

# Dawson Informal Rock Talk

## D.I.R.T

***“Island at the Centre of the World: the back story to writing a book on geology for everyday folk and for dismissive geologists”***

**Speaker: Dr. John Calder,**

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### **Abstract:**

Writing a book on a geological topic for everyone from those with no formal geological education to well-heeled colleagues is a challenge. Add to this the pressure of telling the story of people's home, some of whom have lived on this part of the world for millennia. In the absence of a natural history museum, geological department at UPEI or geological survey in the Provincial government, people (geologists, mainly) inevitably assume that there is no story worth the telling. Hopefully, *Island at the Centre of the World* proves this assumption to be wrong. One of the important things that a book like this offers the reader is the personal story of discovery of scientists that is not well conveyed in the scientific literature. It also gives citizen scientists their due – remarkable people who made even more remarkable discoveries, without institutional support. It also provides a balance between indigenous and scientific storylines: “two-eyed seeing”. Consider for a moment that indigenous peoples were the first geologists. They have much to tell us, not the least of which is that they were there when PEI finally became an island.

“So, why did you pick this for a title”? Well now, that's a story ... And one that's almost important as being able to quote Stompin' Tom Connors in a book on geology.

4:00pm

Friday January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Milligan Room 8<sup>th</sup> floor Biology-Earth Science Wing**