

Map 237A. COMPILATION BEDROCK GEOLOGY SERIES
CREE LAKE, NTS AREA 74G

SASKATCHEWAN
Scale 1:250,000

FIRST EDITION, 1985

GEOLOGICAL NOTES

The Cree Lake area covers approximately 13 700 km². Five geologically distinctive sub-areas are recognized:

1. Wollaston Domain (in the southeast).
2. Mudjatik Domain (in the south-central).
3. Virgin River Domain (immediately west of the Mudjatik Domain).
4. Western Granulite Domain (in the southwest).
5. Athabasca Group sediments (northern half of the area).

The first four sub-areas comprise crystalline basement rocks, except for the ill-defined transitional contact between the Wollaston and Mudjatik Domains, are separated from one another by shear zones. The gently dipping Athabasca Group unconformably overlies the crystalline basement.

Wollaston Domain
This domain is largely made up of distinctive, dark pink, foliated granitic rock (unit Wn). This rock type, which shows remarkable regional homogeneity and may be of plutonic igneous origin, crops out in dome cores throughout the Wollaston Domain and is generally believed to be of Archean age (Lewy and Sobad, 1960; Ray and Wanless, 1980). Westwards, the foliated granite gradually loses its regional homogeneity and assumes the compositionally more varied character of Mudjatik Domain felsic gneisses (unit Mn).

Southwards and probably to the north, where evidence is restricted mainly to boudoir occurrences, Wollaston Group tourmaline-bearing paragneisses of probable Alpehbian age overlie the gneisses of unit Wn. Typical rock types include garnetiferous and biotitic pelites and psammopelites (unit Wpa) and locally calcareous meta-arkosic psammites (unit Wm).

Mudjatik Domain
Regionally homogeneous felsic gneisses (unit Mn) of unknown paragneiss are dominant in this domain. Long, narrow (0.5 to 3.0 km wide) arcuate-trending bands of supracrustal rock relieve the monotony of the felsic gneisses.
The supracrustal rocks are predominantly mafic (unit Mm), but amphibolite and psammite metasediments also occur in this unit. Metagranites (unit Mg) are locally abundant in the west. Banded iron-formation (unit Mi) is exposed 4 km south of American Lake and is also interpreted to exist over a magnetic high in the southeast, south of Huston Lake. Close to its contacts with the felsic gneisses, unit Mm contains lenses and layers of hypersthene-bearing amphibole gneiss (unit Mm_h), some of which are striped by white quartzitic layers several millimetres or centimetres thick. Most of these amphibole gneisses are probably of supracrustal origin, but a few may have been derived from mafic intrusions.

Major magmatic bodies are all of granitoid composition. Apart from possible plutons within unit Mn felsic gneiss, the earliest recognizable of two main types:
1. Well-foliated massive metagranite/metabasaltic/pegmatite (unit Mgt) occurs along the southern side of the Cable Bay Shear Zone. Streaked-out mafic patches, possibly representing xenolithic material, are distinguishable in some exposures of this unit.
2. Well-foliated, folded metagranite (unit Mgf), also situated close to the Cable Bay Shear Zone, characteristically contains microcline megacrysts to 4 cm in length, as well as ferroblastite. Similar metagranite underlies the region around the channel connecting Leavitt Bay with Cree Lake.

Late, massive to weakly foliated leucogranite (unit Mlg) is common in dykes but forms less masses of mappable dimension. Of these, the largest is located on the southwest shore of Leavitt Bay, Cree Lake.

Cable Bay Shear Zone
Cataclastic rocks crop out in a 50 to 100 m wide zone along a steep scarp that extends southwest from Cable Bay to Carpenter Lake. Felsic rocks have been converted into very fine grained mylonites, whereas mafic rocks appear either to have withstood mylonitization or to have recrystallized to produce rather coarse grained calcalkalics. This shear zone likely continues toward the southwest in a wide semi-filled valley and marks the boundary between the Mudjatik and Virgin River Domains.

Virgin River Domain
Like the Mudjatik Domain, this domain is largely composed of felsic gneisses (unit Vn) but differs in that northwards-trending igneous structures, rather than arcuate structures, are predominant. Other rock types are abundant only in the west, adjacent to the Virgin River Shear Zone.
Three small lenses of ultramafic rock (unit Vu) crop out in the south part of the domain. The easternmost lens is a dark, well-foliated rock made up of hornblende and augite with smaller amounts of plagioclase and pyroxene, whereas the lenses in the west are coarse grained and massive, with amphibole of a magnesian to iron-rich composition.

