



## Newsletter no. 4, April 2010

### **On being a Federation**

Technical and learned societies, first and foremost in the business of advancing knowledge in their field, are largely run on volunteer effort. No peer reviewed journal article, special publication, short course manual or field guide would exist without the countless hours of writing and reviewing that individuals put in during long and solitary evenings and weekends (it is not the intent to belittle the role of society staff here, they are invaluable). This is how knowledge advances: not by some business or leadership model out of the latest management literature, but through the work of competent individuals who feel so committed that they are willing to contribute their free time. Nobel prizes and the like would not exist without it. And if you have ever been involved with a society, then you know that there are never enough volunteers for the tasks at hand and that yet amazing products are realized.

The problem for a Federation such as CFES is a volunteer problem, because a Federation doesn't have individual members. It exists through the support of its member societies, which are always stretched too thin (see above). Of course our own board and committee members all work hard (in their free time) but the pool of individuals is small and we can't offer much attraction in terms of juicy conferences with sponsored happy hours, also because we promise not to compete for sponsorship with our member societies. Because of all this, it is difficult to populate committees, get work done and communicate what CFES does and how that may benefit you. We therefore relish when new society representatives join our semi-annual meetings, a sure way to get a first-hand impression of what goes on in CFES. For the same reason, we really look forward to the GeoCanada 2010 Convention where CFES will have its own booth. Please come and see us - we hope to exchange ideas and information with many Canadian earth scientists in person.

### **Mentorship medal for Bob Hodder**

On March 8, during the University of Western Ontario (UWO) reception at the PDAC Convention, Dr. Bob Hodder, emeritus professor of the Earth Sciences Department of UWO, received the CFES mentorship medal from president Bill Mercer (photo). The Mentorship Medal was created in 2008 to recognize the sustained and inspirational mentorship of a Canadian Earth Scientist from academia, government, or industry.



A summary of the citation follows here; the full citation and acceptance speech is posted on [www.geoscience.ca/awards.html](http://www.geoscience.ca/awards.html). Bob Hodder (1932) worked in industry until 1970, when he transferred to the UWO, where he also served as chair, all the while keeping a strong connection with industry. Other than coaching his students, he also coached many of his colleagues in academia in the ways of properly managing a university department. He has a remarkable talent for conceiving, organizing and leading field trips, which he considers the ultimate venue for knowledge transfer, experience, and learning; to him, field trips are to geologists what concerts are to musicians. He is an extraordinarily gifted geologist with a photographic memory for the field reality. To this day, his students and colleagues ask him to lead field trips so that their colleagues can also learn from him.

Since officially retiring 1993, Bob continues to mentor and advise countless students and colleagues, at various stages of their careers.



CFES President Bill Mercer (left) with Mentorship Medal recipient Bob Hodder (photo Paula Lynn Luchak, UWO)



### **Semi-annual Council of Members meeting, Calgary**

The 8<sup>th</sup> CFES/FCST semi-annual Council of Members meeting will take place on Friday May 7 at the Earth Sciences Department of the University of Calgary. Because of everyone's involvement with the GeoCanada convention, we meet only one day instead of the usual one-and-a-half. Agenda and additional documentation will be posted shortly on our website at <http://www.geoscience.ca/minutes.html>.

The job market issue is always one of our agenda items and the earth science job market is very much a global market. We therefore recommend a recent article from the experts at the American Geological Institute (our American counterpart): "Who will fill the Geoscience workforce supply gap?" by Leila Gonzales and Christopher Keane can be found at [www.atmos.washington.edu/~dargan/geojobs.pdf](http://www.atmos.washington.edu/~dargan/geojobs.pdf)

### **GeoCanada 2010**

An enormous amount of work has been done by countless individuals from many different societies and by JAC staff and volunteers on the ground in Calgary to prepare for the second GeoCanada convention, May 10-14 in Calgary (<http://www.geocanada2010.ca/>). CFES hosts a special session on 'the Future of Earth Sciences in Canada'. This session will take place on Wednesday May 12, 9-12. This special session will be in the form of a debate among experts with widely varying perspectives.

