
**Summary of Outreach Seminar and Conference
Joint Annual Meeting of the Geological Association of Canada (GAC)
and the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC)
'Geoscience at the Edge'
Delta St John's Hotel and Conference Centre
St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, 27th-29th May 2012**

On Sunday 27th May 2012, the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), Initiative on Forensic Geology (IFG) attended and supported the GAC and MAC conference, entitled 'Geoscience on the Edge', held at St. John's, Newfoundland, in Canada. The conference was hosted at the Delta St. John's Hotel and Conference Centre, in St John's, from 27th-29th May 2012.

The conference title, '**Geoscience on the Edge**', refers not only to the geographical setting of St John's, in Newfoundland, which is located at the eastern edge of Canada and the North American craton, but also to leading geoscience ideas and research being conducted throughout the world. Forensic geology is seen by the conference organizers to represent one of the current globally expanding and rapidly developing 'new' fields within geoscience and as such IFG were invited to take part in this conference. Prof Shari Forbes did a fantastic job of organising the session on Forensic Geology and this was formally represented by the following IFG committee members.

- Dr Laurance Donnelly (IUGS-IFG Chair and Wardell Armstrong);
- Prof Shari Forbes (IUGS-IFG Officer for Canada and the Pacific, and the University of Sydney);
- Dr Bill Schneck (IUGS-IFG Officer for USA and Washington State Patrol Crime Lab);
- Dr Elisa Bergslien (IUGS-IFG Information Officer/Web site and Buffalo State College); and
- Dr Alastair Ruffell (IUGS-IFG Training Officer and Queens University Belfast);

The presentations given in the Forensic Geology session were as follows:

- **Schneck, W.M.** Anthropogenic (man-made) materials in soil;
- **Adekanmbi, O.H. and Ogundipe, O.T.** Forensic palynology: Considering evidence from footwear;
- **Douma, S.L. and Klassen, R.A.** Natural toxicant is not an oxymoron. Earth science based probabilistic modeling of naturally occurring arsenic in New Brunswick drinking water;
- **Bergslien, E.T.** X-ray diffraction (XRD) and X-ray fluorescence (XRF) analysis of cremated human remains;
- **Donnelly, L.J.** Determination of a forensic geology and police search strategy to locate shallow burials associated with crime;
- **Ruffell, A.** Recent advances in geophysics and ground penetrating radar; and
- **Forbes, S.L.** Locating buried remains using ground penetrating radar in Canada.

The seminar was attended by approximately 50 delegates. They expressed great interest in forensic geology, and actively became involved in post presentation discussions and debates. Prof Peter Bobrowsky, IUGS Executive Committee members and President (*Elect*) for the Geological Association of Canada attended the session on Forensic Geology and provided an overview of the establishment of IUGS-IFG. Peter also drew attention to the Forensic Geology session to be held at the 34th International Geological Congress in Brisbane, on 6th August 2012 and the training in 'search' to be given to the Australian Federal Police on 8th-9th August 2012. IUGS-IFG and AFP training fliers were distributed amongst the audience and were appreciated. GAC 2012 was provided with this opportunity to promote and develop Forensic Geology in Canada, which was successfully achieved. This has now provided the basis for future collaboration between IFG and Canadian based geologists and police (law enforcement) officers.