



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 32, Number 4, October 2003

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## Deadline for next issue:

December 15, 2003

## PRESIDENT'S FORUM

Reg Wilson  
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Newsletter time is here again, and I hope everyone has had an enjoyable and productive summer. For most of us, the change of seasons accompanies a change in routine, from the outdoors to the office or classroom. The end of September, unfortunately, was a difficult time for many of our colleagues in the Halifax - Dartmouth area, thanks to Hurricane Juan, and I wish to express my condolences to any of you who suffered personal injury or property loss. I did some grieving myself after viewing internet photos of the damage incurred to the beautiful Public Gardens in Halifax.

After a relative slowdown for the summer, the autumn months, as usual, bring a return to a busy AGS schedule, and the usual fall to spring program of meetings and conferences. The first of these, for students and at least some faculty members, is the AUGC conference, to be held this year at St. Mary's University from October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>. For those seeking more information about the conference, this year's student coordinator is Emily Shepherd, who can be reached at 902-488-1633.

The annual provincial reviews of activities are once again upon us, beginning in St. John's, NF, from October 29<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>. The theme for New Brunswick's Open House, from November 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> in Fredericton, is "A Celebration of New Brunswick's Mining History: Gesner's Dream Come True", and refers to the publication by the NB Branch of CIM of *Gesner's Dream: The Story of*

*Mining in New Brunswick*. Nova Scotia's Open House will be at the Westin Hotel on November 19-20.

Plans are well in hand for the 2004 AGS Colloquium at the Delta Beausejour in Moncton (January 30-31). See the notices and articles in this newsletter concerning nominations for awards, an Ion Microprobe Workshop, and a special session on geophysics dedicated to the late Ewart Blanchard. Later this fall members will receive an e-mail containing registration forms and a call for abstracts. I will advise you now that the abstract deadline is January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004, so plan accordingly.

In my April column, I encouraged you to share any interesting summer field experiences with readers of this newsletter. It seems appropriate that I should set an example, as it were, so I'll share with you the saga of the Glen Levit fossils. Glen Levit is located near Campbellton in northern New Brunswick, and is underlain by Upper Silurian to Lower Devonian limestones, mudstones and sandstones that are locally very fossiliferous. I have recently completed a mapping project in the area, so it was natural that I respond to a call that Les Fyffe received last spring from an individual who wanted someone to look at the fossils he had found. By the time I arrived at his door, he had also made calls to the GSC and to Randy Miller at the NB Museum, and had taken a collection to the Miguasha Museum (just across Chaleur Bay in southern Gaspé) for cursory examination by their resident paleontologist. The fossils, consisting mainly of various corals, with some brachiopods, crinoids and stromatoporoids, are

abundantly present in the overburden along the flanks and base of the hill behind the finder's house, a few feet from his back door, and obviously sourced from the fossiliferous limestones underlying the hill. Although unfortunately not *in situ*, and therefore of limited value for biostratigraphic work, thousands of years of weathering has freed some very nice specimens from the limestone host. A short stroll in the backyard, and along a trail up the hill, revealed that virtually every loose rock was either a fossil or a piece of fossiliferous limestone. It was quickly clear that this individual, who is retired, had found a wonderful hobby. He had located and read some books on fossils at the local library, and was adding daily to an already extensive collection. His wife was, at first, less than enthusiastic about rocks filling the house, possibly because of her husband's habit of cleaning the fossils at the kitchen sink, but by summer's end, when I made my third visit, she seemed to share his interest.

A few fossil collections from the Glen Levit area had been examined in the past, so the age of the rocks is well known, although the small collections studied previously probably only contained a fraction of the species present in my fossil hunter's cardboard boxes. A thorough inventory of all taxa may be useful in regional correlation, and in understanding the faunal diversity and paleoecology of this Late Silurian reef environment. However, after explaining that thorough documentation might take some time while the samples were directed to various specialists to await their turn for study, and that some fossils would not be returned intact because of thin sectioning, sample dissolution, etc., he eventually decided not to turn over any of the collection. He was somewhat indignant that fossils found in northern New Brunswick could not be housed in a local facility for people of the area to enjoy. When I reminded him of the NB Museum's mandate as the official repository of fossils in this province, he countered that people in the Camp-

bellton area would not be likely to go to Saint John to see fossils. Instead, he has conceived the idea of a roadside tourist attraction to showcase his hobby, although I'm not sure this plan is still intact. It seems to me that complete sample identifications would be a necessary prerequisite if he intends the fossils for public display, but so far he hasn't called me back.

The Glen Levit fossil story leads to a larger question of fossil ownership, and the related issues of collection, transport and commercial sale of fossils. I would like to thank Deborah Skilliter of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History for sending me an article describing the legislation that exists in various countries, including the respective provincial jurisdictions in Canada. In places, fossils are a valuable part of the natural heritage, and see some degree of protection (e.g., World Heritage sites such as Miguasha and the Burgess Shale). Some jurisdictions have enacted legislation, only to suffer from lack of enforcement. Professional collectors can decimate a world-class fossil site very quickly, and ship their booty offshore for sale on the international market. Nova Scotia legislation offers some protection for fossil sites, whereas New Brunswick does not. Randy Miller at the New Brunswick Museum is very concerned about this oversight and has had discussions with the Heritage Branch of the New Brunswick Sport and Culture Secretariat, with a view to eventually amending existing heritage legislation to include paleontological sites. It is perhaps time to start a dialogue on this issue, and anyone with ideas or comments is invited to address them to this writer, or share them on these pages.