Virgin Schist Group metamorphic rocks of sedimentary and possible volcanic origin occur as lenses and bands which are increasingly abundant and continuous towards the west. Within unit Vn, pelites are dominant and contain a wide range of ferromagnesian and aluminosilicate minerals which provide firm evidence for a well-developed regional metamorphic grade: psammopelites, psammites and calc-silicate rocks are subordinate in the unit. Banded iron-formation (unit Mi) also occurs in this domain. In the westernmost belt of supracrustal rocks, amphibolite layers ranging in thickness from 1 cm to 150 m or more characterize unit Vm. They are possibly products of volcanism.

The western margin of the Virgin River Domain exposes the 'Central Gneiss Complex' (Walls, 1970) which comprises heterogeneous felsic gneisses containing 10 to 25 percent amphibolite as concordant layers or sheets, and 25 to 40 percent subconcordant metabasite injections (unit Vm). Where these rocks are migmatized (unit Vm_i), the heterogeneous felsic gneisses and the concordant amphibolites are recrystallized, the former with loss of compositional layering and planar fabric. The metabasite injections may be correlative with mafic sheets of the 'Champion sill swarm' occurring 275 km to the northeast near Black Lake (Macdonald and Broughton, 1980).

Virgin River Shear Zone
This shear zone is about 4.5 km wide to its northern end, and is bifurcated. Grey and pink calcalkalic rocks (unit Vc) derived from heterogeneous gneisses of the Virgin River Domain and the Western Granulite Domain are separated here by pink augen gneiss (unit Vg). Southwards, the augen gneiss grades into a pink micro-augen mylonite (unit Vm), apparently derived from unit Vg. The shear zone narrows to the south, and mylonites were not recognized as a separate unit by Johnson (1960) in the Hyberg Lakes area.

Western Granulite Domain
The Western Granulite Domain is mostly underlain by heterogeneous grey and pink 'blue quartz' felsic and mafic gneisses (unit Wg) and WGG, which are generally hypersthene-bearing. Pink augen gneiss (unit Wv) occurs in isolated, lenticular bodies, plagioclase and microcline augen have average lengths of about 1 mm in this section. This rock type displays typical cataclastic textures. Concordant sheets of poorly foliated greenish-grey amphibole gneiss (unit Wm) occur from mesopelites in the north. Although hypersthene was not identified, these amphibolites appear to be the retrogressed products of high grade granulite facies metagabbros, and have likely undergone a thermotectonic evolution similar to that of the 'blue quartz' gneisses.

The Athabasca Group
Athabasca Group strata of presumed Paleozoic age unconformably overlie crystalline Precambrian basement in the north. Both sediments and, to a lesser extent, basement are injected by diabase dikes which are mainly concentrated in a 6 km wide north-south trending zone (the Cree Lake Dyke Swarm). Radiometric dating of these dykes suggests they are Neoproterozoic in age.

Metamorphic and Structural History
Gilbey (in press) recognizes four deformational events to the east of the Virgin River Shear Zone: all are probably of Hudsonian age. The first two apparently took place under a prolonged period of medium pressure upper amphibolite to granulite facies regional metamorphism which peaked at about 4 kbar, 725°C. During these events, all depositional fabrics in the supracrustal rocks were destroyed, and all regional-scale folding was obliterated. The D₁ deformation is considered to be responsible for the regionally developed granitic foliation and schistosity, to generally related fold have been identified. The D₂ deformation is associated with large well-northwest-trending upright folds, best seen in the Mudjatik Domain. Upright folds with northeast-trending axial planar cleavage probably formed during D₂, by which the P₁ conditions in the Mudjatik had warmed to about 3 kbar, 500°C. The D₃ deformation is represented by a fold which is generally localized, except in the Virgin River and Cable Bay Shear Zones, and was accompanied by regional retrogression, especially in the west.

Walls (1970) postulated a somewhat different structural development for the area. He suggested that an early stage of axial folding (F₁), while responsible for the regional development of schistosity and prograde metamorphism, was not necessarily a significant regional effect. Walls's phase F₂, which produced regional northeast-trending tight folds and was dominant in its control of outcrop patterns, was followed by regional-scale cross-folding (F₃), migmatization and mylonitization. In that order, the mylonites were determined by successive F₂ brittle structures such as box folds, sink bands and monoclinial step folds.

