



The Rock Record – December, 2019

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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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News & Upcoming Events

Calls for Nominations for the 2020 Executive

It's that time of year when anyone considering lending their hand with the 2020 Sask. Geol. Soc. executive should let their intentions be known and get themselves nominated. Some of the 2019 Executive (*listed to the left*) have agreed to stay on if necessary, some are moving on. So please give it some thought.

The volunteers of our Society are its strength. They allow it to continue its activities that have run uninterrupted since 1951. Executive members become part of this lengthy and very cool tradition. And who knows? If enough folks step forward, we could actually have an ELECTION for at least some positions..... except the 'past president' (*el antiguo presidente*) of course. That's all mine.

50th Annual Saskatchewan Geological Survey OPEN HOUSE, 2019

(Submitted by Ms. Samantha Van De Kerckhove, an Officer of the Survey)

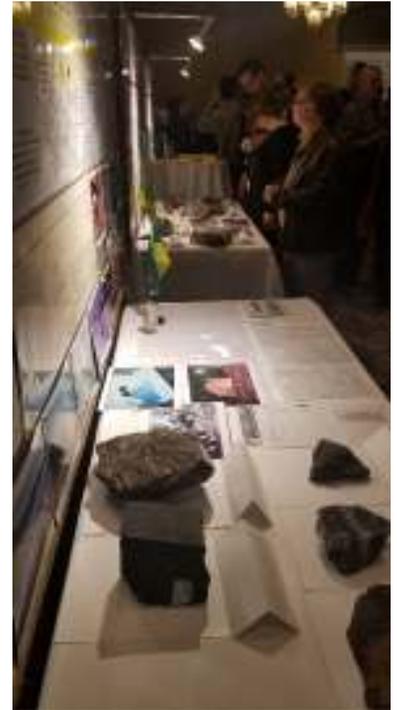
This year's Saskatchewan Geological Open House at the Delta Bessborough Hotel in Saskatoon was once again a great success. Well over 700 delegates registered, and a total of 58 commercial booths were displayed. Two short courses, Geophysics for Geologists and Geological Writing Workshop, were run in conjunction with the conference. The Open House officially kicked off the evening of Monday, December 2nd, with the ever-popular Icebreaker networking event and the Society's Student Poster Contest. Drawn in by the free-flowing barley beverage, attendees purchased many 2020 Saskatchewan Geoscience calendars and clothing at the Society booth. The highly successful public lecture, 'The unlikely story of the "Sleeping Dragon" - the world's best-preserved armoured dinosaur', was also held on Monday evening. Technical sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday were very informative and well attended. A major highlight of the conference this year was the 50th anniversary event held on Tuesday evening.

The 50th Anniversary Event

On the evening of Tuesday, December 3rd, the Battleford Room at the Bessborough was packed with conference attendees enjoying a splendor of delicious snacks catering and a magnificent and thorough timeline on the history of mining and exploration in Saskatchewan. The timeline spanned the perimeter of the ballroom denoting significant geological events and discoveries in the province, with prominent political events for reference. Accompanying the timeline were tables of rock and mineral samples, historic geological equipment, photos, newspaper clippings and more.

The door prize, in honour of the historical exploration and mining theme, was a mock dynamite box filled with local wine, geological books, clothing, foraged Saskatchewan teas and spices, a beautiful carving by Saskatchewan artist Rob Jerome and more. The dynamite box was built especially for the event by Survey staff member Natalie Thompson and her son Tuff.

The Association of Engineers and Geoscientists Saskatchewan (APEGs) and TEAM Drilling sponsored the event by providing catering and beverages, respectively.



The Public Lecture

The public lecture was delivered by Dr. Caleb Brown, Curator of Dinosaur Systematics and Evolution at the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta. Caleb delivered a captivating presentation on ‘The unlikely story of the “Sleeping Dragon” - the world’s best-preserved armoured dinosaur’, which really turned out to be an amazing story of good luck, due diligence, determination, amazing craftsmanship and really great science.

