ATLANTIC GEOSCIENCE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

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In This Issue

Newsletter Address

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Deadline for next issue:

March 15, 2002

PRESIDENT'S FORUM

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I trust that everyone is returning to work/university rested and refreshed from the Christmas break, or if not is recovering from the Christmas break. Time is quickly counting down to the annual meeting to be held this year in Antigonish on February 8th and 9th. Now is the time to think about getting your abstract into Mike Parkhill (who has kindly agreed yet again to look after the abstract volume) and to start creating the figures you will need for your talk or poster. We have managed to book the dynamic Gordon Fader to speak at the banquet this year. He will be speaking on *Multibeam Bathymetry: A Revolution in Marine Geology*. I am sure it will be fascinating.

On a disappointing note, Noranda Exploration is closing down its New Brunswick office and therefore will not be able to award the much-coveted prize for the best undergraduate economic talk or poster. The Atlantic Geoscience Society would like to thank the staff of Noranda for all their generous support in the past and we hope that we will see Noranda returning to New Brunswick sometime in the future.

Another disappointment for the AGS was the resignation of Mike Cherry as Chair of the GAC-MAC 2005 organizing committee for personal reasons. The committee will certainly miss his able presence. The AGS appreciates the ample notice that Mike has given and is actively seeking an immediate replacement.

In the last Forum, I talked about the resounding success of *The Last Billion Years* and mentioned that we were in discussions with Nimbus Publishing about a second printing of the book for the spring of 2002. Well, events have moved much faster than that. Nimbus printed another 2000 copies (in early November, I believe) in time for the Christmas season. Once again, *The Last Billion Years* outshone all expectations (at least those of Nimbus) by selling out again! But do not despair if you have not yet acquired a copy. There are said to be some in the stores and the AGS has some copies available for sale (for as long as they last). Considering the first printing sold out in five weeks and the second printing sold out in not much more time than that, together with the rave reviews that it has received, *The Last Billion Years* committee and contributors have every reason to be proud.

To recognize the hard work of *The Last Billion Years* committee and contributors and to celebrate the outstanding success of the book with them and all AGS members, the Society will host a special The Last Billion Years Party at this year's Colloquium, following the technical session on the evening of Friday, February 8th. Complimentary food and drink will be provided. Please plan to come and celebrate one of the AGS's greatest accomplishments.

EDITORIAL – WHITHER GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS IN CANADA?

Mike Cherry
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In December, the government of British Columbia announced results of a "core services review", which was undertaken to "refocus government and ensure non-core activities and functions are eliminated". Among the impacts of this review, the Ministry of Energy and Mines has been authorized to "focus efforts on fostering investment in the province". For the British Columbia Geological Survey, this means the elimination of regional geologists, a major reduction in staffing (a small group of geologists will be retained to focus on "marketing") and a change to operating geoscience programs by means of a "focused public-private partnership model".

The BC government has argued that non-core services must be eliminated in order to identify additional resources for health, education and welfare (health consumes 40% of the budget). It's certainly easier to eliminate something that the public doesn't understand than something it perceives as important. Geological surveys probably fall into the former category.

The merits of the BC decision are debatable. They may, however, have implications for the future of other geological surveys in Canada and it is appropriate, therefore, to review just what these organizations provide to their governments.

In 1997, the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Mining Industry - a federal-provincial-territorial committee of Assistant Deputy Ministers responsible for mineral resources - commissioned a government-industry task group to report on alternative funding models for geological surveys. The report, which is available in Volume 16 of the Provincial Geologist's Journal, concluded that retaining geological surveys as parts of government departments would best preserve their most important characteristics. The report lists these characteristics as follows:

Objectivity and credibility – Canada's surveys have a reputation of being objective, impartial providers of accurate information, knowledge and expertise. This reputation enables them to deal effectively with private sector clients that range from individual prospectors through multinational companies, as well as with decision-makers within government and non-government organizations (NGOs).

Continuity of expertise – The geoscientists of the surveys are an invaluable resource because of their knowledge of the geology and resources of their jurisdiction. This knowledge goes far beyond the data and information provided by maps and reports, and can only be acquired through many years of work in the same jurisdiction.