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## UNIVERSITY NEWS

### ACADIA

Sandra Barr  
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After an all-too-short (or so it seemed) summer, another term is well under-

way.

Cliff Stanley and two students (Geology M.Sc. student Andrea Locke and Environmental Science Honours student Sandi MacPherson) attended the 21st International Geochemical Exploration Symposium in Dublin at the end of August. This conference is held every two years and, despite its name, involves geochemical exploration AND environmental geochemistry associated with mine reclamation. Andrea presented a poster on her glacial till dispersion studies in southwestern Nova Scotia and Sandi got a chance to be exposed to cutting edge research in environmental geochemistry. Cliff was the author of four talks, co-author of another, and had a poster as well. It was far too much work, but he will never learn!

A hardy group of 9 students (as well as instructors Rob Raeside and Sandra Barr) once again survived the rigours of senior field school in Cape Breton Island for 11 days at the end of the summer. The students produced maps showing their interpretations of the geology of various areas in the vicinity of the Gaelic College at St. Anns.

A major change for this year is that Rob Raeside is head of not only the Geology Department but also the Chemistry Department. This doubling of his administrative load means that he spends his mornings in geology and his afternoons in chemistry - Rob already had a well deserved reputation for moving very quickly, and this year he is even faster than usual! Ann Miller has again stepped in to help us out in this situation, having taken over Rob's course in "Atmosphere, Weather, and Climate" this term, as well as again teaching the non-lab introductory geology course. David McMullin has also taken on an extra part-time appointment (on top of his full-time instructor position) to teach parts of two other courses on Rob's behalf. We are all stretched to the limit as the result of a 25% increase in the number of students in the introductory geology course, taught in two

**ATLANTIC GEOSCIENCE SOCIETY**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Colloquium and Annual General Meeting**

**Current Research in the Atlantic Provinces**  
**Special Geophysics Session in honour of Dr. Ewart Blanchard**  
**Ion Microprobe Workshop**

January 30 and 31, 2004  
Hotel Delta Beausejour  
Moncton, New Brunswick

**Call for Papers:** Technical papers are invited from students and professionals for presentation in oral and poster presentations on the above themes for the evening of Friday, January 30 and Saturday, January 31. Format and presentation requirements are outlined on the AGS website at <http://is/dal.ca/~walla/ags/>

**Abstracts:** Abstracts must be submitted online to Mike Parkhill at [michael.parkhill@gnb.ca](mailto:michael.parkhill@gnb.ca), in the format as outlined on the AGS website. Only one volunteered paper may be presented by an individual; however, a person may be a co-author on other papers.

**Deadline for Abstracts:** All abstracts must be submitted by Tuesday, January 6, 2004.

**Ion Microprobe Workshop:** Contact Alan Anderson at (902)-867-2309 or [aanders@stfx.ca](mailto:aanders@stfx.ca) for information and to register for this workshop. *Please note that the registration deadline for this workshop is December 15, 2003.*

lecture sessions and 5 3-hour lab sessions.

The year looks busy in terms of visiting speakers and other special events - anyone interested in attending events at Acadia should check out the website at <http://ace.acadiau.ca/science/geol/coming.htm>.

We welcomed two new graduate students to the department over the summer. Russel Hiebert arrived in June from the University of Manitoba to begin his project on the geochemistry of the Mechanic Settlement Gabbro in southern New Brunswick and its relationship to PGE mineralization, working with Sandra Barr and Cliff Stanley. Cameron Bartsch arrived in September from the University of Saskatchewan, and will be working with Sandra Barr on the geology of the Blacks Harbour - Beaver Harbour area in southern New Brunswick. Continuing graduate students include Robin Black, who is

working on pre-Mesozoic rocks on Grand Manan Island, New Brunswick, Andrea Locke, who is writing up her thesis on "Glacial stratigraphy and till geochemical dispersion controls associated with the Brazil Lake Pegmatite, Yarmouth County, Nova Scotia", and Cheryl Reid, who is working on contact and regional metamorphism around the Barrington Passage Pluton in southwestern Nova Scotia.

B.Sc. Honours theses in progress this year at Acadia are listed below in alphabetical order by student name.

Karissa Belliveau: Characterization of the offshore physical environment, Morton Field Centre, Lunenburg County, N.S. (ENVS thesis) (Supervisor: I. Spooner)

Sandi MacPherson: Geochemistry of uptake of heavy metals by *Salix bebbiana* (ENVS thesis) (Supervisors: C. Stanley, R. Evans)

Shawn Milley: Glycol transfer from runways to rivers, Greenwood Air Force Base, N.S. (ENVS thesis) (Supervisor: I. Spooner)

Frances Mitchell: Metamorphic petrology of calc-silicate nodules from greenschist facies to migmatite grade, Liverpool-Pubnico area, Nova Scotia (Supervisor: R. Raeside)

Charles Moore: Distribution of zinc and cadmium in stream sediments from the West Barneys River area, Antigonish Highlands, Nova Scotia (Supervisor: C. Stanley)

Erin Oickle: Thermal response of Canoran Lake, Lunenburg County and Sandy Lake, Kings County, N.S. (Supervisor: I. Spooner)

Darin Wasyluk: Geology of the Washabuck Area, Central Cape Breton Island, N.S. (Supervisor: S. Barr).