In addition, CGEN (the Canadian Geoscience Educators Network, a CFES committee) is involved in several other outreach events, which can be found under 'public outreach' on the GeoCanada website:

- A teacher workshop and fieldtrip ('Education and Learning at the Royal Tyrell Museum')
- *Earth Science for Society* – an event that brings youth to the Stampede Corral in an effort to increase public awareness of the importance of Earth Science.
- *Communicating earth science to the public* (a workshop)
- *Know the earth under your feet*: a poster competition for grade 9-12 students.



### Canadian National Geoparks Committee

*“Under the auspices of CFES, the Canadian National Committee for Geoparks shall influence, encourage and assist Canadian communities to conserve and celebrate the geodiversity of Canada and support local economic and cultural development, through the formation of Geoparks in Canada”.* As we reported in the previous Newsletter, the committee’s chairman, Godfrey Nowlan, visited the team in Saint John as part of the preparations in submitting the proposal for the Stonehammer Geopark to the Global Geoparks Network. The Stonehammer Team managed to pull it off and the proposal was submitted on time. If approved, this will be the first Geopark in North America! A poster about the initiative is at <http://www.sjwaterfront.com/documents/Geoparkposter2a.pdf>

### International Union of Geosciences / IUGS ([www.iugs.org](http://www.iugs.org)).

Two newsletters of IUGS have been published in the last few months. Canada is a member of IUGS, its membership dues are paid by the National Research Council. The Canadian National Committee for IUGS reports to CFES. The pivotal officer is Peter Bobrowsky, who is CFES’s international director, as well as secretary general of IUGS. A few highlights:

- The International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS, [www.stratigraphy.org](http://www.stratigraphy.org)) will meet in Prague (May 30-June 3). The New Canadian National Stratigraphy Commission (which reports under CFES) will be represented by its chair Dr. Martin Head of Brock University. The focus of the meeting will be on the success of the Global Boundary Stratotype Sections and Points (GSSP) process.
- Australia is starting on the next International Geological Congress. See <http://www.34.igc.org/>
- The IUGS Commission "Geoscience for Environmental Management" (IUGS-GEM) is surveying environmental geoscientists worldwide on communicating their results to non-scientists. See <http://communication.iugs-gem.org/> and TAKE THE SURVEY at [www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=MlcLa8yth99Gfj\\_2fChKnsq\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=MlcLa8yth99Gfj_2fChKnsq_3d_3d)



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[www.geoscience.ca](http://www.geoscience.ca), [www.earthsciencescanada.com](http://www.earthsciencescanada.com)

## CanGeoRef

CanGeoRef will be a subset of GeoRef, the AGI earth science literature database with about 3 million references, and will be developed by CFES as part of an agreement with AGI. CFES has received seed money for the start-up phase from the Committee of Provincial and Territorial Geologists (CPTG). The Provinces and Territories (and their clients) stand to benefit most from CanGeoRef, because it is estimated that less than half of their total references are in GeoRef (and most of these are more than 15 years old). Four “pilot provinces” (Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba and Newfoundland/Labrador) will be subject to data entry first.

CanGeoRef is run by a Steering Committee, chaired by CFES/FCST *Board member for CanGeoRef* Carolyn Relf, Director of the Geological Survey of the Yukon. The other steering committee members are Laura Briggs (Collections Librarian for Science and Technology at the University of Alberta in Edmonton), Jeanne Kimber (Head of Information and Records with Encana in Calgary) and Lori Janower (Mineral Resources Library of Manitoba Science, Technology Energy and Mines in Winnipeg).

CFES has contracted Purple Rock Editing out of Victoria as our first contractor, and they are tasked specifically to enter data from Alberta, one of the volunteer pilot provinces. Five data entry specialists of Purple Rock Editing have been trained by Sharon Tahirkheli (AGI’s GeoRef director) during 3 days in February. Training took place in Victoria in the offices of the BC Geological Survey and we thank this organization for providing the venue to CFES at no cost.

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Page 5