Strategic, long term planning – Strategic planning and delivery of programs allows the surveys to address both short term, high priority needs of both private sector clients and governments, and long term needs for a comprehensive geoscience knowledge base for their entire jurisdiction.

Influence on government policy decisions – As parts of government departments, the geological surveys currently have an important ability to be part of decisions within government that affect the mineral industry.

Delivery of other programs – Canada's geological surveys are a significant, and often the sole, source of geoscience data, information and expertise that is used outside of the mineral resource industries. Examples of these important contributions include the national seismological network (earthquakes and participation in the international program to monitor nuclear explosions), environmental studies (including major contributions to studies of climate change and metals in the environment), geomagnetism, marine geoscience, and amelioration of risks from natural hazards (floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides).

Can the British Columbia government provide these services to its citizens without a permanent geological survey? If not, will they be missed? Can public – private partnerships, which usually include some privileged access to the information gathered in the project for the private sector partner, work in geoscience? What will be the long term impact of the absence of knowledgeable, dedicated staff on the value of the existing database?

British Columbia will save approximately $4 million annually if it eliminates the entire Geological Survey program. A visit to the BC Dept. of Finance website reveals that this year's deficit is estimated to be $1.5 billion! Eliminating the Survey seems to be the proverbial drop in the ocean.

Other opinions about the proposed changes, including the Minister's response to public criticisms, are available on the BC and Yukon Chamber of Mines website at http://www.bc-mining-house.com/toolkit/bcgsbcuts.htm .

UNIVERSITY NEWS

UNB

Murray Gingras
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The University of New Brunswick (Geology) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Doug Hall to Research Associate. Doug completed his Ph.D. at Queen's University under the guidance of Kurt Kyser. He has significant experience in the area of ultramafic petrology and is an expert on kimberlites. Doug presently operates the UNB Microscopy Unit, a

task that he will continue in his new position.

We are looking forward to the arrival of Dr. Cliff Shaw, the department's new Igneous Petrologist, in January.

UNB Geology is also pleased to announce that Dr. Murray Gingras and his co-authors, Dr. S George Pemberton and Bo Henk, were awarded the SEPM Best Paper Award at the American Association of Petroleum Geologists' annual convention held in Denver, Colorado in May 2001.

Acadia

Sandra Barr
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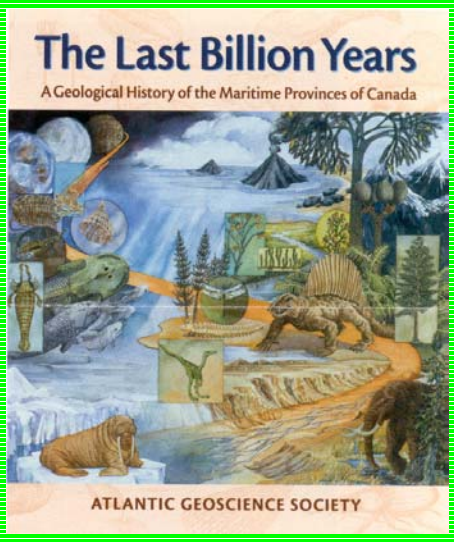
Amazingly, the busy fall term is now behind us, and we all survived. We are grateful to David Keighley and Ann Miller, who taught courses for us on a part-time basis. Their assistance was much appreciated, and it was a pleasure to have "new faces" around the department.

November was a busy month for visiting speakers at Acadia. We thank Gordon Fader of GSC (Atlantic) who presented a fascinating talk in November on the applications of multibeam bathymetry to the mapping of the sea floor, displaying historic shipwrecks, Holocene river channels, and Paleozoic structural geology - all in one talk! Alan Sangster, GSC (Ottawa) described for us a lifetime's investigation of the mineral deposits of the Andes of Bolivia, Argentina and Chile, with a healthy dose of vignettes of life in the Altiplano. And, in late November, Bruce McIntyre and Mike Enachescu visited us from Calgary to spread the word about CSPG and the oil and gas exploration on the "east coast". Their provision of pizza and refreshments to all was very much appreciated, and we hope that they return next year!

Acadia had the largest contingent of students (22) in attendance at the Atlantic Universities Geological Conference at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish. Heather Paul won the Frank Shea Memorial Award for the best paper dealing with a topic relating to economic geology. Her paper, an aspect of her honours thesis supervised by Cliff Stanley, was entitled *Petrology and Lithogeochemistry of Volcanic Rocks Hosting Seafloor Hot Springs Systems in the Manus Basin, Southwest Pacific Ocean*. In addition to Heather's talk, Dan Hagan presented a poster on his honours research on the White Rock Formation in the Torbrook area of Nova Scotia, and Jennie Byron produced a new poster on Hugh Fletcher, a pioneer geologist in Nova Scotia 100 years ago, after whom the Fletcher Club is named. By all accounts, the members of the Fletcher Club are looking forward to AGS in February so Antigonish - be warned!

Senior student Heather Paul left for Hawaii on December 16th , where she will join the JOIDES Resolution as a student intern on Leg 200 of the Ocean Drilling Program. The voyage will investigate the ocean floor between Hawaii and Mexico, in an area where the ocean is undergoing fast spreading, and intense seismic activity. She will be at sea for 6 weeks, leaving Honolulu on December 17th and arriving in San Diego at the end of January. Heather is currently investigating the mineral deposits discovered by a previous ODP cruise in the Bismarck Sea for her honours thesis, and this cruise will help her to understand some of the difficulties of working 4 km below the sea surface.

Faculty and students from Acadia put on a good show at the annual Review of Activities of the New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Departments of Natural Resources. Four students co-



Celebrate an AGS Success!

Plan to attend a reception
to honour The Last Billion Years
Organizing Committee and Contributors

AGS Colloquium
Greenway Claymore Inn, Antigonish, Nova Scotia
10:00 pm, Friday, February 8, 2002

authored posters with Sandra Barr at the Nova Scotia event. Paul Ténière showed his latest attempts at putting together the results of his mapping in Guysborough County. Steve King displayed his analysis of the Mira-Bras d'Or terrane boundary in Cape Breton Island using petrophysical and potential field data. Ryan Gould displayed his studies of gabbroic plutons in the Meteghan - Yarmouth area of western Nova Scotia; and Dan Hagan reported on the volcanic rocks in the Torbrook area. Andrea Locke and Cliff Stanley also reported on the preliminary findings of Andrea's study of rare element pegmatite dispersal trends in western Nova Scotia.

At the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy event in Fredericton, Kirsten McLaughlin and her supervisor Sandra Barr presented a poster on mapping and interpretation of the Moosehorn Igneous Complex, which straddles the Maine-New Brunswick border. Sandra also presented a talk on her work on the Lower Coverdale anorthosite-ferrogabbro complex and its potential for V, Ti, and P mineralization.

St. Francis Xavier

Cindy Murphy
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The Department of Geology at St. Francis Xavier has officially changed its name to the Department of Earth Sciences. This change reflects the faculty's interdisciplinary approach to the study of the Earth to include not only the classical study of the solid Earth, but also the subjects concerning environmental, global change and climate systems, and oceanography.

Participants on the AUGC Mineral Deposits of Southern Cape Breton Island field trip, standing in a paleovent at the Stirling Zn-Pb-Cu-Ag-Au volcanogenic massive sulphide deposit. Photograph by Dan Kontak.

APICS Earth Science Committee Update

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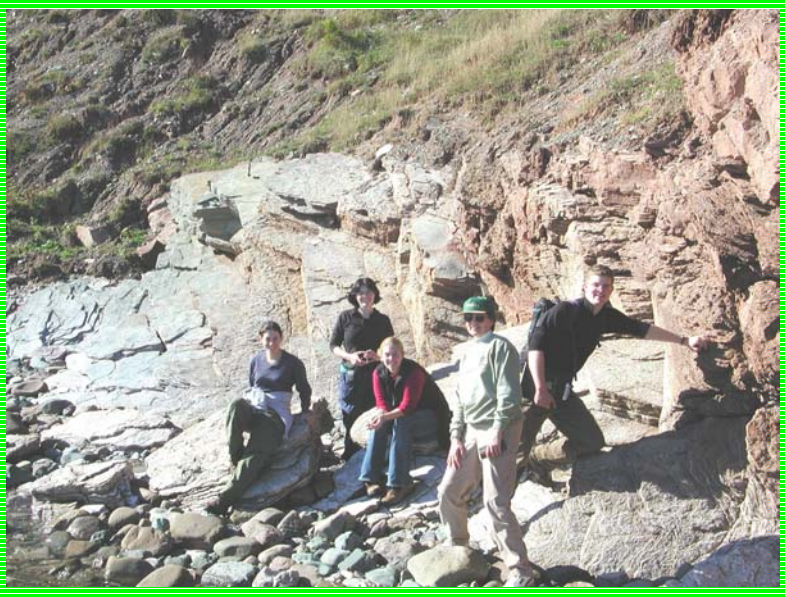
The Atlantic Provinces Inter-University Committee on the Sciences (APICS) was established in 1962. Its goal was to strengthen research and technology in the Maritimes by providing a link between scientists in the universities and the government laboratory sector, and by fostering communication and cooperation among science students in the region's universities. The member organizations (membership is on an institutional basis) include universities and several government laboratories, centers and institutes throughout the Atlantic region. There are ten standing committees of APICS in the following fields: Animal Care, Aquaculture, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Science, Education, Mathematics and Statistics, Physics and Astronomy and Psychology.

The APICS Earth Science Committee (H. Donohoe, J. Dostal, S. Jolicoeur, D. Kontak, D. Mossman, B. Murphy, R. Pickerill, G. Quinlan, P. Reynolds, I. Spooner and M. Williamson) closely cooperates with AGS. Together APICS and AGS sponsor a speaker tour to provide students with a deeper appreciation of the quality and variety of research. Joint sponsorship of the speaker tour enables us to invite a high-profile external speaker in this time of financial constraints. This year's speaker was Dr. Erik Nielson from the Manitoba Geological Survey who discussed tree ring evidence for environmental change. The Earth Science committee will continue with this joint arrangement for the coming year. Ian Spooner, on behalf of APICS, and Peter Wallace, on behalf of the AGS, have started to organize the tour for this coming spring.

Atlantic Universities Geological Conference

The committee also sponsors the student-organized Atlantic Universities Geological Conference (AUGC), the oldest geological student conference in Canada. This year, the 51st conference was hosted at Saint Francis Xavier University on October 25-27. The student organizing committee of the Faribault Geology Club, chaired by Tara Oicle, ensured that this event was a rewarding and



Participants in the AUGC Tectonic Influence on Sedimentation in the Magdalen Basin field trip, relaxing on the rocks of the Horton/Windsor groups at MacIsaac Point, St. Georges Bay. Photograph by Brendan Murphy.

pleasant experience for everybody. The conference was very successful, with more than 80 students attending. It included three one-day field trips.

The first field trip, which focused on mineral deposits of southern Cape Breton Island, was led by Alan Anderson (St. FX), Dan Kontak (NSDNR) and Sid Taylor (St. FX). The participants visited the Coxheath Cu-Mo-Au mineralized porphyry system, the Silvermine (Yava) sandstone-hosted Pb deposit, the Stirling Zn-Pb-Cu-Ag-Au volcanogenic massive sulphide deposit and the Lake Enon Sr-Ba deposit.

The second field trip, to northeastern mainland Nova Scotia, was led by Brendan Murphy (St. FX) and Mike Melchin (St. FX) and centered on tectonic influence on sedimentation along the southern flank of the Late Paleozoic Magdalen Basin.

The third trip, which was led by Ralph Stea (NSDNR), looked at the Mesozoic and Cenozoic of the Antigonish area.

The program on the next day consisted of oral and poster presentations by students and a luncheon talk by Alan Anderson on the Atlantic Canada Petroleum Institute. Dave Brown (CSPG) was the guest speaker at the evening banquet. Dave talked about the role of students and the CSPG in Atlantic Canada. All talks and posters were outstanding, which made judging a challenge. The judges for the speaker presentations were Dave Brown and Chris White (NSDNR) while Mike Melchin was the poster judge. The APICS award for the best paper was given to Jennifer Young from Memorial University of Newfoundland for a talk entitled *Stratigraphy and Structure of the Humber Arm Allochthon, Southwestern Bay of Islands, Western Newfoundland*. The CSPG Trophy for the best presentation went to Adam Zoltan Csank from Dalhousie University for a presentation entitled *A Late Cretaceous Polar Forest from NW Ellesmere Island: Implications for Climate, Past and Future*. Heather Paul from Acadia University won the Frank Shea Memorial Award for the best paper dealing with Economic Geology (*Petrology and Lithogeochemistry of Volcanic Rocks Hosting Seafloor Hot Springs Systems in the Manus Basin: Southwest Pacific Ocean*). A poster award went to Greg Feltham from Memorial University of Newfoundland for a poster on *Stratigraphy and Structure of Melange in the Humber Arm Allochthon at Bear Cove, Western Newfoundland*.

The major corporate sponsors of this year's conference (contributing more than $1,000) included the National Research Council, Imperial Oil, Shell Canada, Northstar, Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists, Canadian Geological Foundation and Sable Offshore Energy.

The APICS committee is in the process of setting up another AUGC award in the field of Environmental Earth Sciences. We will also continue to sponsor the publication of abstracts of the student presentations at the AUGC in Atlantic Geology. The publication of the abstracts encourages and promotes the AUGC and undergraduate student research.

The Earth Science Committee website has recently been updated and includes recent theses on earth science in Atlantic Canada. The website can be found at http://www.stmarys.ca/academic/science/geology/apics/home.html .

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Fundy Geological Museum

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Plans for Museum Expansion

The Board of Directors of the Cumberland Geological Society unveiled plans for the expansion of the Fundy Geological Museum at their Annual General Meeting in June. The presentation included a model of the new facility, proposed floor plans, museum visitor profile and the economic benefits of site usage on the local area. As the Chair of the Board stated, "We have a problem, we've

Atlantic Geoscience Society
2002 Colloquium and Annual General Meeting

February 8 – 10, 2002
Greenway Claymore Inn, Antigonish, Nova Scotia

PROGRAM

Friday, February 8

15:00 – 19:00	**Poster set-up and registration**
16:00 – 17:30	**Atlantic Geology Editors meeting**
17:30 – 19:00	**AGS Executive Council meeting**
19:00 – 22:00	**Technical Session: Current Research in the Atlantic Provinces I**
22:00 – 24:00	**Poster Session and *The Last Billion Years* Reception (complimentary refreshments)**

Saturday, February 9

08:00 - 17:30	**Poster Session**
08:00 – 09:40	**Technical Session: Current Research in the Atlantic Provinces II**
09:40 – 10:00	**Refreshment break – Courtesy of Corridor Resources Inc.**
10:00 – 12:00	**Technical Session: Current Research in the Atlantic Provinces III**
12:00 – 14:00	**Annual General Meeting and Luncheon**
14:00 – 15:20	**Technical Session: Current Research in the Atlantic Provinces IV**
15:20 – 15:40	**Refreshment break – Courtesy of Corridor Resources Inc.**
15:40 – 17:00	**Technical Session: Current Research in the Atlantic Provinces V**
17:00 – 18:00	**APICS Earth Sciences Committee meeting**
18:15 – 24:00	**Cash Bar**
19:00 – 24:00	**Awards Banquet and Social**

Speaker: Dr. Gordon Fader, Geological Survey of Canada – Atlantic
Multibeam Bathymetry: A Revolution in Marine Geology

FEES

Registration fee (includes AGS membership)	**$40.00 (professional) or $10.00 (student)**
Subscription to Atlantic Geology	**$30.00**
AGS Luncheon	**$12.00**
AGS Banquet	**$25.00**