Caleb began by telling everyone how Shawn Funk was operating a giant excavator in the Suncor Millennium Mine north of Ft. McMurray, Alberta, when the excavator hit something out of the ordinary: a dinosaur. Shawn notified his supervisor, who called the museum. Mining was put on hold in that part of the pit and a few days later, staff from the museum

came to investigate. Following more than five years of careful preparation and conservation, the Royal Tyrrell Museum revealed one of the best-preserved armoured dinosaur specimens, a nodosaur, in the world. The family of Mark Mitchell, the person who prepared the specimen, ended up being at the lecture, which made the event even more special. In addition, Caleb shared with us that the specimen turned out to be a new species and that the species was named in honour of the person who had meticulously prepared it: *Borealopelta markmitchelli*.

What’s amazing about this specimen is that not only was the skeleton preserved, but also the armour, skin and other soft-tissues, including the remains of its last meal, preserved so well that the species of plants could be identified.



There were about 200 people in attendance for the lecture, some of whom stopped by the Society’s booth afterwards to learn more about our group. The Society would like to thank APEGs, the Saskatchewan Mining Association (SMA) and



the Saskatchewan Geological Survey for helping making this lecture a reality. Most importantly, we would like to thank Caleb for agreeing to make the long journey to Saskatoon and delivering an awesome and informative presentation.

Student Poster Contest

The Society's annual student poster contest was held on December 2nd in Saskatoon in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Geological Open House.

Seventeen graduate students presented posters. First place went to Arin Kitchen (University of Regina) who will receive the Lazlo Fuzesy Award, \$250 and a framed certificate. Second place went to Courtney Onstad (University of Saskatchewan) who will receive \$150 and a framed certificate. Third place went to Kelsey McKee (University of Regina) who will receive \$100 and a framed certificate. The three judges for this category were Bill Patterson (University of Saskatchewan), Dillon Johnstone (Saskatchewan Geological Survey) and a judge from the University of Regina geology department who are all thanked for doing an excellent job within a demanding timeframe.

In the Undergraduate Student category, first place was awarded to Daniel Ferguson (University of Regina) who will receive the President's Award, \$250 and a framed certificate. Murray Rogers (Saskatchewan Geological Survey) judged this category.

All of the student participants will receive a free Society membership for 2020. Titles of winning posters:

Deformation Bands and Their Relationship to Post-Depositional Faults Associated with Unconformity-related Uranium Deposits: A Case Study and Comparison of the C1 and Phoenix Fault Zones in the Eastern Athabasca Basin

Arin Kitchen, Kathryn Bethune, Gary Delaney and Erik Miller

Characterization of Host Rocks and Auriferous Quartz Vein Alteration Halos, Fisher Property, Seabee Gold Operation, Saskatchewan

Courtney Onstad, Kevin Ansdell, Camille Partin and Anders Carlson

Factors Controlling the Formation and Localization of Reverse-Offset Unconformity-related Uranium Deposits along the Midwest Trend, Athabasca Basin, Northern Saskatchewan

Kelsey McKee, Guoxiang Chi, Odile Maufrais-Smith, Craig Cutts and Patrick Ledru

Petrographic and Paragenetic Study of Uranium Mineralization along the Midwest Trend, Northeastern Athabasca Basin

Daniel Ferguson, Guoxiang Chi, Charles Normand, Patrick Ledru and Odile Maufrais-Smith

The Society thanks again the judges for their efforts reviewing the poster submissions, and to Mr. Murray Rogers of the Geological Survey who once again organized and managed this entire event. Much appreciated Murray.

News from University of Regina Geology Club *(submitted by Ms. Colbi Kuppenbender)*

13 students attended the Sask. Geol. Survey Open House in Saskatoon in early December, with travel expenses support from both the Survey & the Society. *(Travel support to the Open House also went to 3 students from Northlands College in LaRonge).*

And in the new year, the Geology Club will be sending 25 students to the Western Inter University Geoscience Conference (WIUGC) hosted by the University of Saskatchewan in January, 10 students will be attending Prospectors and Developers Conference (PDAC) in Toronto, 8 Students will be attending the Association for Mineral Exploration's Roundup in Vancouver, and 5 students will be attending the Canadian Indian Science and Engineering Society (CISES) in Saskatoon.

Society's Annual General Meeting on February 15, 2020 at the Atlas Hotel (formerly the Travel Lodge)

The New Year's Speaker Program will begin in January, 2020, schedule to be announced.



President's Blurb

The solstice and Christmas are fast approaching, cool time of year despite the darkness, & busy. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year everyone. 2020 beckons, the Society's 69th year.

OUR 2018-2019 CORPORATE MEMBERS:

