



The Rock Record April/May 2025

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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:

SGS e-mail address:

sask.geol.soc@hotmail.com

SGS Website:

www.sgshome.ca

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Jim Christopher's 100th Celebration!

Tuesday, June 3rd

Where: Bushwakker's (2206 Dewdney Ave)

Time: 4:00pm to 6:00pm

Come and celebrate Dr. Jim Christopher's 100th birthday

There will be appetizers, balloons, speeches and of course Birthday Cake!!

Please RSVP to Gavin Jensen (gavin.jensen@gov.sk.ca) by Monday, June 2nd at noon if you plan to attend.

Saskatchewan Geological Society

SGS Upcoming Lunch Series Talk

"Implementing AI for Data-Driven Decisions in the Mining and Oil & Gas Industries."

Speaker: Jacqueline Williams

Senior Managing Consultant & Lead Data Scientist in the AI & Analytics team
at IBM Canada

When: June 5th

Where: Bushwakker's (2206 Dewdney Ave)

Time: 11:30am-1pm

In person event with option to attend TEAMS online.

RSVP: by June 3rd, 2025, to Gavin Jensen
(gavin.jensen@gov.sk.ca)

President's Message

Dear SGS Members, Partners, and Friends,

Spring has officially arrived, and with it comes a renewed sense of energy and connection across our Saskatchewan Geological Society community. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you, our dedicated members, volunteers, sponsors, and partners—for your continued commitment to advancing geoscience in our province and beyond.

This season has been filled with exciting highlights and meaningful impact. Our **Annual SGS Curling Bonspiel**, held on March 21st at the Callie Curling Club, was a huge success with several enthusiastic teams registered. It was an evening full of fun, friendly competition, and fantastic prizes. A big thank you goes out to Taylor Bjork for organizing this much-loved event—your efforts are truly appreciated!

The March 28th **University of Regina SGS Student Mixer** at The Owl provided a welcoming space for students and professionals alike to connect, network, and share their passion for geoscience. Events like this are essential in building strong relationships and encouraging mentorship.

We also saw a phenomenal turnout at our **Critical Minerals Superheroes Education Outreach Event** on April 15–16 at the University of Regina. Approximately six hundred students from Grades 6–8 joined us this year to learn about critical minerals and their role in building a sustainable future. This event would not have been possible without the incredible work of our volunteers, committee members, and especially Brittany Laing, Chair of our Education Outreach Committee—thank you for your leadership and dedication. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our event sponsors: APEGS, SMA, Orano, and the Government of Saskatchewan. Your generous support made this impactful event possible and helped inspire the next generation of geoscientist's.

April wrapped up with two outstanding technical events. On April 25th, I had the pleasure of attending the **Saskatoon Geoscience Discussion Group's** presentation by Nathan Bridge of CanAlaska Uranium on the Pike Zone uranium discovery in the Athabasca Basin. With record-breaking attendance of over 100 geologists and geoscientists, this was a standout event, and we are very much looking forward to further collaboration with our Saskatoon colleagues.

On April 28th, the **Williston Basin Dr. Don Kent Core Workshop** hosted by the Saskatchewan Geological Society brought together leading geoscientists from Canada and the U.S. for a powerful day of insight and collaboration at the Subsurface Geological Lab in Regina. This year's conference was a **solid-out** success in record time in the history of this event, and we extend our sincere thanks to everyone who helped organize this incredible event. For those who were unable to attend, we're already looking forward to welcoming you all at next year's event!

As we move through the vibrant Spring season, I'm pleased to share recent highlights from our ongoing Saskatchewan Geological Society (SGS) Talk Series—a cornerstone of learning, collaboration, and professional exchange within our geoscience community.