REGISTRATION

Please register as early as possible. On-line registration is available at http://is.dal.ca/~walla/ags . Cheques, made payable to Atlantic Geoscience Society, should be sent to Peter Wallace, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3J5. Payment may also be made at the registration desk when you arrive.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The conference will be held at the Greenway Claymore Inn in Antigonish. A number of rooms have been reserved at the Inn for conference attendees. Reservations and payment for accommodations should be made directly with the Claymore Inn by calling 1-888-863-1050 (toll free) or 1-902-863-1050, or via the Internet at greenway.inn@ns.sympatico.ca . Daily room rates for the conference are $74 (singles), $82 (twins – 1-4 people) and $92 (executive – 1-4 people), exclusive of HST. Please quote the conference (AGS Meeting) when making your reservation.

been too successful". Opened to the public in December of 1993, the Museum has now completed its eighth year of operation, with site visitation averaging 23,000 each year.

The Board believes that the Museum will continue to play a role in the development of the Bay of Fundy tourism product. The ongoing efforts of the Joggins World Heritage Site Committee, continued development of the Cape Chignecto Provincial Park, and promotion of the area as an international tourist destination by the Bay of Fundy Product Club will result in a greater public awareness of the region's natural heritage and geological treasures. It is anticipated that a significant increase in traffic will occur over the next 5 to 10 years. The building's current size, however, may limit opportunities for the Museum's future growth and the delivery of its public and school programs to a larger audience.

While the Board and staff members are still in the early planning and dreaming stages of the project a number of key issues have been identified.

- A larger multipurpose room is required. The popularity of the Museum's school program has resulted in an increasing demand for bookings. School groups of over 60 pupils are now making use of a room designed for 20 - 30 students.

- There is no single space in the building large enough to host traveling exhibits, which is an opportunity to encourage repeat visitation. A number of geologically themed exhibits that are now available require a minimum of 1,500 square feet.

- Additional storage space is required. In 2000, Dr. Laing Ferguson donated his collection of Joggins fossils and portions of his personal library to the Museum. Other significant collections of local fossils and minerals may also become available. With the ongoing work at the Wasson Bluff dinosaur site, specimen storage space is already at a premium.

- Only a small portion of the collection is on display in the museum's permanent exhibition gallery. While this could be addressed through digitization of the collection, additional space is also required to address topics currently not covered in the gallery.

- Expanded retail space is required to address opportunities for increased on-site revenue generation. A dedicated lapidary work area is envisioned to address the needs of mineral and gem enthusiasts

The process of reaching out to our community, to identify levels of support and to develop new partnerships, has begun. Members of the Board of Directors and staff have already made presentations to a number of groups, including the local media, Parrsboro Town Council, the Board of the Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association and representatives from the Nova Scotia Museum. Response to the project has been positive and the Board and staff will continue to work on the architectural program and to define the details of the building requirements over the next six months. At this stage no official fund raising campaign for the building expansion has been announced. Interested parties and potential partners wishing further details on the project are invited to contact Ken Adams.

Economic Impact of the Fundy Geological Museum

The Museum expansion presentation also included information on site usage to date, the geographic origin of the visitors, group sizes, evaluation of promotional activities and the potential economic impact associated with 23,500 people visiting the Parrsboro

The Last Billion Years Talk Series

A series of illustrated talks, co-sponsored by the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History and the Atlantic Geoscience Society, based on the Society's exciting new publication.

Tropical Times
Wednesday, January 16, 7:30 pm
Conditions in the Maritimes were tropical around 250 to 350 million yers ago. It was a time of desiccating seas followed by coal forests and, finally, the most devastating of all extinction events.

The Birth of an Ocean
Wednesday, February 20, 7:30 pm
Find out how the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of Fundy formed around 100 to 200 million years ago.

The Big Chill: The Story of Glaciers in the Maritimes
Wednesday, March 20, 7:30 pm
Discover how the recent (and still continuing) Ice Age has shaped the face of the Maritimes.

Rocks and Minerals of the Maritimes
Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 pm
Rocks and minerals are not only attractive but are a part of our everyday lives. They also provide geologists with vital sources of information about our past.