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## **DALHOUSIE**

*Martin Gibling*  
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## **Honours Field Excursion to SW England**

In early September, Gunter Muecke and Martin Gibling led ten 4<sup>th</sup> year honours students on a 2-week excursion through SW England, through a maze of narrow lanes in unusually gorgeous weather. The excursion was an introduction to some fascinating geology and the world of quaint villages, English pubs, youth hostels and fish and chips.

We started in the mining districts of Cornwall, with a visit to a tin mine used by Camborne School of Mines, followed by a disturbing look at environmental problems caused by tin and arsenic mining. The excursion moved on through Cornwall, visiting the Lizard ophiolite, intensely deformed and thrust Devonian slates and Carboniferous turbidites, and the Eden Project □ two huge domes in a converted china-clay pit that house tropi-

cal and temperate ecosystems. On through Devon to see the Dartmoor Granite and its aureole – far less well exposed than the South Mountain Batholith but remarkable for its pinnacle-like “tors” (the location of Sherlock Holmes’ exploits in the “Hound of the Baskervilles”). From there we examined Tertiary clay pits in the Bovey extensional basin, and the original type area of the Devonian near Torquay, with stromatoporoid reef limestones similar to those of the Western Canada oilfields. Kent’s Cavern at Torquay (close to the original Fawley Towers) featured cave-bear skulls and the oldest human remains in Britain (nearly a million years old).

The remainder of the excursion took us along the World Heritage “Jurassic Coast” of Dorset with its near-complete exposure of the Permian, Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous strata, where we followed in the footsteps of William Smith. Highlights included Triassic conglomerates (which, to the leaders’ surprise, were located on a nudist beach), the brilliant ammonite beds at Lyme Regis where the first marine dinosaurs were excavated, chalk cliffs with flints, and a guided tour from Howard Falcon-Lang (former post-doctoral student at Dalhousie) through the oolitic limestones quarries at Portland with standing trees encased in algal carbonate. At Kimmeridge Bay, we visited cliffs of Jurassic oil shale, a key source rock for the North Sea oilfields, and got caught up unexpectedly in the battle for Corfe Castle being re-enacted by the English Civil War Society.

Of course, no excursion to the area would be complete without a visit to the magnificent stone circles of Stonehenge and Avebury, as well as a tour through the Roman baths at Bath. A final half-day in London seemed to convince most people that the modest pace of life in Nova Scotia is a good thing!

### Graduates Theses completed

Five theses were successfully defended over the summer, and we congratulate the following graduate students on their excellent research work:

Sarah Carruzzo (Ph.D.), "Granite-hosted Mineral Deposits of the New Ross Area, South Mountain Batholith, Nova Scotia, Canada", supervised by D.B. Clarke

Eugene MacDonald (Ph.D.), "Radiolaria from the Lower Silurian of the Cape Phillips Formation, Cornwallis Island, Nunavut, Canada", supervised by M. Melchin (St. Francis Xavier)

Trecia Schell (Ph.D.), "Benthic Foraminiferal Assemblages in Effingham Inlet, Western Vancouver Island: Implications for Paleoproductivity of the Northeastern Pacific", supervised by D. Scott

Thian Hundert (M.Sc.), "Western Scotian Slope Stratigraphy: Insights into Late Quaternary Deglaciation of the Western Scotian Shelf, Eastern Canada", supervised by D. Piper

Mark Deptuck (Ph.D.), "Post-Rift Geology of the Jeanne d'Arc Basin, with a Focus on the Architecture and Evolution of Early Paleogene Submarine Fans, and Insights from Modern Deep-Water Systems", supervised by D. Piper.

In organizing the Graduate Programme, we continue to work closely with adjuncts in other universities and institutions across Nova Scotia, and appreciate their time and commitment in supervising students and in offering graduate modules, seminars and field excursions.

### Undergraduate Theses and Activities

Ten honours students completed their B.Sc. theses in April 2003. Their topics covered a wide range of studies in bedrock, Quaternary and environmental science – ranging from cosmo-

genic dating of glacial erratic emplacement at Peggy's Cove, to analysis of deep-sea corals off Nova Scotia, to geochemical study of moose teeth in the Cape Breton Highlands. Four students have gone on to graduate study elsewhere this Fall.

### Faculty News

We are pleased to report that Anne Marie Ryan is now on a 3-year Limited Term Appointment to teach first-year classes in Geology and Geography: her teaching and coordination of the First-Year Programme have been key to its success in recent years. Milton Graves continues to teach Earth Sciences within DISP (Dalhousie Integrated Science Programme), in which some 50 students take a fully integrated experience in science during their first-year. John Gosse (Canada Research Chair) is teaching a new first-year class entitled “Earthquakes, Volcanoes and Natural Disasters” – designed for both science and arts students – that had to be capped at 230 students. This is the first time in living memory that the Department has had to restrict access to a course! John was awarded the J. Ross MacKay award in Geomorphology in 2003.

