

Frank has had a lifelong passion for geology, particularly the study of Devonian carbonates, which started in grammar school in England where in 1967 he took 'A'-level geology under the tutelage of his teacher Coral Jones! He received his B.Sc. (Hons) in geology in 1973 from Kingston Polytechnic, now Kingston University, in London and after a short stint as a mudlogger on the UK North Sea, headed to Canada, where in 1975 he received his M.Sc. from the University of Windsor, for work on Devonian carbonates of the James Bay Lowlands. Encouraged by his advisor, the late Bob Jull, he continued his studies at the University of Calgary on an Isaak Walton Killam Memorial scholarship where in 1979 he received his Ph.D. for work on Devonian reef growth and basin fill, under the supervision of the late Alan Oldershaw and Ed Klován.

From there he joined the oil industry in Calgary working for Esso Resources Canada Limited with assignments in both exploration and research. At Esso he worked under the late Perry Glaister and also found a carbonate mentor in Jack Wendte, with whom to share ideas. Together they taught in house Ancient Carbonate courses as well as set up Modern Carbonate courses for staff in Florida and the Bahamas. It was at Esso that Frank became a true 'Friend of the Devonian', working on many reservoir and exploration projects along with staff. One reservoir study on the Nisku section of the Obed area led directly to the drilling and discovery of the 300 Bcf Obed field in the deeper updip Leduc section. It was at Esso that Frank also met Steve Creaney, an organic geochemist, and together they started work that defined the fundamental petroleum geochemistry (accumulation, maturation and migration) of the Duvernay Formation in Central Alberta.

In 1985 Frank left Esso to pursue his desire to consult for industry, initially joining RPI Canada Limited where he met Clarence Campbell. With the untimely demise of the RPI group of companies the following year (not our fault!) Frank and Clarence embarked on a new adventure, Stoakes Campbell Geoconsulting Limited (SCG), later to become Stoakes Consulting Group Limited (SCG) when Clarence returned to his native Nova Scotia. Geographic separation didn't stop them from working on joint projects and more so after Clarence returned to Calgary and rejoined the company. The team of geologists at SCG described over 11,000 cored wells, totalling over 200 kilometres of core, which were digitized and put into an interactive database (StoneCode Geoware). Beginning in 1986 SCG has undertaken 60 major regional geologic studies numerous smaller studies and 20 international projects. SCG also taught over 50 Ancient Carbonate courses primarily in Western Canada but also in places as diverse as Turkey, China and Pakistan. Modern Carbonate field courses were held in Florida and the Bahamas (18 times) and Belize, Central America (23 times). The content and concepts conveyed in these courses have influenced a generation of geoscientists.

With increasing maturity of the basin, the project focus at SCG changed starting with Acid Gas Disposal projects jointly assisted by Harvey Heinrichs. SCG was also lead geologist with a group put together by Shell Canada in 2006 that identified and focused on the Basal Cambrian Sandstone as a sequestration target for what later became the Shell Quest Project. One area that Frank thought he would probably never work in was the Athabasca Oil Sands. That all changed in 2008 with the threat of water influx from the underlying Devonian aquifer in some areas and the search for water disposal in others.

Frank is a recognized authority on the Devonian of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin (WCSB). Throughout his long career he has authored and coauthored numerous abstracts, talks, short courses and papers primarily on the Devonian of the WCSB. He has won



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numerous awards, among them: 2 CSPG Medals of Merit (1980 and 2018), a CSPG Link Award (1986), and was CSPG Distinguished Lecturer (1987). He has long sought to teach, mentor and educate but most importantly to understand and unravel the depositional and diagenetic history of the Devonian succession of the WCSB.

Frank presently divides his time between Canada and Belize where he can ponder depositional processes using a mask, snorkel and dive tank. As a 'Friend of the Devonian' Dr. Frank Stoakes is a worthy recipient of honorary membership in CEGA and he wishes to thank all of his family, friends, employees (especially Drue Robinson), clients and compatriots for supporting him over the years and CEGA for bestowing on him this honour.