

First Circular Announcement (August 17 2012)

CANQUA-CGRG Biannual Meeting August 18-21, 2013 in Edmonton, Alberta

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Join us in Edmonton for the Canadian Quaternary Association biannual meeting August 18-21, 2013. The meeting will be joint with the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group and hosted at the University of Alberta.

Abstract Deadline: March 30, 2013

Pre-Conference Field Trips:

1. *Jasper and the Athabasca glacier* August 17-18 Led by Nat Rutter (University of Alberta) and Dan Utting (Alberta Geological Survey)
2. *Glacial geomorphology of paleo-ice streams of Southern Alberta* August 16-18. Led by David Evans (University of Durham)

Post-Conference Field Trip:

Stratigraphy and record of catastrophic drainage of Clearwater-Athabasca spillway and geoarchaeology of the Oilsands Region August 21-24, 2013 Led by Duane Froese (Alberta), Robin Woywitka (U. Alberta and Archaeological Survey of Alberta) and Nigel Atkinson (Alberta Geological Survey)

Schedule:

- Preconference field trips from Edmonton (August 16-18)
- Opening reception evening of August 18 at Royal Alberta Museum
- Sessions August 19-21 at University of Alberta)
- Post-conference trip (August 21-24)

Proposed Special Sessions

- The Ice-free corridor connecting North to South for 2 million years- almost never closed? Records of gene flow and paleoenvironments (Charles Schweger and Beth Shapiro)
- Sedimentary DNA and ecosystem reconstructions of past environments (Hendrik Poinar and Beth Shapiro)
- Cryptotephras- methods and prospects for a North American framework (Britta Jensen and Sean Pyne-O'Donnell)
- The 21st Century Surficial Geology Map (Steve Pawley and Nigel Atkinson- Alberta Geological Survey)
- A passion for the Arctic: recent and ancient environmental change in honour of John England's retirement (Trevor Bell and Don Lemmen)
- The Palaeoecology of Extreme Environments (Canadian Association of Palynologists special session - Alwynne Beaudoin and Mary Vetter)
- Sticky and slippery beds under modern and ancient glaciers (Michelle Trommelen and Jeff Kavanaugh)
- Cold regions processes – could we reach the tipping point (Steve Wolfe and Steve Kokelj)
- Dating the Quaternary (Olav Lian and Bert Roberts)

Pre-Conference Trip 1: Quaternary environments of the Northern Rockies and Athabasca glacier: Edmonton- Jasper -Athabasca Glacier-Edmonton (August 17-18)

Leaders: Nat Rutter and Dan Utting

This trip will observe evidence for the Last Glacial Maximum when Cordilleran and Continental ice coalesced, to observe glacial sediments and landforms such as dissected drumlins and eskers, to visit the Athabasca Glacier and inspect associated modern glacier processes.

Pre-conference Trip: August 17-18, overnight in Jasper

Number of Participants: 40 (bus capacity), or less, where we will utilize appropriate sized vans.

Difficulty: Limited amount of walking. Nothing difficult.

Clothing: Regular field gear (rain jacket, hiking boots or running shoes).

Pre-Conference Trip 2: Glacial geomorphology of paleo-ice streams of Southern Alberta (August 16-18)

Leader: David Evans (University of Durham)

This trip will cover the large paleo-ice stream and thrust moraines of central and southern Alberta. The trip will travel from Edmonton via Brooks to visit the central Alberta Ice Stream and through Dinosaur Provincial Park and Lethbridge to view end moraines and ice marginal spillways. We will also spend time at the till sections in Lethbridge followed by a trip back through west-central Alberta past the Foothills Erratics Train.

Participants: 40

Post-Conference Trip: Stratigraphy and record of catastrophic drainage of Clearwater-Athabasca spillway and geoarchaeology of the Oilsands Region (August 21-24)

Leaders: Duane Froese (University of Alberta), Robin Woywitka (Archaeological Survey of Alberta and University of Alberta) and Nigel Atkinson (Alberta Geological Survey)

This field trip will discuss recent work on the Quaternary stratigraphy of the lower Athabasca valley and new understanding of the NW Outlet of Lake Agassiz and human occupation of the post-flood landscape. We will visit sites associated with Oil Sands development that provide spectacular exposures of the catastrophic flood deposits associated with the Clearwater-Athabasca spillway. We will present evidence and discuss the chronology of flood deposits and relations to glacial Lake Agassiz's NW Outlet, periglacial record of post-flood deposits and the Lower Athabasca Pleistocene delta chronology. As well, we will visit sites and discuss the relationship between earliest Holocene archaeology of the post-flood landscape, luminescence chronology, and the eolian and wetland record of the region.

Post-conference trip, 4 days immediately following end of sessions on Wednesday August 21st, returning Saturday August 24 before 5 pm. 3 nights in Fort McMurray with potential to fly out of Fort McMurray airport on the morning of August 24.

Participants: 40

Difficulty: Moderate walking to one site of about 30 minutes duration over easy terrain.