Fossils of the Maritimes
Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 pm
Find out about dinosaurs, fossil forests, mastadons and much more.

All talks are in the Museum's auditorium, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Free admission (food bank donation appreciated)

area annually. Data related to site visitation have been gathered over the past eight years through the Gift Shop's computerized point of sale system and a number of exit surveys to develop a visitor profile.

Surveys conducted in 2000 and 2001 asked visitors a number of questions related to their activities while in the Parrsboro area, including how and where they anticipated spending their money. A very conservative estimate of expenditures appears to be $50 per visitor/day, leaving over $1 million dollars in the area. In addition to this amount, the operation of the Museum injects a further $400,000 through salaries and purchases of goods and services. The Museum is not the sole beneficiary of the visitors' purchases, as expenditures are distributed through the community for meals, accommodations, entertainment, groceries, auto repairs, fuel and admission to other attractions. The visitors indicated that they traveled to the area for a variety of reasons, presenting us with opportunities to form partnerships with a number of businesses, services and attractions throughout the region.

The following are some of the highlights of the data collected to date.

- To date in 2001, Nova Scotians accounted for 46% of site visits; United States, 22%; Ontario, 12%; New Brunswick, 6%, and Quebec, 4%. Of these visitors, families accounted for 33% of visits; seniors/adults, 29%; school groups, 14%; bus tours, 3% and programming, 13%.

- The exit survey conducted in 2000 showed that the primary reason for traveling to Parrsboro area included vacation, 45%; Fundy Geological Museum, 29% and scenery, 7%. This survey also showed that the average group size was 4 persons. Family groups tend to be two adults and two or more school age children. Seniors and adults without children travel as two or more couples. The average length of stay in area is 2.6 days. This suggests that visitors need places to stay overnight, meals, gas and other services. Other activities planned in area include sightseeing, 32%; dining, 18%; hiking, 18%; shopping, 15% and genealogical research, 4%. The survey showed that 68% of the groups stayed overnight, 27% used campgrounds, 10% stayed at a motel, 9% at a bed and breakfast, 14% used cottages, and 8% stayed with family or friends.

- Accommodations accounted for 28% of expenditures; meals, 18%; groceries/liquor, 9%; souvenirs, 7%; museum, 7% and entertainment, 6%.

Buy-A-Bone Campaign

Although an official fund raising campaign for the Museum expansion has not gotten underway, there are opportunities for the public to assist in the ongoing development of the Museum exhibits. If you are looking for a unique gift for someone who has everything, we are currently "selling" bones from a Plateosaurus skeleton. The skeleton has over 350 bones, teeth and claws, priced individually from $10, and we are looking for a buyer for each one. Sponsors receive a certificate and an income tax receipt for their donation and will be recognized on a donor wall. Further information on this project is available on our web page at http://fundygeo.museum.gov.ns.ca .

New Brunswick Museum

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In 2000 and 2001 the Natural Sciences Department of the New Brunswick Museum received grants totalling $48,995 from the Department of Canadian Heritage Museums Assistance Program for collections upgrade work. This resulted in the addition of eight new specimen cabinets in the palaeontology/geology section, along with specimen boxes and related materials for the safe storage of fossils and minerals. This brings the total number of 'Lane' style cabinets to 100 to house the paleontology collection, and 49 for minerals and rocks. The type fossil collection now numbers 1,141 specimens, cited in over 200 papers. Type specimens vary from stromatolites to trilobites, from lycopods to giant beaver, and more.

In 2001 the Natural Sciences Department also received a grant from the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund to help us make the natural science collection databases accessible on the internet. We are currently in the process of developing the web site that will host the databases and preparing search and report screens for Internet users. We expect to make collection access available by the spring of 2002, if not sooner. Internet users will be able to access a subset of the collection fields with more in-depth access available through a password system for particular projects.