Walls pointed out that metamorphic grades and histories of the rocks on either side of the Virgin River Shear Zone differ markedly. In the east, supracrustal in the 'Virgin Schist Group' crystallized at approximately 3 to 5 kb and 500° to 600°C, contain mineral assemblages clearly demonstrating that they have undergone subvolcanic crystallization, and lack retrogressive changes. In the west, however, gneisses crystallized at 5 to 8 kb, 700° to 800°C and show the effects of cataclasis and retrogression. This contrast led Walls to conclude that rocks west of the Virgin River Shear Zone are part of an Archean granulite facies terrane and are considerably older than the felsic gneisses and supracrustal rocks east of the shear zone. The cataclasis and retrogression of the western rocks may represent the early F₁ and M₁ periods of the Hudsonian orogenic, which so intensely affected the eastern rocks.

Post-Hudsonian uplift, deposition of Athabasca Group sediments and diabase dyke injection were succeeded by regional tectonic and probable normal faulting.

Economic Geology
An east-west 40 km wide strip along the southern limit of the Athabasca Group has recently been a focus of intensive uranium exploration, although as yet no major discovery has been reported.
In the past, especially in the interval from 1958 to 1960, supracrustal rocks of the 'Virgin Schist Group' attracted considerable exploration work aimed at locating base or precious metal occurrences. Viable economic deposits have not yet been found.
The Vn iron prospect, discovered 6 km east of Hyberg Lakes in 1962, contains chiefly magnetite. Host rocks are metasediments, comprising pelites, garnetiferous quartzites and iron-formation (Harper, 1983).

The 'Virgin Schist Group' as originally defined by Johnson (1960) was compiled only the westermost of the Virgin River Domain supracrustal rocks. On this compilation, of supracrustal rocks of the Virgin River Domain are included in this group, after Gilbey (in press).



LEGEND

NEOHELIXIAN

Dykes: dark green, medium to coarse grained, subophitic texture; pyroxene + plagioclase + magnetite + olivine + quartz; local xenoliths of Athabasca Group and basement metamorphic rocks

PALEOHELIXIAN

ATHABASCA GROUP

- LL:** Laker Lake Formation: mainly pebbly sandstone of marine origin
- WP:** Wolverine Point Formation: marine sandstone and siltstone
WpB: mainly siltstone and clay-rich sandstone, phosphatic, tubular
WpA: mainly sandstone, minor siltstone
- Lx:** Laxey Lake Formation: pebbly sandstone containing sparsely disseminated clasts; probably of marine origin
- MF:** Main Lake Formation: mainly fluviatile sandstone and conglomerate
MfC: intraclast-rich sandstone (fluviatile)
MfD: interbedded conglomerate and sandstone (fluviatile)
MfA: sandstone, minor pebbly sandstone, minor conglomerate, minor intraclast-rich sandstone (marine, interbedded fluviatile)

AGE UNCERTAIN: CATACLASIS PROBABLY LATE HUDSONIAN

- Hb:** Hornblende-biotite augen gneiss: mylonitic, containing up to 50 percent microcline and plagioclase megacrysts
- C:** Cataclastic rocks: grey to pink mylonites derived from gneisses of the Western Granulite Domain and from the Central Gneiss Complex of the Virgin River Domain
Cv: pink, micro-augen mylonite derived from the Central Gneiss Complex

VIRGIN RIVER DOMAIN

PROBABLY LATE ALPEHBIAN (HUDSONIAN)

- Yc:** Central Gneiss Complex: heterogeneous grey to pink felsic gneisses with subordinate concordant mafic gneiss layers, injected by unfoliated metabasites (possibly similar to mafic sheets of the Chopras sill swarm at Black Lake, NTS 74P; see Macdonald and Broughton, 1980)
Ycgm: migmatized Central Gneiss Complex
- U:** Ultramafic rock: dark green, coarse grained, massive to foliated

PROBABLY EARLY TO MIDDLE ALPEHBIAN (HUDSONIAN)

- Yp:** Leucogranite: pink, medium to coarse grained; 5 to 10 percent biotite, massive to poorly foliated

PROBABLY EARLY TO MIDDLE ALPEHBIAN (probably largely correlative with the Wollaston Group)