In April, **Ben Egan**, M.Sc. student at the University of Regina, delivered an insightful presentation titled "Reconstructing Anomalous Dinosaur Food Webs Using the Geochemistry of Amber." This was followed in early May by **Dr. Joyce McBeth**, Assistant Professor at the University of Regina, who captivated us with her talk, "Geomicro-Safari Adventures in Saskatchewan: Microbialites, Hypersaline Lakes, Microbial Mats, and More!" Thank you to everyone who joined us in person and online to explore the microbial wonders of our province—we truly appreciate your engagement and support.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to welcome **Jacqueline Williams**, Senior Managing Consultant and Lead Data Scientist at IBM Canada, on June 5th for her presentation titled "Implementing AI for Data-Driven Decisions in the Mining and Oil & Gas Industries." Her talk will explore how artificial intelligence is transforming the way we interpret and apply geoscience data, offering powerful new tools to drive decision-making and innovation in our field.

As a Society, we recognize that the world around us is evolving rapidly, and with it, the tools and technologies shaping our profession. We are committed to embracing this change by broadening our focus to include emerging innovations such as AI and data science. By integrating these advancements into our programming, we aim to keep pace with the shifting landscape and ensure our members remain at the forefront of modern geoscience.

Thank you once again to all who continue to attend, support, and contribute to the success of the SGS Talk Series. We look forward to seeing many of you at our final spring talks before we pause for a well-deserved summer break in July and August. Warmest thanks for being part of our dynamic and growing SGS community.

We're also extremely grateful to **Nutrien** for hosting the extraordinary once in a lifetime **Cory Potash Mine Tour** outside of Saskatoon on May 22nd and to John Lake and others for organizing this incredible SOLD-OUT event for 15 SGS members from Regina, Edmonton and Calgary — this was truly an exceptional opportunity to gain firsthand insights into one of Saskatchewan's most important industries.



We are thrilled to share that our upcoming iconic SGS Field Trip to the **Bay of Fundy**, scheduled for mid June, is officially sold out! This highly anticipated event will be led by **Dr. Murray Gingras**, esteemed professor at the University of Alberta and renowned expert in sedimentology and ichnology. We are incredibly grateful to have Dr. Gingras guiding this unforgettable geological experience, which promises to offer invaluable insights into one of Canada's most fascinating natural landscapes. Fifteen SGS members are registered to attend, and we look forward to the knowledge-sharing, exploration, and community this special trip will inspire.

Lastly, stay tuned—the NEWLY revamped **SGS website** will be launching a brand-new look very soon in the coming month! This refresh will improve access to events, news, and resources, making it easier than ever to stay connected with all things SGS.

As we continue to grow and evolve as a society, **your voice remains at the heart of our success**. We deeply value the perspectives, ideas, and experiences of our members, and we're always looking for ways to enhance the value and impact of the SGS. Whether it's programming, events, communication, or community engagement—**we want to hear from you**. If you have suggestions, feedback, or new ideas to help us improve and better serve our membership, please don't hesitate to share. Together, we can continue to strengthen the SGS and ensure it remains a vibrant and relevant community for all.

Thank you again to everyone who continues to make SGS such a vibrant and engaged society. Here's to a rock-solid rest of 2025!

Sincerely,

Nadene Joy, P. Geo.

President, Saskatchewan Geological Society

Upcoming SGS Talk – June 5th

“Implementing AI for Data-Driven Decisions in the Mining and Oil & Gas Industries.”



Speaker: **Jacqueline Williams**, Senior Managing Consultant & Lead Data Scientist at IBM Canada

Abstract: The mining and oil & gas industries generate massive amounts of data on a daily basis; however, much of this data remains underutilized. This talk will explore how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be used to realize the potential of this data, with specific examples including production optimization in oil & gas and the use of Generative AI to interface with geological data. Through discussion of these use cases, attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the opportunities and challenges of AI adoption in these industries, and how to leverage AI to drive more informed decision making.