In the research end of our work, there are a number of projects ongoing. They include investigation of early Devonian sharks and eurypterids from New Brunswick, a study of an Upper Carboniferous trigonotarbid arachnid from the Minto coalfield, work on the vertebrate fauna of the Albert Formation, and studies of late-glacial environments in the Maritimes. We are now in the fifteenth year offering the G.F. Matthew Research Grants in Geology. Grants are currently valued at about $1,000 for the Fellowship and $250 for the Scholarship. Over the 15 years of offering the grant we have supported work on various topics including Devonian plants, geoscience history, archaeology, stratigraphy, Carboniferous arthropods, and Devonian fish. Applications are due each year on December 31st.

Finally, we were very pleased to be involved with *The Last Billion Years* project. We have had many wonderful

comments about the book. It is satisfying for me to have seen the New Brunswick Museum contribute to the book. If it had been written fifteen years ago we would have had a difficult time supporting the project. Now we are about to go on the Internet with our collections, we have a permanent geology gallery, and we are currently travelling a fossil exhibition (Fossil Hunter: Will Matthew and the Giant Trilobite) and, with the help of the New Brunswick Mining Association, a mineral exhibition (Minerals Matter). Our goal has been to bring the New Brunswick Museum back into the mainstream of geoscience activities in the Maritimes and to develop a regional centre to encourage geoscience education and research. Hopefully we are getting there. We owe much to the geoscience community, including the members of the Atlantic Geoscience Society, for their help.

Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History

Deborah Skilliter
Curator of Geology
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The Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History invites you to lace-up your hiking boots and follow a trail of clues that goes back 550 million years. From the world's smallest dinosaur footprints to a couple of memorable scientific booboos, "The Trace Fossil Mystery" web site is a fun and sometimes irreverent look at Eastern Canada's palaeontological heritage.

The web site, which was funded in part by the Virtual Museum of Canada, can be accessed at: http://museum.gov.ns.ca/mnh/nature/tracefossils/index.html .

EARTH SCIENCE EDITORS TO MEET IN HALIFAX

Doug MacDonald
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The Association of Earth Science Editors (http://www.aese.org) and the European Association of Science Editors (http://www.ease.org.uk) will meet in Halifax from September 14 to 18, 2002. These groups share the objec-tive of disseminating accurate scientific information quickly, inexpensively, and in the best possible form. The meeting - ***Recorded in Nature – Revealed in Words*** - will feature a diverse program of interest to anyone involved in geoscience communication, including representatives of geological surveys, scientific journals and societies, students and professors, freelance editors, publishers, GIS professionals, cartographers, and science librarians, among others. A morning workshop, with a separate, nominal registration fee, is planned on the topics of how to get your geoscience research published in a journal, PowerPoint® presentations, and effective posters. Other topics will include issues of editorial selection and ethics, open-web peer review, defining authorship in a digital world, science communication and the public interest, and the ancient and modern tools and techniques of editing.

The meeting will be held at the Lord Nelson Hotel in the heart of the Halifax pedestrian district. Additional information is available from Doug MacDonald (drmacdon@gov.ns.ca). For more information about AESE, contact the AESE Program Chair, Alison Klingbyle (aklingby@nrcan.gc.ca). Complete registration and program details will be available in June.

Coming Events

Cordilleran Exploration Roundup 2002 British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines, Fairmont Hotel Vancouver and Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia, January 20-25, 2002. For more information, see the conference website at http://www.bc-mining-house.com/roundupoverview.htm

AGS 2002 - Colloquium and Annual General Meeting, Atlantic Geoscience Society, Greenway Claymore Inn, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, February 8-10, 2002. For more information, see advertisement on page 6 of this issue.

PDAC - International Convention, Trade Show and Investors Exchange, Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada, North Building, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Ontario, March 10-13, 2002. For more information, see the PDAC website at http://www.pdac.ca

Saskatoon 2002 – Geological Association of Canada and Mineralogical Association of Canada Joint Annual Meeting, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, May 27-29, 2002. For more information, see the conference website at http://www.usask.ca/geology/sask2002/

PACROFI 2002 - Eighth Biennial Pan-American Conference on Research on Fluid Inclusions, PACROFI VIII, World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, Nova Scotia, July 21-26, 2002. For more information, see the conference website at http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb/PACROFI8/Index.htm

To have your event listed, send information to the Newsletter Editor at the address provided on page 1.