

January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Steven Hinds – Geoscientist, New Brunswick Geological Survey  
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Deanne van Rooyen - Vice President, Atlantic Geoscience Society  
Department of Mathematics, Physics, and Geology  
Cape Breton University Sydney NS, B1M 1A2

Dear Ms. Van Rooyen and members of the awards committee:

I am honoured to nominate Dr. Adrian Park for the Distinguished Scientist Award - Gesner Medal.

The main qualifying criteria for the Gesner Medal is: *“a person who has, through their own efforts (maps, publications, memoirs, etc.) developed and promoted the advancement of geoscience in the Atlantic region and beyond in any field of geology”*. The attached CV summarizes Adrian’s international mapping, teaching, and shortened publication list which clearly satisfies the above criteria.

After hearing many accolades about him from colleagues and industry clients, I first met Adrian on the mucky riverbanks near Belliveau Village in the spring of 2007, shortly after I got my job with the New Brunswick Geological Survey. I was initially curious about this highly experienced man – what will he be like to collaborate with? As Adrian had worked in NB for 15+years, would he be amenable to new ideas from a new kid on the block? I was struck by how approachable and well-rounded Adrian is by my initial conversation about the complicated geology of the Belliveau section he recently interpreted. Using his extensive research background, Adrian politely and professionally steered me away from most of my initial observations but incorporated into his research other minor observations I had about the fault dynamics along the section.

In the intervening years, Adrian repeatedly demonstrated his knowledge and expertise through field trips and collaborative projects. With each meeting I had with him, Adrian demonstrated his passion of geology and his love of teaching students, including my various field assistants. For example, when we come across seemingly very complex problems, his first reaction is to get a sly grin on his face, laugh his raspy laugh, and then immediately suggest remedies. Besides new geologists, even *non-geologists* taking his courses at UNB told me that they utilized his scientific methods, decorum, and knowledge as they developed their careers across North America. From this, and with the many public interactions I have witnessed in the field and at conferences, Adrian exceeds the standards for promoting geoscience to the public and fellow geoscientists across the country. Owing to his extensive international geoscience experience, Adrian has been requested by several journals as a referee (i.e. Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology, Canadian Mineralogist) and has also served on various thesis technical committees. He is also highly recognized for his structural geology expertise, particularly by the exploration community to aid in the unravelling of the structural history of various areas to better understand the controls and distribution of mineralization.

Adrian is not afraid of challenges, alongside his duties as a director with the NB chapter of CIM, he joined the newly formed Energy Institute during 2011 as an advisor and during a time of unrest, he fielded difficult questions about the oil and gas industry and steadfastly promoted good geoscience as the means



to responsibly develop our energy industry. His high geoscience regard by the public, industry, and senior government leaders resulted in Adrian's appointment as a Director of the Energy Institute and he authored a comprehensive, well researched, publicly oriented, geological summary of the oil and gas industry in NB. He also played a key role in the drafting of important policy documents that laid down the groundwork for a responsible and safe approach to future oil and gas exploration and management in New Brunswick, and potentially for the Atlantic region. This issue remains sensitive to this day and I remember Adrian telling me that despite the radical nature of some oil and gas skeptics at public meetings, he stated: you maintain "*a normal temperature*" and honest decorum when addressing their "*constant ravings*"!

On the regional geoscience front, Adrian was invited to provide the New Brunswick perspective on a journal publication (Waldron et al. 2015) because of his extensive NB field mapping experience. This article defined the movement history of several key fault structures such as the Belleisle and Caledonia faults and the resultant kinematic reconstructions affected the entire Appalachians. In his publication of 2020 (Geological Society of London) Adrian has refined and *defined* new geological interpretations in the Pennsylvanian and much older units in the Point Lepreau to Black River areas of southwestern NB. These coastal sections are highly deformed by several tectonic events that have complicated regional correlations and have left several unanswered questions over the last century. Using legacy maps and reports across the area as a base, Adrian conducted new detailed structural mapping of hundreds of outcrops, which led to the identification of a new complex system of flower structures within the area. Just as important, this interpretation rationalized the timing of the different fault systems such as the Caledonia-Clover Hill Fault and the Spruce Lake Shear Zone and has resolved the nomenclature of rock units that were enigmatic for over 100 years. In particular, a refined definition of the type section and age of the Balls Lake Formation. Adrian's 2020 study and his other mapping along the terranes in southern NB can be applied to other problematic areas across the Appalachian System of Canada and the US.

In addition to the above example, Adrian's structural and stratigraphic mapping of the Devonian aged Perry Formation. His recent field work identified a grey unit within the Perry that was successfully dated (palynology) as Mid Devonian. In the years that I worked with him, that was the closest thing I saw to him dancing on the outcrop when he found that unit! This work will implicate the age and timing of faulting in the Appalachians of southwestern New Brunswick and Eastern Maine, where the Perry was defined as a formation.

Despite "*staring down seventy*", Adrian displays no sign of hanging up his geology hat. In fact, he recently told me that one of his future projects involves the detailed mapping of Deer Island by bicycle "*while I am still mobile*"! Adrian's exemplary geoscience knowledge, dedication and professionalism make him an excellent role model for us all and I am privileged that he considers me his geoscience colleague and friend. I cannot think of any other person that is more deserving of the Gesner Medal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely



Steven Hinds – Geoscientist, New Brunswick Geological Survey