Speaker Bio: Jacqueline Williams is a Senior Managing Consultant & Lead Data Scientist in the AI & Analytics team at IBM Canada. She has a Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Astrophysics from the University of Calgary, and she has over seven years of experience building custom AI solutions for clients across a broad range of industries. With a focus on AI for mining and oil & gas, Jacqueline specializes in developing Generative AI, optimization, and predictive modelling solutions that unlock the potential of data to improve decision-making.

**Please RSVP* to gavin.jensen@gov.sk.ca by June 3rd if you wish to attend in person for lunch at Bushwackers at 11:30am in Regina. The online TEAMS virtual option will be available if you are unable to attend in person. In person attendance is strongly recommended. We hope to see you all soon to experience this revolutionary talk firsthand!

News and Events

April 28th, 2025 - SGS Don Kent Core Workshop

The Saskatchewan Geological Society’s biennial Dr. Don Kent Core Workshop was a great success this year. The workshop sold out quickly, with 55 participants registering almost immediately, highlighting the strong interest in this popular SGS event.

This year, the format changed significantly from previous workshops. The number of presentations increased from six to eleven, allowing for a wider representation of Saskatchewan’s oil-producing stratigraphy. The focus was on showcasing oil reservoirs across the entire Phanerozoic section, giving participants a comprehensive view of the province’s diverse subsurface geology.

As one of SGS’s major fundraising events, the 2025 core workshop raised about \$14,000, which will directly support the Society’s ongoing programs, outreach, and professional development initiatives.

We sincerely thank all the presenters and volunteers who contributed their time and expertise to make this event a success. Special thanks go to Jeff Coolican and Taylor Bjork for managing most of the workshop logistics, and to Michelle Hanson for her careful editing and preparation of the core workshop abstract volume.

DR. DON KENT core WORKSHOP - Williston Basin Petroleum Conference

Dan Kohlruss

Williston Basin Petroleum Conference Committee

Past President, Saskatchewan Geological Society



2025 SGS Dr. Don Kent Core Workshop – Subsurface Geological Laboratory

SOLD OUT!

We're sorry, we are **AT CAPACITY** for the **CORE Workshop**. We do not have a waiting list.

DR. DON KENT CORE WORKSHOP

hosted by



The Saskatchewan Geological Society presents a one-day core workshop. Details to come.

2025 WILLISTON BASIN PETROLEUM CONFERENCE CORE WORKSHOP AGENDA	
Morning Session	
8:30 Registration and Coffee	
9:00 - 10:00 Technical Session 1	
Speaker	Title
9:00 - Ashlee Thomas, Saskatchewan Geological Survey	Lithofacies Characterization and Depositional Model of the Ordovician Red Flow Formation in Southwestern Saskatchewan Non-Marine Sea-Levels for Petroleum Exploration
9:20 - Chao Yang, Saskatchewan Geological Survey	Insights into the Tight Oil Plays of the Upper Devonian Torquay Formation in Southwestern Saskatchewan
9:40 - John Lake, Lake Geological Consulting	Non-Tycho Recognizing Sea Level Drains on Highland Carbonate Platform Shoresides
10:05am-10:15am Coffee and Core	
10:30 - 11:30 Technical Session 2	
Speaker	Title
10:30 - Don Kolbusz, Saskatchewan Geological Survey	Stratigraphy, Sedimentology and Reservoir Characterization of the Upper Devonian-Lower Mississippian Stobie Formation, Southwestern Saskatchewan
10:50 - Andres Marsh, Saskatchewan Geological Survey	An Overview of the Producer Beds in the Stebbins Pool of southeastern Saskatchewan
11:10 - Holly Stewart, Saskatchewan Geological Survey	Facies Analysis of the Mississippian Producer Beds in Southwestern Saskatchewan
11:30-12:00 Core Viewing	
12:00-1:00 Lunch	

