INSTITUTE ON LAKE
SUPERIOR GEOLOGY

72nd ANNUAL INSTITUTE ON LAKE SUPERIOR GEOLOGY

May 20-23, 2026
Thunder Bay, ON

Second Circular

Meeting & Field Trip Information and Call for Papers

The 72nd Annual Institute on Lake Superior Geology will be held from **Wednesday, May 20 to Saturday, May 23, 2026** in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Registration Opens: Friday, March 20
Abstract Submission Deadline: Friday, March 27
Eisenbrey Travel Award Application Deadline: Friday, April 24

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Meeting Headquarters: Lakehead University, 955 Oliver Road, Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 5E1
(*Note that Thunder Bay is in the Eastern Time Zone*)

Wednesday, May 20

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Field trips 1-3 depart and return from the University
5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Registration, poster viewing, and Icebreaker Reception with cash bar

Thursday, May 21

7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Registration continues
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Technical Session I
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Catered lunch
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Technical Session II
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Reception with cash bar
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Annual Banquet and Awards Presentation

Friday, May 22

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Technical Session III
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Catered lunch
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Technical Session IV
4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Student awards

Field trip 4 (Mine Centre) participants will depart after the meeting and travel to Fort Frances.

Saturday, May 23

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Field trips 5-6 depart and return from the University

STUDENTS

Students are especially encouraged to participate in all facets of the conference. Travel subsidies are available for qualified students who attend the 71st meeting. Applications for the Eisenbrey student travel awards are available on the ILSG website (lakesuperiorgeology.org/eisenbreyaward.html). Applications must be completed and returned by **Friday, April 24, 2026**. In addition to Eisenbrey travel awards, cash prizes will be awarded for the best student-authored presentations.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Blocks of rooms have been reserved at the Days Inn North, Holiday Inn Express, TownePlace Suites, Hyatt House and Lakehead University Residence. See the Hotels page on the web site for more info. When making reservations, please mention that you are reserving your room(s) under the ILSG block booking (link, QR and block booking codes available in the property descriptions).

REGISTRATION

Registration opens on the morning of Friday, March 20, 2026. Access to online registration will be available here: https://www.lakesuperiorgeology.org/ThunderBay2026/Registration.html

Conference registration fees:
Student: $100
Professional: $200

One day field trip registration fees:
Student: $25
Professional: $60

Two-day Mine Centre field trip registration fees:
Student: $250 (includes 2 nights overnight accommodation)
Professional: $350 (includes 2 nights overnight accommodation)

Annual banquet tickets: $50

Please note the following changes for distribution of the proceedings and field trip volumes that are commencing for the 2026 meeting.

Electronic pdf copies of the proceedings and abstracts volume, and the complete field trip guidebook will be provided to all attendees. Field trip participants will also receive a hard copy of the guide for their field trip at the beginning of their trip.

Attendees who wish to obtain hard copies of the proceedings/abstracts and the complete field trip guidebook will need to purchase them when they complete their on-line registration. The purchase price will be $20 per volume.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstract Submission Deadline: Friday, March 27, 2026

Submit abstracts to Mark Smyk & Pete Hollings (ilsg.abstracts@gmail.com)

Authors must submit a print-ready abstract in both PDF and MS Word formats. When submitting, please indicate your preference for oral versus poster presentation, or no preference. Those selecting the latter option will be contacted to plan accordingly.

This year's abstract volume will be printed on-demand only, registrants will be given the option to purchase a hard copy of the Proceedings volume when they complete their on-line meeting registration. A PDF copy will be available online. Thus, authors need to ensure that colour figures reasonably reproduce in black and white.

Abstract specifications are provided below.

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

Abstract Submission Deadline: Friday, March 27, 2026

Maximum of one page for title, authors, and text, and one additional page for figures, figure captions, and references!

Specifications include:

A. Limit of two pages (8½" x 11") including illustrations and references:
   a. A maximum of 1 page may be used for title, authors, and abstract text
   b. Up to one additional page may be used for references, figures, and figure captions
B. Use left, top, and right margins of 1" and bottom margin of 1.3"
C. Times New Roman with sizes as described below.

TITLE: **Times New Roman 12-point font BOLD** following the "ILSG title" style
SURNAME in caps, First name (*use the "ILSG author" style*), **SECOND AUTHOR**, **first name**,**THIRD AUTHOR**, **first name**
Address *Times New Roman Italics 11-point font* (*use the "ILSG affiliation*" style)

Example:

Geochemistry and petrology of Midcontinent Rift-related intrusive rocks of the Sibley Peninsula, Ontario
CARL, Christian[1], HOLLINGS, Peter [1], and SMYK, Mark [2]
[1]Department of Geology, Lakehead University, 955 Oliver Road Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1 Canada
[2]Ontario Geological Survey, Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry, Suite B002, 435James St. South Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7 Canada

ABSTRACT TEXT Times New Roman 12-point font
Use the "ILSG Main text" style. Figures should be inserted in the text in the appropriate place.

FIGURE CAPTIONS.

Figure 1: Figure captions should be Times New Roman 11-point and placed under the figure. Use the "*ILSGFigure caption*" style

The abstract volume will be printed in black and white, although the PDF of the volume will be in color, so you should ensure your color figures reasonably reproduce in black and white. Text should be single spaced.

REFERENCES: Times New Roman 11-point font using the "ILSG References" style.