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### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

*Cindy Murphy*  
cmurphy@stfx.ca

The last few months have been a rewarding time in the Earth Sciences Department. Recognition has gone to Mike Melchin for his outstanding work on Early Paleozoic life and innovative study of graptolites. Congratulations to Mike, the recipient of the Past President’s Medal awarded by the Geological Association of Canada at the GAC-MAC conference in Vancouver this spring. Closer to home, his stellar research was also acknowledged when St. FX bestowed upon him the President’s Research Award at Spring Convocation. Mike, who is secretary of the Subcommittee on Silurian Stratigraphy and chair of the Ordovician-Silurian Boundary Working Group, recently

returned from a joint meeting on the Ordovician and Silurian and Silurian systems in San Juan, Argentina. Eugene MacDonald has recently completed his Ph.D. thesis on Early Silurian Radiolaria from Arctic Canada under Mike's supervision at Dalhousie University. Eugene has just begun a post-doctoral fellowship at St. FX to continue this work.

This past spring has also seen the growth of graduate student numbers, (this in direct relation to the large and significant grants received by members of the Department!). Hugo Beltrami and Lisa Kellman have attracted 4 Masters students to their Environmental Earth Sciences Laboratory, along with doctoral students Dave Risk and Amanda Diochon, both recipients of NSERC PGS-B awards. This makes a total of nine graduate students pursuing studies at the Department or affiliated universities.

Alan Anderson returned in July from a successful sabbatical leave at the

GeoForschungsZentrum, Potsdam, where he was invited to work with the Geochemistry and Mineral Physics group led by Dr. Wilhelm Heinrich. Alan was recently selected as the Chair of the User Advisory Committee (UAC) and as a member of the Beamline Advisory Committee at the Canadian Light Source in Saskatchewan, Canada's largest scientific research facility.

Brendan Murphy is Chair of the Department, and as co-leader of IGCP 453, a project studying the relationships between ancient and modern orogens, he has journeyed to many interesting field areas. Most recently he has returned from Perth, Australia, where he was a keynote speaker at the STGTG conference on tectonics. Next on his travel agenda is the AGS lecture tour this fall.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Ozeas Costa to the Department. Ozeas will be mentoring the School of Nursing in the establishment of a research program in Envir-

onmental Health, in addition to teaching two new courses related to "health and the environment". Dr. Tribeni Sharma joined our Department in January 2004, as a visiting professor teaching in the field of hydrology and hydrogeology. He is replacing Lisa Kellman for this academic year while she is on a sabbatical leave until July of 2004.

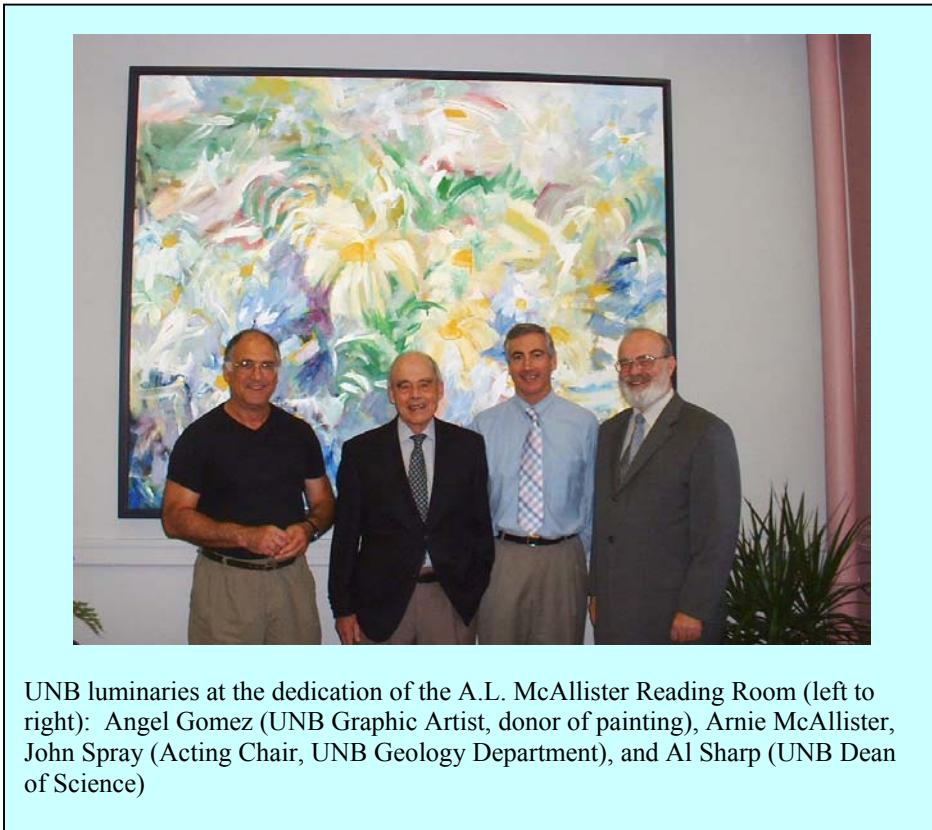
The Earth Sciences Department is anticipating its move to the new Physical Science Complex in September 2004. Plans are underway to house a Centre for the Study of Physical and Biogeochemical Climate Processes, a research project of Hugo and Lisa's that received up to \$3,000,000 from the Atlantic Innovation Fund over a five-year period. This grant is one of the largest research grants in the University's history. The Centre will promote research focusing on greenhouse gas emissions from soils and their relationship to land use and climate change. Felicitations go to Lisa, Hugo, and their research team. The major AIF grant recognizes the high caliber of their research.

## NEW BRUNSWICK

*David Lentz*  
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Joe White recently returned as the department's Chairman, and has taken on extra duties filling in for courses previously taught by Paul Williams, who retired this past summer. This fall, the Department of Geology also opened the A.L. McAllister Meeting Room, dedicated to a long-standing member of the faculty. Since his retirement in 1985 as Economic Geology professor, Dr. McAllister has been an emeritus professor at UNB.

Karl Butler's near-surface geophysics group continued its work this summer on a multi-disciplinary study of the Fredericton aquifer co-led by Tom Al. Drilling in the Saint John River helped to confirm geophysical interpretations of the aquifer's river bottom recharge zone while a multi-channel seismic



UNB luminaries at the dedication of the A.L. McAllister Reading Room (left to right): Angel Gomez (UNB Graphic Artist, donor of painting), Arnie McAllister, John Spray (Acting Chair, UNB Geology Department), and Al Sharp (UNB Dean of Science)

reflection survey (quite possibly the first ever in the Saint John River valley!) was carried out with Jim Hunter of GSC Ottawa to look for evidence of bedrock faults that might contribute to recharge from below. Karl's group also pushed ahead with its development of seismoelectric exploration methods through efforts in instrumentation and in theoretical modelling of seismically induced electrokinetic effects. In late August, Karl took the group to sea, working with Murray Gingras of the University of Alberta and Peter Simpkin of IKB Technologies (Halifax) on seismic imaging of modern depositional environments in the upper Bay of Fundy and Petitcodiac River.

Recently, the Committee for Research and Exploration (CRE) of the National Geographic Society awarded US\$12,260 to James Whitehead to study a probable impact structure on Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic. The expedition will be undertaken in the summer of 2004, and will focus on establishing whether the ~30 m structure contains any meteoritic material - an indication of definite impact origin. The age of the structure will also be accurately determined using cosmogenic and radiogenic isotopes. Assuming an impact origin, the morphology will be characterized in order to help understand the effect of an impact onto a permafrost target.

Several students started projects this summer in New Brunswick, co-supervised by David Lentz and Adjunct Professor Steve McCutcheon. Other projects in the NWT and Manitoba are winding up for the ORE Group. Dave was busy as CIM Geology Society President with business left over from the Montreal 2003 CIM meeting and working toward the Timmins 2003 CIM Field Conference in late September. Presently, Dave is planning on a trip to the Newfoundland Open House, which is coupled to the regional CIM District 1 meeting (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary) as part of his duties as Geology Society President. He is also trying to

assemble a group of volunteer Special Session chairs and presentations for the CIM annual meeting in Edmonton in May 2004. Dave has also been asked to chair a reactivated National CIM Education Outreach Committee which has been dormant for several years. He's definitely open to new ideas on how CIM and other organizations can help members reach out to schools with geoscience information pertinent to their curriculum.

Related to these activities, UNB's geology and engineering departments are hosting a QUEST4 (APEGNB) day designed for aboriginal primary students from throughout New Brunswick. The day is focused on basic geoscience appreciation in the students' everyday lives. The event is co-ordinated by Jared McGinn (QUEST 4 Outreach Coordinator) and Dave Lentz, with demonstrations of resources in NB, planetary science and gems by staff and students from UNB Geology.

UNB Geology also held a fun field trip for first year students in mid-September to show them some of the key geologic features and the fall colours of the St. John River Valley (see attached photo for the group at the Lake George Antimony Mine). The trip was sponsored by the department and led by David Lentz and Bruce Broster.

The UNB SEG-CIM Student Chapter is holding a workshop on Exploration Geochemistry to compliment the NB DNR Open House program this year. Sean McClenaghan, the SEG-CIM Student Chapter president, has planned an amazing program as part of UNB Geology's effort to provide professional development opportunities to the local community to help fulfill the requirements for their APEGNB professional registration. Presently, the ORE Group is busying themselves with the NBDNR Open House preparations.

Tom Al is on a 1 year sabbatical leave until July 2004. Ron Pickerill is planning a six month sabbatical

beginning January 2004. Our dedicated instructors - James Whitehead, Lucy Thompson and Adrian Park - are teaching the courses affected by Ron's sabbatical and the departure of Murray Gingras.

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## AGS NEWS

### ATLANTIC GEOLOGY

*Sandra Barr*

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Volume 38, Number 1 was mailed to subscribers in late June. The faint printing that you may have noticed in your copy of this issue was a result of a printing problem that was not noticed until "too late". Figures on which geological information was lost in the printing process will appear as errata in the next issue.

A combined issue (Volume 38, Numbers 2 and 3) with 5 papers and abstracts from the 2002 AUGC is now being printed and will be in the mail soon. The first issue of Volume 39 is in the layout stage, and we are optimistic that it will also be printed before the end of 2003.

A special issue on granitic rocks is in preparation. This issue is a result of the highly successful session at the AGS - NE GSA meeting last March on "Processes in Felsic Magma Chambers - from Crystallization and Evolution to Emplacement". Guest editors for the special issue are the session convenors Daniel Lux and David Gibson, who are being assisted by journal editor Sandra Barr. Other issues in the near future will include a special issue on the Joggins section (John Calder and Martin Gibling) and a major paper by Con Desplanque and David Mossman on the Bay of Fundy.

**SPECIAL SESSION IN MEMORY  
OF THE LATE DR. J. EWART  
BLANCHARD TO BE HELD AT  
THE 2004 AGS COLLOQUIUM**

*Ken Howells*

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Ewart Blanchard (1921-2003) received his B.Sc. from Dalhousie University in 1940 and his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. He returned to Nova Scotia in 1949 to take up a position in the Dalhousie University Physics Department, where he taught Physics and Geophysics to undergraduate and graduate students from 1949 to 1968. From 1949 to 1966, Ewart was also Director of the Geophysics Division at the Nova Scotia Research Foundation (NSRF). There, Ewart employed summer students to carry out geophysical surveys, particularly gravity surveys, in Nova Scotia and other Atlantic provinces. Many of these students went on to professional and university careers in Geophysics. The gravity measurements laid the foundation for the NSRF gravity database. Ewart was active in both onshore and offshore geophysical research and applied projects. He was Vice President of NSRF from 1966 to 1968 and President in 1968. Under his leadership, NSRF expanded and evolved into the Nova Scotia Research Foundation Corporation (NSRFC) where significant applied research was accomplished and spun off into local Industry. In 2000, Ewart received an honorary LL.D. from Dalhousie University.

Ken Howells and Alan Ruffman are organizing a Special Geophysics Session at the Atlantic Geoscience Society 30<sup>th</sup> Colloquium and Annual General Meeting to be held in the Hotel Delta Beausejour in Moncton on January 30 and 31, 2004.

The coordinators are including papers from Atlantic Canada in both onshore and offshore geophysics that illustrate progress made in these fields over Ewart's lifetime and with updates to the present. This will provide attendees with an appreciation of the

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The Atlantic Geoscience Society is accepting nominations in the following categories:

***AGS Distinguished Scientist Award (Gesner Medal)***

and

***AGS Distinguished Service Award***

A nomination shall include:

1. A statement of between 500 and 1,000 words, succinctly explaining how the candidate meets the selection criteria (see below).
2. Supporting documentation from the nominator and a letter of support from the seconder. The supporting documentation could include a selected bibliography (abstracts not needed), documentation of impact of work, and supporting letters from referees other than the nominator and seconder.
3. The nominator and seconder shall be members in good standing of the Atlantic Geoscience Society.

***Deadline for Nominations is December 31, 2003***

**CRITERIA**

***AGS Distinguished Scientist Award (Gesner Medal)***

- a) The Award is made to a person who has, through his/her own efforts (publications, maps, memoirs, etc.), developed and promoted the advancement of geoscience in the Atlantic region in any field of geology.
- b) The contribution of the person should be of large enough scope to have made an impact beyond the immediate Atlantic region.
- c) The person does not have to reside in the Atlantic region nor be a member of the Atlantic Geoscience Society.
- d) The person must be alive and active in geoscience research, although not necessarily full time in the Atlantic region.

***AGS Distinguished Service Award***

This Award shall be given "in recognition of exceptional and altruistic contributions to the Atlantic Geoscience Society over a long period of time". There are no specific criteria other than this.

***Please submit nominations and supporting documentation in writing to:***

Dr. J.C. White  
Vice President, Atlantic Geoscience Society  
Department of Geology, University of New Brunswick  
Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3

Telephone: (506)-453-4803  
Facsimile: (506)-453-5055  
Email: Clancy@unb.ca

contribution made by Dr. Blanchard in Geophysics in Atlantic Canada.

to Mike Parkhill at michael.parkhill@gnb.ca.

All abstracts for the Special Geophysics Session must be submitted online

## NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

### FUNDY GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

*Ken Adams*

adamskd@gov.ns.ca

Although Hurricane Juan did not adversely affect our area, the last few months have been a bit of a whirl wind. Subsequent to early optimistic indications that this summer would be a busy one, SARS, Mad Cow, the war in Iraq and a general slow down in the American economy have had an impact on tourism in our region. While general attendance at the Museum decreased only 2% to the end of August, visitation from outside the province was down significantly: US by 30%, Ontario by 10%, and New Brunswick by 20%.

#### School Programming

During April and June, the Museum hosted 19 overnight groups and more than thirty schools took part in day trips. Once again, a number of these groups booked their 2004 overnight packages before they left for home. Several teachers had planned to visit the site this fall for an "overnighter", but Hurricane Juan has caused a temporary delay to these trips.

Information on the Museum's programming packages is available on our web page at <http://fundygeo.museum.gov.ns.ca> or from our Education Officer, Marilyn Smith, at [smithmf@gov.ns.ca](mailto:smithmf@gov.ns.ca).

