

Geoscience Honour Roll Citation – Fran Haidl

Our nominee was born in Medicine Hat, Alberta, but lived her early formative years on a farm near Consul, Saskatchewan, south of the Cypress Hills. After completion of her secondary school education, she followed a circuitous path to geology that included entrance into education, marriage and stay-at-home mom and a return to post-secondary studies at the University of Regina, when her youngest son start school. Even then, she did not espouse geology until she took Introductory Geology as a science elective. Like many harried housewives who decided on a university degree program, she was very focused and graduated with a B.Sc. Honours degree in Geology. Her Honours thesis was a study of the Frobisher Evaporite in the Benson Field area, supervised by Dr. Don Kent. She went on to do a Masters program, resulting in a thesis entitled “Geology and fluid distribution in the Lower Cretaceous Mannville Group, Celtic-Westhazel area, Saskatchewan” under the supervision of Dr. Laurence Vigrass. Her thesis won the CSPG prize for the best M.Sc. thesis in the year that it was released. Upon completion of her university education she was first employed with Saskoil. From there she moved to Serendipity Geological Associates and finally to Saskatchewan Energy and Mines.

Some of Fran’s early publications were based on data from her M.Sc. thesis, but from the time she started at Saskatchewan Energy and Mines she became the resident expert on Lower Paleozoic rocks. She has authored or co-authored 24 papers covering lithostratigraphy, biostratigraphy, isotope geochemistry and hydrocarbon potential of those rocks. In addition, she has co-authored papers on Devonian and Mississippian carbonates. Fran is also well recognized for her outreach efforts. She has been a mentor to female geology students, and played an active role in geological workshops for teachers as well as helping to creating geoscience lesson plans for elementary and high school teachers. She was a member of the working committee for Geoscape Southern Saskatchewan and the Geological Highway Map of Saskatchewan and is presently contributing to a layman’s book on the geology of Canada. When the Association of Professional Engineers of Saskatchewan proposed to rewrite the act to incorporate geoscientists, Fran was appointed a member of the act revision committee and following promulgation of the act she was elected to a two-year term as the geoscience representative for Southern Saskatchewan. In 2001 she was awarded the APEGS Brian Eckel Distinguished Service Award. She has represented Saskatchewan on the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists, and was a member of the Canadian Geoscience Council. In addition, she has been a council member of the Geological Association of Canada. Fran was also the first female president of the Saskatchewan Geological Society.

I’m sure that you will agree that Fran Haidl has made significant contributions to geoscience in Saskatchewan and more than meets the criteria for enrolment on the Geoscience Honour Roll.