Example:

Hollings, P., Hart, T., Richardson, A., and MacDonald, C., 2007. Geochemistry of the Mesoproterozoic intrusive rocks of the Nipigon Embayment, Northwestern Ontario. Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences, 44, 1087-1110.

FIELD TRIPS

Pre-Meeting Field Trips: Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Trip 1: Classic Geological Sites of the Thunder Bay Area, Part 1 (Pre-Meeting)

Trip Leaders: Mark Smyk (Lakehead University) and Mark Puumala (Geological Consultant)

Thunder Bay is located at the boundary between the Southern and Superior provinces of the Canadian Shield, making it an ideal location to obtain a geological overview of the Lake Superior region. This field trip will provide an opportunity for participants to view some of the "classic" outcrop exposures north and east of the City. The trip will include stops within the Neoarchean Shebandowan greenstone belt, the Paleoproterozoic Animikie Group (including the *ca.* 1850 Ma Sudbury impact layer), the Mesoproterozoic Sibley Group, and the Mesoproterozoic Midcontinent Rift.

[n.b. Although this is advertised as a 2-part field trip, participants may sign up for either one, or both. While they complement each other, there is no duplication of field trip stops.]

Trip 2: Geological and structural framework of the Quetico Subprovince and Northern Shebandowan Greenstone Belt, Thunder Bay Area

Trip Leaders: Riku Metsaranta and Gaetan Launay (Ontario Geological Survey)

This field trip will examine the geology and structure of the boundary between the metasedimentary Quetico Subprovince (QS) and the northern Shebandowan greenstone belt (SGB) in the area west and north of the city of Thunder Bay. The first part of the trip will focus on exposures that illustrate the stratigraphy and structural framework of the SGB and the Lappe domain (LD). The LD represents a transition characterized by the intercalation of Quetico-like metasedimentary rocks and mafic metavolcanic and intrusive rocks, occurring between the SGB to the south and the QS to the north. While examining SGB and LD rocks, the merits of existing lithostratigraphic nomenclature schemes and potential revisions will be explored, along with discussions about structural controls on the distribution of lithostratigraphic units. The second part

of the trip will examine exposures of the southern part of the QS. This part of the trip will focus on structural and metamorphic history of QS metasedimentary rocks and examine the wide diversity of intrusive suites in the area. The interplay between intrusion emplacement, metamorphism and shear zones will be examined and discussed. The trip will finish with visits to exposures illustrating structural characteristics of the Quetico deformation zone.

Trip 3: Gold Deposits of the Shebandowan Greenstone Belt

Trip Leaders: Dorothy Campbell, Justin Jonsson and Vittoria D'Angelo (OGS Resident Geologist Program)

The Neoarchean Shebandowan greenstone belt has long been recognized as a favourable target area for gold exploration, based on its geological similarities to the famous Kirkland Lake gold district in northeastern Ontario. Recent exploration programs in this greenstone belt west of Thunder Bay have resulted in some exciting new discoveries, and a growing inventory of gold mineralization that will be highlighted during this trip.

Post-Meeting Field Trips: Saturday, May 23, 2026

Trip 4: Structural Geology and Gold Mineralization of the Mine Centre Area

Trip Leader: K. Howard Poulsen (Geological Consultant)

The historical Mine Centre gold mining camp is located at the boundary between the Neoarchean volcano-plutonic Wabigoon Subprovince and the metasedimentary rock-dominated, Neoarchean Quetico Subprovince, with the Quetico Fault marking the subprovince boundary. This field trip will provide an overview of the geology of the Mine Centre area, with an emphasis on structural geology and its relationship to gold mineralization.

This two-day, post-conference trip in the Mine Centre area will require travel and 2 nights of overnight accommodation in Fort Frances, Ontario on May 22 and 23. A block of double occupancy rooms have been booked for field trip participants at the Super 8 hotel in Fort Frances, and accommodation costs will be included in the field trip fees. Transportation will be provided during the trip and vehicles will return to Thunder Bay on the afternoon of May 24. However, participants wishing to depart for home from Fort Frances after the trip may arrange to drive to the hotel with their personal vehicles on May 22. Fort Frances is an approximately 3.5-hour drive west from Thunder Bay.

Trip 5: Classic Geological Sites of the Thunder Bay Area, Part 2

Trip Leaders: Mark Smyk (Lakehead University) and Mark Puumala (Geological Consultant)

This field trip will provide an opportunity for participants to view more of the "classic" outcrop exposures of the Thunder Bay area, this time focussing on the areas south and west of the City. Part 2 will build upon what is seen in Part 1 (i.e. more highlights of the Archean and Proterozoic geology), and also includes a stop that highlights the area's Quaternary geology.

[n.b. Although this is advertised as a 2-part field trip, participants may sign up for either one, or both. While they complement each other, there is no duplication of field trip stops.]

Trip 6: Amethyst Deposits of Thunder Bay

Trip Leaders: Greg Paju (OGS Resident Geologist Program) and Steve Kissin (Lakehead University)

Amethyst is an abundant, semi-precious gemstone in the Thunder Bay area. It was designated as Ontario's official mineral emblem in 1975. Several mines currently produce amethyst northeast of the City. This trip will provide a geological overview of the area's amethyst mineralization, and will include visits to operating mines developed on veins and vein breccias in Neoarchean granitic rocks and unconformably overlying Proterozoic sedimentary rocks.

If you have specific questions about any aspect of the 2026 ILSG meeting please contact one of our meeting co-chairs:

Peter Hinz (hinzpe@tbaytel.net)

Mark Puumala (mpuumala@tbaytel.net)