- Vn:** Undifferentiated gneiss: pelitic, psammopelitic, psammite, metagranite, meta-arkose, calc-silicate rock, interbedded with felsic gneiss (unit Vm), subcropping beneath Athabasca Group
- Vg:** Virgin Schist Group
VgB: banded iron-formation: wavy
VgC: Pelitic, psammopelitic and psammite schists: fine to medium grained; biotite + garnet + sillimanite (undeveloped in westernmost exposures) + muscovite + chlorite + cordierite, subordinate amphibolite bands and calc-silicate rock
- Vm:** Amphibolite rich schist and gneiss: possibly volcanogenic, with subordinate metasedimentary bands; actinolitic; varies from fine grained and schistose

PROBABLY MAINLY ARCHEAN, DEFORMED AND METAMORPHOSED WITH ALPEHBIAN SUPRACRUSTAL ROCKS DURING THE HUDSONIAN OROGENY

- Mn:** Felsic gneiss: pink to light brown, locally banded, medium to coarse grained; syenogranite, monzogranite, granodiorite and tonalite; 5 to 10 percent biotite + hornblende + hypersthene; texturally and compositionally heterogeneous on a regional scale

WESTERN GRANULITE DOMAIN

PROBABLY MAINLY ARCHEAN

- Wg:** Undifferentiated gneiss: predominantly mafic to felsic gneiss with interbedded supracrustal material, including biotite and amphibole gneiss, subcropping beneath Athabasca Group
- Wm:** Hornblende-biotite augen gneiss: commonly mylonitic and chloritized; up to 50 percent microcline and plagioclase megacrysts; cataclasis possibly related to Virgin River Shear Zone
- Wv:** Amphibolite gneiss: medium to coarse grained, granitic-grey, massive to weakly foliated; hornblende + plagioclase + pyroxene + cummingtonite + biotite
- Wm_h:** Mafic gneiss: hypersthene-bearing fine-grained gneisses, ranging from a grey, medium grained, granitoid, poorly foliated variety to a pink, medium to coarse grained, well foliated variety associated with abundant pegmatite (possibly the cataclastic equivalent of the grey variety)
- Wg_d:** pink to grey, coarse grained, garnetiferous mafic gneiss
- Wm_i:** Felsic gneiss: blue-quartz gneiss, hypersthene-bearing

SYMBOLS

- Bedrock exposure: approximate area of abundant bedrock exposure
- Geological contact: defined to approximate; inferred
- Sub-Athabasca Group geological contact: inferred
- Structural lineament, possible to probable fault, as interpreted from geological, geophysical and/or aerphoto evidence
- Shear zone
- Trend and approximate dip of dominant foliation (surface dip shallow (0-20°), moderate (30-50°), steep (60-84°), subvertical (85-90°))
- Approximate to inferred Mudjatik Domain/Wollaston Domain junction
- Minor prospect, deposit
- 1. NTS 74L-10 prospect, Fe (Harper, 1983)