#### Museum Laboratory

Significant progress has been made on the preparation of the dinosaur material recovered from Wasson Bluff in 2000. Work continued throughout the summer by an assistant preparator, who was funded under NSERC's PromoScience Program, and three students who were employed through grants from Canadian Museum Association Young Canada Works in Heritage Institutions and HRDC's Student Employment program. Lab Manager, Katherine

Goodwin, was assisted by volunteer Molly Kernohan. You can follow the progress of this work on the Museum's web site at <http://fundygeo.museum.gov.ns.ca>. Click on "The Lab".

Work on the Museum's expansion plans continues. A Request for Proposals to carry out a Feasibility Assessment, Concept Plan and Business plan was circulated in August and expressions of interest were received from three firms. The successful proposal will be announced this fall and work will be carried out over the winter months.

The objective of the Feasibility Assessment is to review the existing operation of the Fundy Geological Museum, to determine the feasibility of expanding the Museum's facility and services as a "Discovery Centre" for the upper Bay of Fundy, and to identify an appropriate Development Concept for the expansion, focusing on new/enhanced facilities, amenities, and programming, and new interpretation themes relating to a Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre. A Business Plan, related to the expansion and repositioning of the Museum as a Bay of Fundy Discovery Centre will also be developed.

Based on the past nine years of operation, the existing facility appears to have a carrying capacity of 23,000, and any significant increase in visitation will impact on the quality of the services offered. A review of the tourism initiatives throughout the region and the province is required to determine if the Fundy Region should expect an increase in the coming years. A number of changes to the museum have been identified by the Museum's Board and staff that would maximize the benefits of increased site usage and enhance a visitor's experience. These include a larger multi-purpose room to accommodate the sustained popularity of school and public programming and provide potential for alternate use (display area for local art, hosting conferences, broader community based activities), expanded retail space to address

opportunities for increased revenue generation, additional gallery space for new exhibits based on topics currently not covered, a temporary exhibit gallery to host traveling exhibits that would encourage repeat visitation and increase site use during the traditional shoulder seasons, and dedicated climate controlled areas that would provide opportunities for community partners to access archival storage.

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### NEW BRUNSWICK MUSEUM

*Randy Miller*

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The New Brunswick Museum continues to benefit from research supported by the G.F. Matthew Grant. In July, Whitey Hagadorn from Amherst College spent a week at the Museum re-examining medusoid fossils from Cambrian rocks in Saint John originally described by Ron Pickerill. We were fortunate to have Dr. Hagadorn, one of the world's fossil jellyfish experts, here to take a look at the site. Ron was able to join us in the field. Whitey is a 2003 Matthew Grant recipient.

Dr. Howard Falcon-Lang, a previous Matthew Grant recipient, completed his field study of fossils and paleoenvironments in the Norton area in August.

Another previous Matthew Grant recipient and Museum research associate, Dr. Susan Turner, presented a paper at the Rhynie Chert conference in Aberdeen, Scotland. Co-authored with Randy Miller, the paper described possible paleo-environments at the Campbellton-Atholville fossil locality. In fact, three Matthew Grant recipients attended this small conference – Sue Turner from Australia, Heather Wilson from the USA/UK and Robert Wagner from Spain.

In September, Randy Miller travelled to the UK to examine specimens of New Brunswick fossils in collections at the National Museum of Scotland



(Edinburgh), the Sedgwick Museum (Cambridge) and the Natural History Museum, London. Most of this was in relation to the Museum's Campbellton-Atholville fossil project focusing on sharks, acanthodians, pterygotids and the history of the site. Our second paper on this site, describing the oldest articulated shark fossil, appeared in the October 2 issue of *Nature*. It was co-authored by Randy Miller, Richard Cloutier and Sue Turner. Support to both Cloutier and Turner was provided through the Matthew Grant program.

At the GeoSciEd IV conference in Calgary, we made a presentation about geoscience heritage in Saint John, focusing on a number of stories, especially "Will and the giant trilobite". Our travelling exhibition – "Fossil Hunter: Will Matthew and the Giant Trilobite" – is currently available for loan to institutions that can meet exhibition requirements. Although the travelling exhibition "Minerals Matter" has stopped circulating, it is now a virtual exhibit on the NBM web site. Go to [www.nbm-mnb.ca](http://www.nbm-mnb.ca) and follow the links to "exhibitions – virtual exhibitions – Minerals Matter".

Recent publications include:

Miller, R.F. 2003. Fossil Hunter and other stories. Building a regional awareness of regional geoscience investigation. *GeoSciEd IV*, Calgary, August 2003, p. 145-146

Turner, S. and Miller, R.F. 2003. IGCP 491: Devonian Disaster – lahars and lagoons in northern New Brunswick. The Rhynie Hot Spring System: Geology, Biota and Mineralisation, Programme and Abstracts, Aberdeen, Scotland, September 2003, p. 18.

Miller, R.F., Cloutier, R. and Turner, S. 2003. The oldest chondrichthyan from the Early Devonian period. *Nature*, v. 425, p. 501-504.

## **NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**

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### **Nova Scotia Museum Re-organized**

The Nova Scotia Museum, the complex that comprises all twenty-five provincial museums, has recently been re-organized. The changes resulted from a long term process that examined the roles of the Heritage Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism and Culture.

