

The Rock Record – December 2005

2005 Executive

President
Vacant

Vice-President
Vacant

Secretary
Vacant

Treasurer
Bob Troyer 787-2562

Business Manager
Jeff Coolican 787-0651

Program Chair
Steve Whittaker 787-2577

Assistant Program Chair
Kate MacLachlan 787-9059

Past President
Erik Nickel 787-0169

School Liaison Committee
Melinda Yurkowski 787-0650

Field Trip Committee
John Lake 787-2621

Golf Tournament Committee
Bob Troyer 787-2562

*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:

**Saskatchewan
Geological Society
P.O. Box 234
Regina, SK S4P 2Z6**

SGS e-mail address:
info@sgshome.ca

SGS Website:
www.sgshome.ca

All advertising inquiries should be directed to Andre Costa

In This Issue

- **Speaker Program Announcements & Abstracts** p. 1-2
- **Other Events** p. 2
- **Annual Meeting** p. 3

Wednesday, December 7th

Unraveling “Avalon” in the Northern Appalachian Orogen: Are you a Lumper, or a Splitter?

Cameron Bartsch

Lancaster Room, Royal Canadian Legion

Cash Bar: 11:30; Lunch: 11:50

Meeting: 12:15 – 13:00

Members \$7.00, Non-members \$11.00

Contact: Jeff Coolican 787-0651

By NOON, Tuesday, December 6th, 2005

Wednesday, December 21st

SGS 2005 Field Trip Talk

Speaker to be Conscripted

Lancaster Room, Royal Canadian Legion

Cash Bar: 11:30; Lunch: 11:50

Meeting: 12:15 – 13:00

Members \$7.00, Non-members \$11.00

Contact: Jeff Coolican 787-0651

By NOON, Tuesday, December 20th, 2005

Luncheon Talk Wednesday December 7th

Unraveling “Avalon” in the Northern Appalachian Orogen: Are you a Lumper, or a Splitter?

Cameron Bartsch, Saskatchewan Industry and Resources

Abstract

Mapping, U-Pb dating, and petrological studies continue to provide enhanced information about the geology of southern New Brunswick, but have yet to resolve the controversy surrounding the original relationships between the various fault-bounded belts of rocks that comprise that part of the Appalachian Orogen. The Late Neoproterozoic – Early Paleozoic ages of these rocks are consistent with those observed in the type-section of the Avalon terrane in Newfoundland and equivalent rocks on Cape Breton Island and mainland Nova Scotia. The similar ages have resulted in many workers lumping all of these rocks into a broad Avalon Zone (a.k.a. Avalon Composite terrane, Avalonia), much to the chagrin of the splitters in the crowd. Whether or not these rocks were together in the Early Paleozoic has important implications for the timing of the assembly of the Appalachian Orogen in New Brunswick.

Recent examination of the New River belt, a narrow fault-bounded tectonostratigraphic belt containing the westernmost exposures of Neoproterozoic rocks known in southern New Brunswick, suggests that the theory of a unified Avalon Zone by the Late Neoproterozoic may not accurately explain the whole tectonic story. The belt is characterized by two dated (U-Pb zircon) Neoproterozoic igneous units, the ca. 620 Ma Blacks Harbour Granodiorite and the ca. 555 Ma Ragged Falls Igneous Suite. These two units display evidence of having undergone separate deformational histories throughout the Early Paleozoic, supporting data from more outboard terranes which demonstrate that major orogenic processes were active well into the late Paleozoic in southern New Brunswick.

Luncheon Talk Wednesday December 21st

A Review of the Annual SGS Field Trip

This year the group traveled to the Jasper Region to view the majestic rockies with Dr. Ben Rostron of the U of Alberta as their field trip leader. This talk will present an overview of the trip with lots of pretty slides. Although we haven't chosen a speaker from the many, many volunteers anxious to give this talk, this is sure to be a fascinating not-to-be-missed event; alternatively, Horst Stolz will lead us in a sing along of his favourite Christmas Carols and beer drinking songs.

We're currently setting up the Luncheon Talk program for the upcoming year, so let us know what kind of talks you're interested in, and if you know of someone who would make a great speaker, tell us and we'll try to get them.

Other Events

Student – Industry Night

The second SGS sponsored student industry night was held at the University Club on campus of the University of Regina, October 27th. Approximately 25 undergraduate and graduate earth science students turned out to listen to two industry representatives speak about their experiences as professional geoscientists, and what students might expect while looking for jobs in the current, very active, marketplace. Ken Wheatly of Cogema in Saskatoon provided a perspective on the Uranium Industry (and mining in general), while Chris Coolican of EOG Resources in Calgary gave his insight into the oil and gas business. Both speakers did an excellent job and all who attended found the format useful, with the exchange of many resumes and business cards occurring after the presentations. Oh to be graduating right now! Beer and pizza were provided by the Society.

Open House

The SGS again is hosting a booth at the annual SIR Open House in Saskatoon, November 28th to 30th. This year we will be sharing our space with the Saskatoon CIM division, and students from the University of Saskatchewan who are attempting to raise money for a field trip to Africa. The SGS is co-hosting with CIM the Public Lecture on Tuesday, November 29th, that will be given by Dr. Steve Ruff of Arizona State University on NASA's Mars Global Surveyor Program. Steve gave a fantastic presentation at the Public Lecture in Regina last spring and we couldn't help but ask him for an encore performance.

In addition, the SGS is assisting with a Short Course on Uranium to be held Sunday, November 27th, prior to the Open House. The short course has been largely organized by geologists of the Northern Geological Survey and is aimed at providing up-to-date exploration knowledge to companies involved in the current upswing in U activity.

Annual Meeting

The SGS Annual General Meeting is scheduled for January 28th, 2006, in the Oak Room at the Hotel Saskatchewan. Tickets once again are a bargain at \$20, so please keep this date free on your calendar and plan on attending this enjoyable night out.

Nominations for induction into the Saskatchewan Geological Honour Roll are always encouraged, but especially around now as we like to announce these individuals at the AGM. If you know of someone who has been instrumental in the geoscience community of Saskatchewan either as an industry professional, an educator, or for any number of reasons, please contact any of the executive to find out the nomination requirements. We currently have a nomination committee who review the applications.

We're also looking for nominations to serve on the executive of the SGS during the 2006-2007 year. A nomination form is included with this edition of the Rock Record. The upcoming year promises to be eventful including the regular luncheon talk program, the school and public lecture series, the U of R student talk night, the annual SGS Field Trip planned for Wyoming, and, this year for sure, the Golf Tourney! We are also going to re-try the Curling Bonspiel this winter. In addition, the SGS expects to co-publish the much anticipated ExTech volume during 2006. And, definitely not least, we are considering coordinating a major symposium on oil and gas in Saskatchewan. The last Williston Basin Symposium, the 8th International, was held in 1998 and there has been much in the way of industry and academic inquiries as to when the next would be held. The high price of oil and gas and elevated activity in the province, coupled with the imminent completion of a major mapping initiative in the southern portion of the province, all point to this being the year. Hosting such a symposium will be a major undertaking for the society, but the publications from these symposia are among our most popular and most referenced works. A core workshop would also be held in conjunction with the symposium. Tentative dates for the Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Symposium are October 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, 2006.

With the end of the year approaching, this is a reminder to renew your memberships. A membership form is attached at the end of this Rock Record, or one can be downloaded off the website, and they will be available at the next Luncheon talk.



Saskatchewan Geological Society
P.O. Box 234
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2Z6

Call for Nominations for the 2006 SGS Executive

For the purpose of elections to the Executive, nominations may be made for all offices. We currently do have nominations for President, Secretary, Treasurer, Program Chair and are looking for individuals to serve as Vice-President, Program Co-Chair, and Business Manager. **A call for nominations for election of officers is hereby made** by the present Executive of the Society which constitutes the Nominating Committee for the purpose of elections (details of the duties of each officer may be obtained from the current Executive). **Nominations close at 5:00 p.m. Thursday, December 22, 2005.** Nomination papers must be postmarked prior to this time.

Rules

1. Any Active Member in good standing may stand for office in the Society and may be nominated by any other Active Member in good standing.
2. Except for the Treasurer, who may be elected for a second one year term, Executive Members may not hold the same office for more than one year consecutively.
3. Any active member may nominate one candidate for each office, using separate Nomination Papers for each.
5. Mail the completed form(s) to the nominating Committee, Saskatchewan Geological Society, P.O. Box 234, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4P 2Z6, or hand to a member of the Executive by December 22, 2005.

I, _____, being an Active Member of the Saskatchewan Geological Society in good standing for the year ending December 31, 2005, hereby nominate _____, who is also an Active Member of the Society in good standing for the year ending December 31, 2005, as candidate for office of _____ (*indicate position*) of the Society for 2006.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Witnessed _____ Dated _____