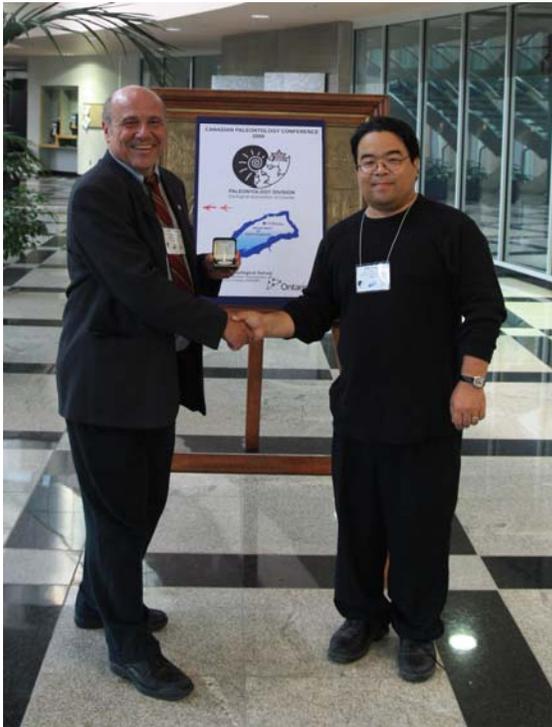


Citation for Billings Medal Presentation to Guy Narbonne (Canadian Paleontology Conference, 2009, Sudbury)



Dr. Guy Narbonne is presented the 2009 GAC Billings Medal by GAC Paleontology Division Chair, Cam Tsujita at the Canadian Paleontology Conference (CPC-2009) in Sudbury, Ontario (September, 2009).

(Photo by Frank Brunton)

2009 GAC Billings Medal Citation

Guy Narbonne began his long and distinguished career at Brock University, where he received his B.Sc. He went on to complete a Ph.D. at the University of Ottawa with Dr. Owen Dixon. Having completed his Ph.D. in 1981, he began postdoctoral work with Dr. Hans Hoffman at the University of Montreal on ichnological aspects of Paleozoic strata on Anticosti Island. It was at about this time that Bill Fritz and Jim Aitken from the Geological Survey of Canada distracted Guy with fossiliferous Proterozoic rocks in the Mackenzie Mountains. This distraction from Anticosti Island was to ultimately lead to much greater things in the burgeoning field of Precambrian paleontology. Clearly, sedimentology and ichnology's loss was Proterozoic paleontology's gain. Guy accepted a teaching position at Queen's University in 1982, where he has remained ever since, concentrating on his work in the Later Proterozoic, but by no means forgetting his roots in the Paleozoic.

Guy Narbonne has published a seemingly endless stream of first-class paleontological papers in high-profile journals on Ediacaran and lower Paleozoic biotas from both eastern and western Canada, and his studies abroad have included new discoveries and continued research projects in such far-flung regions of the world as Namibia and Australia. Over the past 6 years alone, he has published 5 papers in *Science* (including a cover story on Ediacaran fossils from Newfoundland in 2004). He is co-author of the recently published UNESCO-sponsored book *The Rise of the Animals* and continues to contribute to global reviews of various aspects of the Ediacaran world. With such an enviable expertise in so many matters Ediacaran it is no wonder that he has becoming the leading authority on the Ediacaran System in North America. Guy is

also respected as a resourceful geologist with a keen and careful eye for detail, and also as a meticulous organizer.

So what are some of Guy's major accomplishments? Here are but a few of them:

1. He has produced over 30 refereed scientific publications on the paleontology, paleoecology, biostratigraphy, sedimentology and chemical paleo-oceanography of the Ediacaran, that have included descriptions of the oldest and youngest known complex metazoa of the Ediacaran and the oldest simple Ediacaran fossils known anywhere (Twitya discs ca. 635 Ma)
2. He was directly involved in the successful effort to find pre-tillite Ediacaran-type metazoans in northwestern Canada, whose probable existence he and his associates had hypothesized, and was involved in the integration of litho-bio-and chemostratigraphy of the magnificent Neoproterozoic sections exposed there.
3. Guy's work has also resulted in the formal designation of the base (GSSP) of the Cambrian (at Fortune Head, Newfoundland) and Ediacaran (at Enorama Creek, South Australia)
4. Furthermore, recognizing its worldwide importance, he championed the establishment of the Mistaken Point Ecological Reserve and its nomination as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. These efforts also included the construction of a museum that opened in 2007 in nearby Portugal Cove/Trepassey, featuring the record of the earliest complex multicellular life on the planet.

Guy Narbonne is also a dynamic and thought-provoking lecturer, who is well-known for his exceptionally clear and well illustrated talks, and it is because of this that he has been invited as a "distinguished lecturer" by numerous scientific societies and has received a number of awards for his conference presentations.

Guy is an active and valued member of major paleontological associations, having served as Chair for the GAC Paleontology Division, the SEPM Trace Fossil Research Group, a voting member of the International Precambrian-Cambrian Boundary Working Group, International Commission on Stratigraphy, and a scientific board member of the International Geoscience Programme of UNESCO-IGCP. He has also served as an associate editor of journals such as *Palaios* and *Geology*.

On top of his incredible record in research and service to the paleontological community, he has also served as a superb mentor to 14 graduate students, 4 post-doctoral researchers and numerous undergraduate students. His very popular first year course "History of Life" at Queen's continues to attract students from more than 20 departments across campus and has become a major draw of majors into the arts and science programs in geology- a major achievement in itself. Lastly, Guy continues to be a valuable and respected spokesperson for Canadian paleontology, as he is frequently featured in interviews on television, radio and in the printed media.

It is therefore, with great pleasure, that the GAC Paleontology Division presents the 2009 Billings Medal to Dr. Guy Narbonne.