones, he also supervised the excavation of several vertebrate sites. During his tenure in this position he was the discoverer of a new species of *Pseudotomus timmys* from the Late Eocene as well as the first recorded occurrence in Saskatchewan of a fossil Cretaceous bird. In 1991, Tim was appointed assistant curator of vertebrate paleontology at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum, continuing his involvement in excavations and discoveries. One of the long term excavations that he supervised was the *T. rex* discovery made in 1991 by him, Dr. John Storer and former Eastend high school principal, Robert Gebhardt. This discovery and the ensuing lengthy period of excavation led to the establishment of the Royal Saskatchewan Museum Fossil Research Station at Eastend, Saskatchewan, and the appointment of Tim as the paleontologist at this facility. Field research at the Station under his direction has led to vertebrate discoveries that included, a brontothere skeleton, two *Triceratops* skulls, a large theropod coprolite, a short-necked plesiosaur (*Dolichorhynchops herschelensis*) skeleton, and thousands of small skeletal and microvertebrate remains. In 2009, Tim was appointed head of the paleontology program at the Royal Saskatchewan Museum in Regina as well as Royal Saskatchewan Museum's *T. Rex* Discovery Centre in Eastend. He presently is still in this position, and his duties include administrating, curating, involvement in outreach projects as well as some time in the field.

Tim was registered with APEGS as a Professional Geoscientist in 1999. In addition, he has combined adjunct professor appointments in the Departments of Biology and Geology at the University of Regina. He has given lectures in both departments as well as co-supervising 4th year Bachelors theses in both biology and geology at the University of Regina. In addition to

being an advisor to student research projects at the University of Saskatchewan. He is also, presently, co-supervisor of a Master's thesis at the University of Regina. Tim's publication citations include authorship or co-authorship of 20 refereed papers, 80 non-refereed papers and 20 published abstracts of presented conference papers. He has also reviewed some fifty published articles on a variety of topics. Within his list of refereed publications are the taxonomies of 11 new taxa, included among them are new species of two Plesiosaurs, a crocodile, a rodent, two toothed birds, three sharks, a mammal and Late Cretaceous plant seeds.

Tim's enthusiasm for various aspects of vertebrate paleontology, and his contributions to that field in Saskatchewan make him an ideal nominee for induction into the Saskatchewan Geological Society's Geoscience Honour Roll.