



## APGO's Networking Events in Sudbury and Toronto: A Big Success!

APGO has done it again! A big **THANK YOU** to the leadership and commitment of our Regional Councillors, **Ben Berger, P.Geo.** (North East) and **Peter Diorio, P.Geo.** (Central), the regional networking events that took place in Sudbury and Toronto this February were well received. Attendees had a great time that 72% of members who completed the online survey thought APGO should have a networking event in their respective region twice a year.



The events highlighted the best about APGO members – their pride in their profession, their passion for APGO's mission, their deep respect for each other and their collective commitment to nurture geoscience students as the future of APGO.

The networking events brought together a great mix of people representing APGO'S rich and proud history, the present, and the future.



*"This was one of the best networking sessions I have seen in 10-15 years in Sudbury!"*



*"I enjoyed the closeness of the company and the APGO had made everyone feel welcome; a wonderful evening."*

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FGC recipients with APGO Registrar, Aftab Khan (3rd from left) and Central Ontario Regional Councillor, Peter Diorio (2nd from right)



FGC Recipient, Scott McLean

The evenings saw the recognition of some of the best in the field and who also were among the founding members of the Association. They were honored with Fellow of Geoscience Canada (FGC) designation and the heartwarming tribute accorded to them by their peers not only spoke of their great contribution to the profession and to APGO but also revealed the profound impact they had on others' personal journey to carve a career in geoscience. Members honored at the events were:

- Scott McLean, P.Geo.** (North East)
- John F. Gartner, P.Geo.** (Central)
- Robert Leech, P.Geo.** (Central)
- Steven Usher, P.Geo.** (Central)
- Neil Westoll, P.Geo.** (Central)

APGO wants to recognize and thank our guest speakers for generously giving their time to the event and for sharing their knowledge and insights with the attendees – Dr. Jamie Rogers, P.Geo., IAM Gold Corporation, who spoke in Sudbury and Mr. Rodney Thomas, First Vice President of PDAC, who spoke in Toronto.

The events proved to be a great learning opportunity for students. Their enthusiasm in learning more about the profession was equally match by APGO members' candour to share their insights. APGO thanks students from Laurentian University, McMaster University and University of Toronto for their active participation. We hope to see more of you in our future events.



Sudbury Guest Speaker, Dr. Jamie Rogers, P.Geo. Chief Geologist, IAM Gold Corporation with host, Ben Berger, P.Geo.



Toronto Guest Speaker, Mr. Rodney Thomas, P.Geo First VP of PDAC and GM of Votorantim Metals Canada Inc.

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APGO is greatly encouraged by the keen interest of members to get more engaged in its work in building strong connections amongst each other and with the Association. Gord White, APGO's CEO quotes, *"One of the cornerstones of professional associations is the opportunity to network with peers. APGO is still a relatively young association and much of the early focus was on learning about and implementing the responsibilities of the regulatory process. It is time now to focus on operating as a professional association as well. I have been impressed with the enthusiasm and engagement of the members and students who have attended our networking events. Professional associations are more effective when members are informed and interested. By all indications so far, APGO will have a bright future collaborating with an active membership."*

We were also encouraged by the strong support from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines' staff who provided a strong presence in the North East event. Ben Berger, North East Regional Councillor quotes, *"I am certainly very happy that APGO members and students responded so well to the Sudbury networking event. I hope it proved to be useful and informative. Any and all feedback is greatly appreciated."*

Central Ontario Regional Councillor, Peter Diorio expresses his thanks to everyone who came. *"It was extremely rewarding to see so many Members turn out and share their experience with both other Members and geoscience students. Sincere thanks to all who participated."*

*"Having more events like this so we (GITs) get to know more people and hopefully find work."*

*More Feedback...*

*"First event that I have come out to, and it was a great experience!"*

*"Pleased to see students as well as colleagues."*

*"It was a great experience, and fun. Looking forward to the next one!"*

*"Thank you for putting this together, it is long overdue."*

*"Keep up the good work! Really liked the number of students in attendance."*



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We thank everyone who took the time to provide their feedback so we can make our future events better and more meaningful to our members. Your thoughts on how we can improve our work are valuable to us.

We are rolling out two more regional events this coming April. North West Regional Meeting, led by Dave Hunt, is slated to take place in Thunder Bay on April 7, 2014 in conjunction with Northwestern Ontario Mines & Minerals Symposium. Online registration is now available on APGO website. Whereas the exact April date for South East Regional Networking Event will be announced soon.

Lastly, nothing says it better than one of our participants who had this to say about APGO's networking event.

*"It was great to meet new people, as well as catch up with old acquaintances. This is a great initiative from the Association to allow us to both network and contribute to our continuing professional development. I hope this is the start of a regular activity and I'm happy for the efforts of Ben Berger and others for making it happen."*



## **Mark Your Calendar!**

**APGO Annual General Meeting & Conference**  
**June 12, 2014**  
**One King West, Toronto**

*Hope to see you there!*

# Recipients

Fellow of Geoscientists Canada



Scott McLean, P.Geo.



Robert F. Gartner, P.Geo.



Robert Leech, P.Geo.

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