2025 WILLISTON BASIN PETROLEUM CONFERENCE CORE WORKSHOP AGENDA	
Afternoon Session	
1:00pm - 2:00pm Technical Session 3	
Speaker	Title
1:00 - Enley Greene, Humberlybird Energy	Sask BIV Follow-up Analysis of Humberlybird Energy's Open-hole, Multi-lateral Well Development of the Mississippian Producer Stobie A Marker in the Stebbins Region of Southeast, Saskatchewan
1:20 - The Henkelin, Government of North Dakota	Regional Hydrocarbon Reservoir Trends of the Middle-Missile Interval
1:40 - Don Kolbusz, Saskatchewan Geological Survey	Petrofacies Reservoirs of the Lower Carboniferous (Mississippian) Madison Group and Zuni-Cretaceous Succession Formation, West-Central Saskatchewan
2:00pm-2:15pm Coffee and Core	
2:30pm - 3:10pm Technical Session 4	
Speaker	Title
2:30 - Peter Hill, Saskatchewan Geological Survey	Multi-lateral Oil Well Production from the Maeriville Group Heavy Oil Region in West-central Saskatchewan
2:50 - Meagan Gilbert, Saskatchewan Geological Survey	Investigating the Critical Mineral Potential of Upper Devonian to Paleogene Coals and Carbonaceous Shales in Southwestern Saskatchewan
3:10pm-4:00pm Core Viewing	

Dr. Don Kent Core Workshop Agenda

University of Regina Student/Member Mixer - Update

Student / Member Mixer was held on March 28th at the Owl located at the University of Regina. It was very well attended by the students; 28-30 students attended the event. There were 8-10 SGS members that attended. There are plans for another event in the fall. Thank you to all who attended this fun and engaging event!

Gavin Jensen
Vice President, Saskatchewan Geological Society

March 21st, 2025- Reflecting on the SGS Curling Bonspiel

On March 21st, we hit the ice for our annual SGS Curling Bonspiel at the Caledonian Curling Club. The turn out was amazing and energy was high as eight teams battled it out in a fantastic evening of competition, teamwork, and some great team costumes.

Congratulations to the "Rock Doctors" for claiming the tournament championship! They faced some tough competition, but this team really rocked their way to the top!

A huge thank you to the Caledonia Curling Club, as well as to everyone who participated and helped make this event a success. We love seeing the geoscience community come together both on and off the ice!



2025 SGS Curling Bonspiel Champions –
“The Rock Doctors”



September 12, 2025 - Save the Date! SGS Annual Golf Tournament

With spring in full swing, it's the perfect time to start planning for one of our favourite annual events! The 2025 SGS Golf Tournament is set for Friday, September 12th at the beautiful Tor Hill Golf Course.

Mark your calendars and get ready for a day of fun, friendly competition, and great company on the green.

More details to follow soon — stay tuned!

Taylor Bjork
Business Manager, Saskatchewan Geological Society

April 15th-16th, 2025 - Critical Mineral Superheroes Event!

Over two action-packed days, nearly 600 students from 11 schools across Regina and surrounding areas joined us to explore the world of geology and critical minerals — and we couldn't be more thrilled with the turnout!

Hosted by the Saskatchewan Geological Society, the event featured a captivating talk by Dr. Meagan Gilbert, followed by hands-on activities led by our amazing team of volunteer geoscientists. Students in Grades 6–8 had the chance to discover just how important geology is in powering the world around them — from smartphones to sustainable energy sources.

A huge thank you to our many sponsors including APEGS, SMA, Orano and The Government of Saskatchewan and all our dedicated volunteers who brought science to life and helped inspire the next generation of geologists, scientists, and explorers. We couldn't have done any of this without all your gracious support!



2025 Critical Minerals Superheroes Event



The 2025 SGS Critical Minerals Event Volunteers



May 22, 2025 – SGS Field Trip - Nutrien Cory Potash Mine Tour

During our tour of the Nutrien Cory Potash Mine, located to the West of Saskatoon, fifteen Saskatchewan Geological Society member participants were given an in-depth look at one of Saskatchewan’s most significant mining operations.