Bill Greenlaw, Executive Director of the Heritage Division, introduced staff to the new organizational chart for Heritage at a meeting held this fall. The changes are expected to be implemented during the months of November and December. The changes include new positions at the managerial and director level, as well as major changes in reporting structures. More news about the re-organization will follow a future issue of the newsletter.

### **Geology Collections Inventory**

This summer, an inventory on the entire Geology Collection housed at the Summer Street facility in Halifax was begun. Stewart Yule, a recent geology graduate from Saint Mary's University, has been busy counting and entering data on the specimens. To date, over 6,500 specimens have been accounted for out of approximately 12,000. Geology Collections are also housed at a museum storage facility in Stellarton and at the University College of Cape Breton.

### **Secrets of Silver Exhibit**

In November, the museum will host the exhibit "The Secrets of Silver". This exhibit has many exquisite silver specimens from the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, as well as pieces from our own History Collection. Examples of Nova Scotian silver will also be on display. We hope to have the silver Stanley Cup on hand - watch for details!

## **Museum Events**

Nova Scotia Museum Events guide, featuring all you can see and do at the Nova Scotia Museum family of 26 museums, can be downloaded at: <http://museum.gov.ns.ca/>.

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## **GAC-MAC-CSPG 2005**

*Mike Cherry*  
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Planning continues for Halifax 2005, a joint annual meeting of the Geological Association of Canada, the Mineralogical Association of Canada and the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists. The pace of work by the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) is now accelerating to meet several planning deadlines.

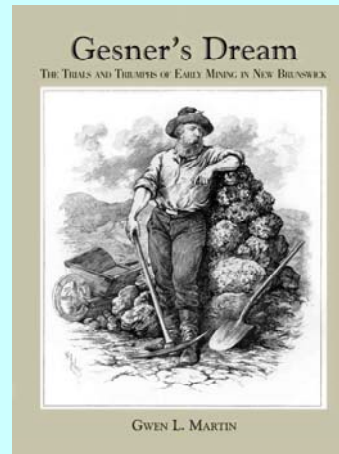
The first efforts to make the Canadian and international geoscience community aware of the 2005 meeting are the start-up of a conference website and the distribution of a conference brochure at the 2004 GAC-MAC meeting, which will be held at Brock University next May. AGS members should visit the Society's website regularly for more information about Halifax 2005, as the conference website will be hosted there.

The LOC's executive members met recently with the Mineralogical Association of Canada to discuss program and social events that will feature the MAC. That society will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Halifax meeting, and special technical sessions and birthday celebrations will be developed in recognition of that major milestone.

The Field Trip Subcommittee, comprising Mike Parkhill, Susan Johnson, Brendan Murphy, Martin Gibling and Sandra Barr (chair), is beginning to compile a field trip program, and would be happy to receive suggestions from AGS members for trips to be run before, after or even during the meeting. One-day trips, or trips of several days duration, are possible. Trips can be

for a large or a small number of participants, but must be budgeted to at least meet expenses. It is the committee's policy to have perhaps a relatively small number of trips that have a high probability of being run, rather than to arrange a larger number of trips that are cancelled. Ideas for trips can be sent to Sandra Barr at [Sandra.barr@acadiou.ca](mailto:Sandra.barr@acadiou.ca).

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*Gesner's Dream* presents the first-ever comprehensive account of New Brunswick's lively mining heritage. This romantic, entertaining and ultimately triumphant tale covers three centuries. Read how gypsum smugglers took on customs officers by moonlight. Hear about 19<sup>th</sup> century mine developers who threatened their competition with fists in the boardroom and pistols in the field. Meet characters such as Alfred Markham, the fabulous New Brunswicker who survived shipwreck, underground explosion and fire to become one of the most successful – and well-loved – mine managers in Canada. Learn how M.J. Boylen really managed to accumulate nearly one thousand claims in northern New Brunswick ... and how his coup prompted the Bathurst Staking Rush of 1953 – the largest staking extravaganza in Canadian history.

*Gesner's Dream* is titled after Abraham Gesner, the tragic and eccentric mid-Victorian geologist and inventor. In 1839 he predicted that New Brunswick would become a famous mining centre. This book tells the story of how his prediction – his dream – came true. Beautifully illustrated with photographs gathered from archives and attics across the province, it also contains seven coloured maps, including Gesner's previously unpublished geology map of New Brunswick (as modified by James Robb).

Gwen Martin studied geology at the University of Toronto and Memorial University of Newfoundland. She has worked since 1975 as a journalist, editor, educator, tour guide and author, specializing in Canada's natural and cultural history.

Look for *Gesner's Dream* in bookstores across the Atlantic Provinces. The book is also available from Nimbus Publishing at 1-800-646-2879, from the CIM New Brunswick Branch at 1-506-444-4924 and from the Geological Association of Canada at [www/gac/ca/bookstore/index.html](http://www/gac/ca/bookstore/index.html).

*Gesner's Dream: The Trials and Triumphs of Early Mining in New Brunswick* by Gwen L. Martin. Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, New Brunswick Branch and Gwen L. Martin; 1-894475-46-1. Index, endnotes, 140 b/w photos, 7 coloured maps, 328 p. \$39.95.