

## **Minutes of the Canadian Geoscience Education Network**

Held Sunday, August 10, 2003, 17:15 to 18:15.

In Room 136 Earth Sciences Building  
University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta

**Attending:** Jennifer **Bates** (Dartford, NS); Alexis **Clague** (Vancouver, BC); John **Clague** (Vancouver, BC); Laura **Clinton** (Toronto, ON); Al. **Donaldson** (Ottawa, ON); Jean **Dougherty** (Ottawa, ON); Jon **Dudley** (Calgary, AB); Dixon **Edwards** (Edmonton, AB); Martha **Grantham** (Halifax, NS); Robert **Grantham** (St. John's, NF); Fran **Haidl** (Regina, SK); Stella **Heenan** (Toronto, ON); Horst **Heise** (Vancouver, BC); Mike **Jackson** (Victoria, BC); Randy **Miller** (St. John, NB); Alan **Morgan** (Waterloo, ON) - Chair and Secretary; Ward **Neale** (Calgary, AB); Terry **Needham** (Marathon, ON); Dave **Rudkin** (Toronto, ON); Cam **Tsujita** (London, ON); Bob **Turner** (Vancouver, BC); Eileen van der **Flier-Keller** (Victoria, BC).

**Guests:** Martin **Schmidt**, Jr. (Owings Mills, MD, USA).

**Regrets:** Diane **Baldwin** (Yellowknife, NWT); G. Nowlan (Calgary, AB); Claudia **Riveros** (Arviat, Nunavut); Heather **Robinson** (Winnipeg, Manitoba); Christy **Vodden** (Ottawa, ON)

### **1: Introductions**

After a quick around-the-room set of introductions, **Morgan** said that he was delighted to see so many participants. He hoped that the meeting of the International Geoscience Education Network (IGEO) would be a success, and everything that he had seen so far indicated that it would. He also mentioned that CGEN was really the hosting body and congratulated the Calgary Organising Committee on the fine start to the conference. He also pointed out that this would be a brief meeting and encouraged speakers to keep their comments to a minimum or provide him with summary reports that could be appended to the minutes.

**Morgan** then went through the format of the agenda and requested if there were additional items that needed to be added? There was none.

### **2: Changes to the agenda**

There were none. **Morgan** reported that Christy **Vodden** (Secretary-Treasurer, CGEN) had sent her apologies but the death of her father-in-law had meant that she was unable to attend. For this reason he made a brief report on the next agenda item.

### **3: Financial Report**

**Vodden** had reported for the CGEN meeting that the financial report was the same as it was in the May Annual General Meeting in Vancouver. (The minutes for the Vancouver AGM had been circulated to all CGEN participants). The only exceptions were the addition of \$25,000 to the Ontario Geoscape project in mid-June 2003. There had been a few minor expenditures for the Ontario Geoscape, and for CGEN since the May meeting. In summary, CGEN funds stand at about \$13,000; the Careers Project stands at \$3,000 and the three Ontario Geoscape projects have about \$43,000.

#### **4: EarthNet**

**Bates** reported on EarthNet (a website providing educational resources housed at the Geological Survey of Canada Atlantic office). She said that EarthNet will continue to be housed by the Survey as a stand-alone" site. Time dedicated to maintenance is courtesy of **Nowlan** and help in Calgary. She pointed out that the site needs a thorough overhaul.

#### **5: EdGEO**

**Van der Flier-Keller** reported on EdGEO activities. As an update on the May report, eight EdGEO's have run this year. Three were cancelled and two more were approved. There are 10 proposed for 2003. The Mineralogical Association of Canada has donated \$2,500 in support of EdGEO, and thanks were due to Pierrette **Tremblay** for her help in this matter.

#### **6: GEOSCIED IV**

**Morgan** reported on behalf of **Nowlan** that registration figures were at the 260 level and that the conference seemed to be doing well. The pre-conference field trips had concluded without incident and that registration for those not on the field trips was underway in the Rosza Centre. The icebreaker would be commencing at the same location within the hour. Tuesday's mid-conference excursion would be to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology for all conference delegates. Approximately one-third of the international delegates that had requested funding support were attending. There were a few available places for participants on post-conference field trips. **Morgan** said that he hoped that the conference would pull the teaching community and CGEN together more closely. He expressed CGEN's thanks to the Calgary Organising Committee for hosting the meeting at the University.

#### **7: Geoscape**

**Turner** said that the web address for Geoscape is

[www.geoscape.nrcan.ca](http://www.geoscape.nrcan.ca). The Whitehorse poster would be out this week. He pointed out that a voucher had been provided for each GeoSciEd delegate to receive the national Geoscape poster. Projects close to completion or out for review included Nanaimo, Ottawa and Edmonton. A new project has been proposed for northern BC with an energy focus. The Halifax and Winnipeg projects were in an "uncertain" mode, the latter with Harvey **Thorleifsson** moving to Minnesota.

The next Geoscape projects scheduled for completion and printing were Saskatchewan, Ottawa, Nanaimo and the Grand River. Five hundred copies were proposed for each (more could be printed) and the completion date should be by April 2004. In response to some questions he stated that the original Vancouver Geoscape had a 1,500 print run with 400 copies being given away to schools. Saskatchewan hoped to print 5,000 copies with one poster being given away to each school in the province. He stated that Geoscape Toronto had hired a teacher to develop teaching resource materials, using the grant monies from the Ontario Government.

