



**AGS Distinguished Scientist Award. Gesner Medal 2013.
Dr. Chris White**

Chris White has been a force in the geological scene in the Maritime Provinces for over 25 years now, and is truly worthy of this honour.

I am sure every regular attender at the Atlantic Geoscience Society colloquium knows Chris already, so there is little need to "introduce" him. He has more than done his duty as councillor of the Society for most of the past 15 years, the exception being the three years he spent as vice-president, president and past president.

The Gesner Medal criteria indicate that the recipient be "*a person who has, through her/his own efforts (maps, publications, memoirs, etc.) developed and promoted the advancement of geoscience in the Atlantic region in any field of geology*". This criterion practically defines Chris' career. As senior provincial geologist at the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, he has directed and personally completed the mapping of an immense area of Nova Scotia. He has redefined Meguma terrane stratigraphy and is the first person ever to have sufficient knowledge of the Goldenville and Halifax groups to recognize the stratigraphy within them.

Not only has he conquered Meguma, but he has added enormously to our understanding of the Antigonish Highlands, Guysborough County, and all of Cape Breton Island. I count over 50 published Nova Scotia map sheets in his curriculum vitae, including the recently released torrent of Meguma terrane maps that are on display here at this colloquium. Chris's influence in mapping in Nova Scotia is on par with Fletcher and Faribault – I believe that no one since those pioneering geologists has covered as much ground in Nova Scotia as has Chris White.

His activities in New Brunswick, which of course are beyond the scope of his current job in Nova Scotia, amount to portions of at least 70 more map sheets. I suspect that Chris has mapped fully half of Nova Scotia and a quarter of New Brunswick himself. His work is a testament to his devotion to field work and his commitment to the production of high quality publications.

While there is no doubt that the principal beneficiaries of Chris' phenomenal mapping output have been the people of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and the resource companies that have the good fortune to use his work, his work is by no means of a limited parochial scope. Having published no less than four dozen papers in the geological literature, Chris is clearly an outstanding contributor to Geology as a discipline. He has collaborated with authors up and down the Appalachians and as far away as the United Kingdom, Spain and Germany, to ensure that his knowledge of the Canadian Maritime Appalachians is used in continental-scale interpretations.

On paper the geological output of Chris White is impressive, but he is far more than just a mapping machine and geological paper factory. Chris is not a person who promotes himself, and he possesses a quiet humility that ensures that others share in his achievements. He has, however, been a selfless promoter of the high quality students studying at our universities, and has personally employed many of them summer by summer in his field work. His legacy as student mentor alone is probably worthy of his nomination for an award. He has served the Society not only in office, but also behind the scenes as the business manager for the journal, *Atlantic Geology*, as driver behind the most recent edition of the Nova Scotia Highway Map, as Technical Program Committee at the Halifax GAC-MAC conference, and as co-leader of numerous field trips throughout the region. When Chris joins any committee I serve on, I always breathe easier, because I know he will do the job, do it fast, and do it well.

Chris, you have made a phenomenal contribution to the mapping of the Maritime Provinces and have provided a prodigious input to our understanding of the geology of the region. You have also maintained a remarkable level of activity behind the scenes in the promotion of the science and benefits of this area. You are a worthy recipient of this Medal.