

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 focussed 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 award the APEGS Brian Eckel Distinguished Service Award for contributions to the association. 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.

Jack W. Porter Geoscience Honour Roll Citation

Jack Porter was one of the premier Saskatchewan petroleum geologists. He was born and raised in Saskatoon. His educational background through elementary, secondary and post-secondary were all obtained in that city. He entered the University of Saskatchewan near the end of World War II graduating with a B.A. degree in Geology in 1946. He received his early training in petroleum geology in Saskatchewan as summer student employed by the Imperial /Norcanols group. His duties included field mapping structures recognizable on the surface as well as sitting structural test holes. After graduation Jack joined the Saskatchewan Department of Natural Resources where his jobs included geological field work in northern Saskatchewan and work as conservation officer inspecting drill sites. Jack moved to Rio Bravo Oil Company to become one of the earliest Saskatchewan petroleum geologist based in Regina. Rio Bravo was the exploration arm of Superior Oil of California and eventually became Canadian Superior. The company was involved in exploration in southwestern Manitoba and southeast Saskatchewan. Jack guided the company's activities in Saskatchewan.

Jack was one of the first geologists in the province to recognize the hydrocarbon-bearing potential of the subcropping Mississippian in southeast Saskatchewan and southwest Manitoba. Under his guidance Canadian Superior and its precursor Rio Bravo, acquired considerable freehold leases and had significant success finding hydrocarbon production. In addition, Jack was forward looking and did field work in Manitoba on the shores of Lake Winnipegosis in anticipation of finding hydrocarbon shows in the Devonian Winnipegosis of Saskatchewan.

There are four papers in Jack's list of publications that have been significant to understanding the subsurface geology of the Williston Basin area. His paper on the Madison Complex in Southeast Saskatchewan and Southwest Manitoba demonstrated through correlation of geophysical well log marker beds the facies relationships of the Mississippian formational units. In 1959, he co-authored a paper with Alaister Cummings and J.G.C.M. Fuller on the para-time nature of the geophysical log marker beds in the Mississippian of Saskatchewan. This paper was presented in a symposium on concepts of stratigraphic classification and correlation published in the American Journal of Science. In addition, Jack co-authored three other papers with J.G.C.M Fuller two on the Ordovician and Silurian of Saskatchewan and Manitoba and the other on evaporite basins in the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. In later years, Jack took an interest in the history of petroleum geology in Canada with specific emphasis on western Canada, These were published in the CSPG Reservoir as a series of "Vignettes of Canadian Petroleum Geology" some of which describe the early field mapping done in Saskatchewan and Manitoba

Jack was a founding member of the Saskatchewan Geological Society. He played active roles on the society's nomenclature and correlations committees that released two sets of correlation cross-section and accompanying reports on Mississippian and Lower Paleozoic Names and Correlations. He was also one of the society's representatives to a Williston Basin Nomenclature Committee organized through the A.A.P.G. Jack moved to

Calgary in the late 1950s but remained with the same organization in spite of name changes due to acquisitions and mergers. Before his retirement he was senior geological advisor to the vice-president of exploration for Mobil Oil. In the summer of 2009, Jack was inducted into the Saskatchewan Oilmens' Hall of Fame.

I am sure that you will agree that Jack Porter is a worthy inductee into the Saskatchewan Geological Society's Geoscience Honour Roll.