The facility, which accesses potash deposits formed 400 million years ago, reaches depths of approximately 1,000 metres underground, where the temperature remains a constant 27°C year-round. At the rock face, boring machines are used to cut through the potash-bearing rock. The extracted material undergoes a three-stage milling process—crushing and cleaning, followed by flotation and drying, and finally drying and sizing, where the potash is separated, compacted, and sized to create a uniform product. The finished product is then loaded into railcars and shipped to various distribution facilities. Society attendees also learned about safety procedures on-site, including the use of Ocenco self-rescuers, which are critical in emergency situations.

The potash seam at Cory is part of the Prairie Evaporite Formation and is approximately 15 metres thick, compared to other sites such as the Lanigan mine, where the seam is only 7 to 10 metres thick. The tour was supported by land geologist Jody Derkschz, who provided valuable geological insights into the deposit and mining operations along with the rest of the Nutrien geoscience team. A supplementary YouTube video below offers a visual overview of Nutrien’s potash production process, reinforcing the educational experience.

Nutrien Potash Facility Tour Video

<https://youtu.be/OFECEkOcb4w?feature=shared>

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to them entire Nutrien team for their time, hospitality, and this incredible opportunity to gain such valuable insight into Saskatchewan’s world-class potash industry. A special and huge thank you also to John Lake for organizing such a world-class event!



2025 SGS Nutrien Cory Potash Mine Tour Crew



Jim Christopher's 100th Celebration!

June 5th @ Bushwakker's (4pm-6pm)



Please join us in celebrating a true geological legend—**Dr. James (Jim) Christopher**—as he marks his **100th birthday!** Best known for his groundbreaking work on the **Bakken Basin** in 1961 and for naming the now-prominent **Torquay Formation**,

Jim's contributions to Saskatchewan geology are nothing short of extraordinary. With a career spanning over 50 years at the Saskatchewan Department of Mineral Resources, Jim's legacy is etched into the bedrock of our province's geoscience community. He is a recipient of the **CSPG Honorary Membership (1996)**, the **RJW Douglas Medal (2013)**, and the **APEGS Outstanding Achievement Award (2020)**.

We're throwing a party in his honour on **Monday, June 3rd from 4–6 PM at Bushwakker Brewpub**—featuring **appetizers, speeches, and of course, birthday cake!** **Everyone is welcome**, so come raise a glass and toast this remarkable milestone. **Please RSVP by June 3rd** to gavin.jensen@gov.sk.ca.

On a personal note, Jim has inspired generations of geologists not just through his science, but through his humility, generosity, and passion for the field. Let's come together to celebrate the man behind the maps—and the many unforgettable memories.

SGS Calendar Committee Update

The Calendar Committee is currently voting on this year's photo submissions for the 2026 SGS Geoscience Calendar. We've received a little over 20 unique entries, but we'd love to see more from society members to ensure we have images from across the province. We're a bit behind schedule due to the recent transition, but we're working to select photos and assign months soon so we can begin drafting write-ups. Looking ahead, we encourage all members conducting fieldwork this summer to take photos for consideration in future calendars.

Brayden McDonald and Dunja Sorenson
Calendar Committee Co-Chairs

LAST Reminder: 2025 SGS Membership Renewal

As we approach the midpoint of the year, we'd like to kindly remind all members to **renew their SGS membership for 2025**. Staying current with your membership ensures uninterrupted access to our events, updates, and exclusive opportunities.

Please note that **as of June 1st, only successfully renewed members will continue to receive talk notices and society communications.**

We greatly value your involvement in the SGS community and hope you'll continue to be part of the exciting activities and learning opportunities ahead. Thank you for your continued support!

- To renew your individual or corporate memberships today go to [Membership « Saskatchewan Geological Society](https://sgshome.ca/membership) (<https://sgshome.ca/membership>).
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