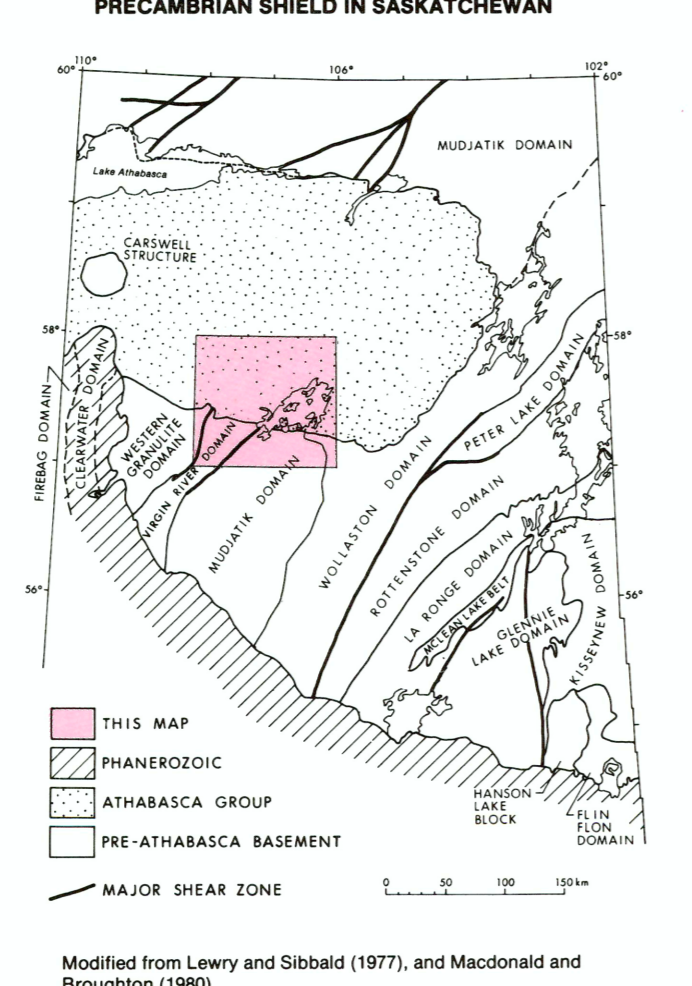
HUDSONIAN METAMORPHISM

- Metamorphic facies: isograds
- Upper amphibolite and granulite (undivided)
- Upper amphibolite
- Middle amphibolite
- Lower amphibolite
- Lower amphibolite and upper greenschist (undivided)

ARCHEAN (KENORAN ?) METAMORPHISM

- Granulite facies (weakly retrogressed by Hudsonian greenschist to lower amphibolite metamorphism)
- Granulite facies (strongly retrogressed by Hudsonian greenschist to lower amphibolite facies metamorphism)
- unmetamorphosed rocks

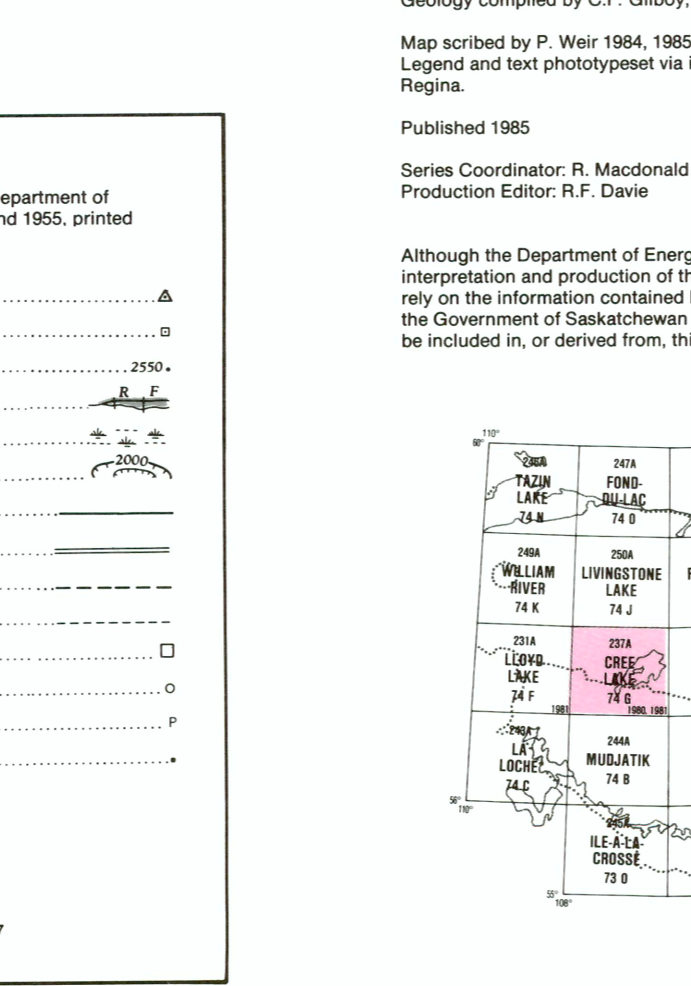
LITHOSTRUCTURAL DOMAINS OF THE PRECAMBRIAN SHIELD IN SASKATCHEWAN



BASE MAP LEGEND

- Horizontal contour interval: 100 m
- Boundary requirement: 1:250,000
- Spot elevation, in feet: 2500
- Spot elev. in feet: 2500
- Marsh or swamp
- Depression contour: 100
- Subsidence line
- Flow, of water
- Mean water level
- Trail or path
- Trail or path
- Village or settlement
- Post office
- Subsidence

INDEX TO MAPS OF THE COMPILATION BEDROCK GEOLOGY SERIES



SOURCES OF COMPILATION

- Ratnaraker, 1977, 1980
- Gilbey, in press
- Ratnaraker, 1982
- Gilbey, in press
- Saskatchewan Geological Survey 1:50 000 scale mapping
- Saskatchewan Geological Survey 1:100 000 scale reconnaissance
- Saskatchewan Geological Survey Athabasca Group and sub-Athabasca Group mapping

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Gilbey, C.F. (1985). Compilation Bedrock Geology, Cree Lake, NTS Area 74G, Saskatchewan Energy and Mines, Report 237 (1:250 000 scale map with marginal notes).