

**August 30, 2021**

## **News and Notes**

My wife and I are going on a road trip vacation from Aug. 28 to Sept. 4. We're taking a trip around the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. I am posting this entry from a hotel room in Edmonton. As a result, this week's blog will be shortened to news and notes.

Next week, Sept. 4, will also be a short posting of news and notes. If I get some interesting photos, I'll include them too.

I will return to regular blog entries for the Sept. 13 posting. Here are a few news items that I thought were interesting.

- [Hurricane Ida is giving Louisiana and the Gulf Coast a real kicking.](#) Oil and gas [production platforms are shut down](#) until the storm passes, expect an increase in the [price of fuel](#).
- More information of the [development of plate tectonics in the Archean Eon](#) of the Precambrian. This study uses stable isotopes of strontium found as a trace element in barite to reconstruct a record of ocean chemistry. This, in turn, can be used to understand ancient depositional environments.
- Also in research into the Precambrian, this one the transition from the Archean Eon to the Proterozoic Eon, [suggesting that volcanic eruptions may have stimulated population surges of marine microorganisms](#).
- Research on climate change during the Mesozoic Era, [rapid ocean de-oxygenation during the time of the dinosaurs driven by volcanic eruptions](#).
- Also in climate research, [a study into the climate of Greenland 55 million years ago](#), during the [Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum](#). Ocean currents seem to be a crucial part of how the climate operated during that time.
- [De Beers Plans To Include Code of Origin on Its Diamonds](#): De Beers is the largest producer and marketer diamonds in the world, with a practical monopoly on wholesale diamond sales. They are also very astute in responding to the demands of their customers, many of whom do not want to be buy [conflict diamonds](#) produced under questionable conditions.