

Alberta Palaeontological Society

Fossils of the East Kootenays and Recent Research

Speaker: Guy Santucci, BA (Notre Dame, Nelson) ULE, (University of B.C.)

Location: Mount Royal University, Room B108

Time: April 20, 2018, 7:30 pm

Abstract:

The unique sedimentary geology of the East Kootenays on the western slopes of the Rockies presents a cross section of life on Earth through most of the geological time scale from the late Proterozoic to Recent. Fossils have been recovered from virtually all the Periods with only a few minor gaps. Recent finds by amateurs and professionals all point to the fact that as more research takes place, these gaps are most likely going to be filled and more new species discovered.

As well, work on the Early and Middle Cambrian have revealed a number of new species of trilobites, and some yet to be identified enigmatic species. Much more work and study will be required. The plethora of species now identified from the Middle Cambrian McKay Group show a diversity as great or greater than any other site on Earth including Chinese and Moroccan beds. To date, fifteen McKay sites have been found just on the Bull River alone, including a possible Eager Formation site not previously catalogued.

Along with these discoveries comes the growing pains of government protections of the sites and future study and access by collectors.

Biography:

Guy completed his BA in Psychology in 1974, and a Degree in Urban Land Economics in 1984 and also has 3 years of an unfinished Bachelor of Science. Law school was originally in the works, however a good government job derailed future educational and vocational plans. Guy became interested in fossils when he moved to Cranbrook, B.C, in 1975 and started digging at the Rifle Range site. He has since explored numerous sites in the Kootenays, has been included in articles and has also written numerous non-scientific articles on fossils. Other interests included writing, photography and natural history. He is also an artist and has even appeared in a Hollywood production. Currently, he serves on the Board of the Cranbrook History Centre as the Paleontology co-ordinator and advisor. He conducts fossil talks and displays at area schools and this past summer ran a kids' fossil program through the museum.

Division Information:

This event is presented jointly by the Alberta Palaeontological Society, the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Mount Royal University, and the Palaeontology Division of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists. For details or to present a talk in the future, please contact CSPG Palaeontology Division Chair Jon Noad at jonnoad@hotmail.com or APS Coordinator Harold Whittaker at 403-286-0349 or contact programs1@albertapaleo.org. Visit the APS website for confirmation of event times and upcoming speakers: <http://www.albertapaleo.org/>.