### **8: Careers in Earth Science initiative**

John **Clague** commented on the development of the initiative. CGEN is spearheading an initiative to update the existing website and printed material on careers in Earth science in Canada. The new "Careers in Earth Sciences" will be a bilingual website aimed at the Grade 9 level. It will contain basic introductory information about the Earth sciences, supplemented by more detailed information about the various sub-disciplines. All website material will be available in PDF format for those wishing to print the information. A printed promotional fanfold brochure will be widely distributed to schools and students to advertise the website. CGEN has raised \$5,500 seed money from the GSC and Canadian Geological Foundation to initiate the project. The Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists has been approached to create a draft template on careers in petroleum geology to initiate the project.

### **9: A new CGEN initiative on Geoheritage**

**Morgan** stated that with the close of the Calgary meeting one of the main thrusts of CGEN's activities would conclude and that it was time to think of another. He welcomed Al **Donaldson** who had suggested that the theme of "Geoheritage" might take over as a new long-term project for CGEN.

**Donaldson** remarked that he and others in the Ottawa area had presumed that Canadian Geoheritage might be a suitable topic for

CGEN to consider taking on. **Donaldson** circulated a one-page outline of the proposal for "Friends of Canadian Geoheritage" (attached as appendix).

**Donaldson** had explained that there were geological features of interest to the general public that might be explained and exploited as "Geoheritage" features. He pointed out that these were of interest and that he had received media support for an exposé on stromatolites along a part of the Ottawa River in Ottawa. He knew that there were other geological features of interest in many communities across Canada and suggested that GAC and CGEN might be interested in promoting the recognition of such features through their own networks. Companies and organisations such as Mountain Equipment Coop, Trailhead, the River Keepers and the Trillium Foundation might provide support for these activities. He invited everyone to sign his book for the establishment of a "Friends of Canadian Heritage" group.

**Morgan** said that this matter would be circulated in the minutes and then raised for future discussions at CGEN.

### **10: Reports from other CGEN members**

**Vodden** had requested tabled at the meeting a formal vote of thanks, on behalf of CGEN, to John **Clague** for his excellent leadership of CGEN over the past two years. This was seconded by **Morgan**, greeted with applause and unanimously endorsed by all present.

**Grantham** reported briefly on the Johnson Geoscience Centre in St. John's, Newfoundland, and said that the Newfoundland section of GAC is providing funds for a "Rocks for Kids" project.

### **11: Next Meeting**

**Morgan** suggested that the next meetings might be held in Vancouver, associated with the Cordilleran Roundup at the end of January, 2004 and then at the GAC/MAC Meeting to be held in St. Catharines, Ontario in mid-May 2004. There would be a session for teachers at the GAC/MAC Brock meeting. Members would be notified closer to the time of both meetings.

### **12: Adjournment**

The meeting concluded at 18:15 Calgary time.

## Appendix

### **FRIENDS OF CANADIAN GEOHERITAGE**

Friends of Canadian Geoheritage (FCG) is open to all who endorse the recognition and preservation of significant components of natural landscape worthy of designation as Geoheritage Sites in Canada. FCG interest extends to stone in heritage buildings, and distinctive features in road cuts, quarries and abandoned mines, as well as the cultural history of such sites.

You are a potential FCG member if you endorse the aims of the Canadian Geoheritage Committee (CGC), a non-profit group formed in 2003 to appeal to all levels of government to recognize, designate and preserve geoheritage sites. You need not be Canadian to become a "Friend".

A Geoheritage Site meets one or more of the following criteria:

- \* It exposes a unique or critical record of natural history
- \* It contributes to understanding the natural history of the region
- \* It is scientifically important, or of significant educational utility
- \* It offers distinct aesthetic and cultural values

The objectives of the Canadian Geoheritage Committee are to:

- \* Preserve irreplaceable geological and geomorphological features
- \* Strengthen laws to preserve significant records of natural history
- \* Increase public awareness through lectures, interpretive signs and publications/brochures

The unique geologic and geomorphic features of Canada span four billion years, from ancient Precambrian crystalline rocks of the Canadian Shield, through fossil-bearing Phanerozoic sedimentary strata, to unconsolidated sedimentary cover deposited during the last Ice Age, and exposed less than 10,000 years ago as the Continental Ice Sheet melted. Acted upon by the driving forces of plate tectonics, these elements are responsible for an impressive array of mountains, intrusions, lava flows, stacked sedimentary layers, metamorphic rocks, folds, and faults. The surface morphology of these elements controls the distribution of lakes, wetlands and river systems that in turn exert a major influence on Canada's groundwater resources, agriculture, mineral wealth, biodiversity, building foundations and transportation networks. Geomorphology and geological processes collectively influence the occurrence of landslides, avalanches, earthquakes, and even the potential for volcanic eruptions throughout certain areas of Canada.

Members of the Canadian Geoheritage Committee are working with governmental agencies, primary and secondary schools, museums, universities, societies and public interest groups to help preserve, protect and promote Canadian geoheritage.

By becoming a member of Friends of Canadian Geoheritage you will help to provide direct evidence of support for actions now being requested of all levels of government.

Strong public support will ensure success. FCG members receive updates on the work of CGC, and notification of talks and local Geoheritage events.

FREE MEMBERSHIP in Friends of Canadian Geoheritage:

- \* E-mail your request to Allan Donaldson <[jadonald@ccs.carleton.ca](mailto:jadonald@ccs.carleton.ca)>

OR

- \* Send a letter to FCG, 1139 Edgeland Place, Ottawa, ON, K1S 5B6