

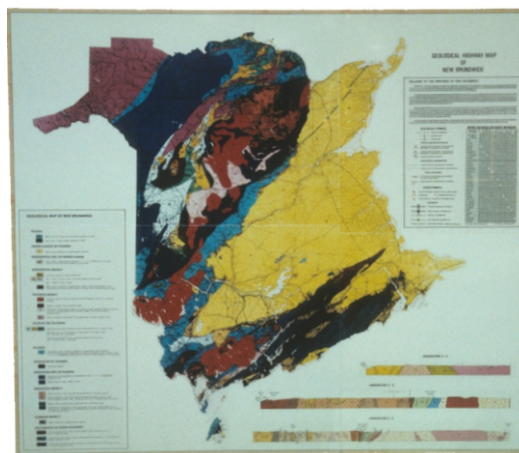
The 1980s

The 80s were times of major accomplishments for the Atlantic Geoscience Society. One of the first was the Earth Science Teachers' Workshop, 5-7 November 1982. This Workshop, held at Bedford Institute in Dartmouth, focused on the coastal and offshore geology of eastern Canada. It was one of the first focused outreach activities of the Society.

The response to the Nova Scotia Geological Highway Map motivated the decision in 1980 to produce one for New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Another factor was the decision by the Society to throw its support behind the Department of Geology of UNB, which was organizing the 1985 Annual Meeting of the Geological and Mineralogical Associations of Canada, to be held in Fredericton. At about the same time, Phil Hill proposed that AGS produce a series of videos under the title "The Geology of Atlantic Canada". The idea was to produce educational videos for use in high schools but also be of interest to the general public.

1984 was memorable, not only because of George Orwell, but because at the AGS Annual Meeting in Amherst, 20-21 January, the Rupert MacNeill award for best student paper was presented for the first time. The winner was Allan Huard, who gave an excellent talk on the Carboniferous Fisset Brook Formation. After the meeting, Laing Ferguson invited everyone still around to his house for light refreshments.

A milestone at the 1985 Annual Meeting in Wolfville, 18-19th January, was the premier viewing of the promotional rock video. The video was produced to generate funding for the Society's proposed video series. The four scheduled to be produced were: "The Mineral Wealth of Atlantic Canada", "The Appalachian Story", "Offshore Oil and Natural Gas", and "The Recent Ice Age". During the year, the Atlantic Geoscience Society became an Affiliated Society of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists.



New Brunswick 1985 Highway map



Phil Hill, first of the AGS Video Committee Chair



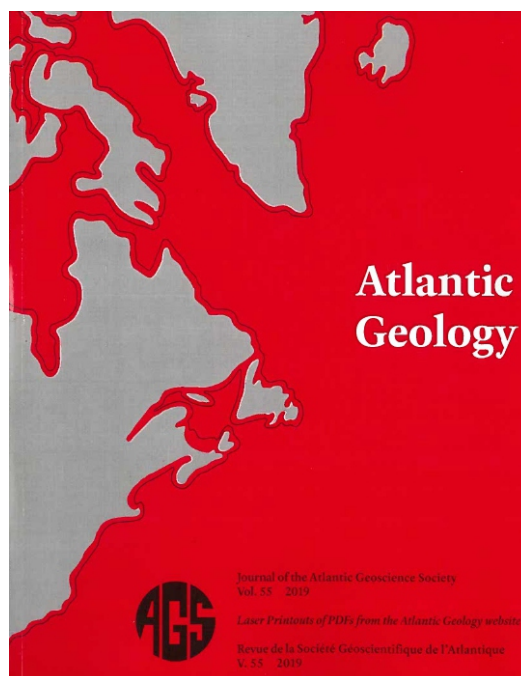
Laing Ferguson carving a roast of beef at his home while a starving Howard Donohoe waits for a taste.

The 1985 Annual Meeting in Fredericton of the Geological and Mineralogical Associations of Canada went off without a hitch, as did the launching of the New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Geological Highway Map: the latter was produced through the generosity of the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources. One major breakthrough was the publication of both French language and English language editions.

Following the tragic deaths of two young geologists, crushed when a ditch collapsed in 1984, the AGS organized an evening seminar and panel discussion for 25th September 1985. The topic, “Occupational Safety in the Geosciences”, was a timely reminder of the risks inherent in geological field work and in mining.

On 9th April 1986, the Society became the proud parent of its own journal *Maritime Sediments* and *Atlantic Geology*, subsequently shortened to *Atlantic Geology* and then renamed *Atlantic Geoscience*. This is the only regional geology journal in Canada and has a history of continuing production dating back to 1965, when *Maritime Sediments* was first published. In 1986, the Society hosted the Symposium, “Basins of Eastern Canada and Worldwide Analogues”, held in Halifax, 13-15 August. Co-sponsors were the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists and the Inter-Union Commission on the Lithosphere. Registrants came from all over the world for the intensive technical sessions and excellent social program. One impressive offshoot of this Symposium was the CSPG Memoir 12, AGS Special Publication 5, *Sedimentary Basins and Basin-Forming Mechanisms*, published in 1987. This 527-page compendium quickly became a classic.

The 1987 Annual Meeting, held in Fredericton, 6-7 February, featured the introduction of workshops. The two workshops were “Metamorphism in Basic-Ultrabasic Complexes” and, “Maturation Studies and Petroleum Geology”. Response to these guaranteed the continuing presence of workshops on the program for all future Annual Meetings. Not having learned from past experience how traumatic it was, AGS Council agreed in 1987 to host the 1992 Annual Meeting of the Geological and Mineralogical



Cover for *Atlantic Geology*
(now *Atlantic Geoscience*).

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY IN THE GEOSCIENCES
PROGRAMME WITH PAPERS**

A SEMINAR AND PANEL DISCUSSION ON SAFETY-RELATED AND
LEGAL TOPICS CONCERNING GEOSCIENTISTS AND THEIR
WORK ENVIRONMENTS

ORGANIZED BY THE ATLANTIC GEOSCIENCE SOCIETY, AND
CO-SPONSORED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY,
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, THE NOVA SCOTIA CHAMBER OF
MINERAL RESOURCES, THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES COUNCIL
ON THE SCIENCES, AND GEOMARINE ASSOCIATES LIMITED

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA
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Cover for “Occupational Safety
in the Geosciences”

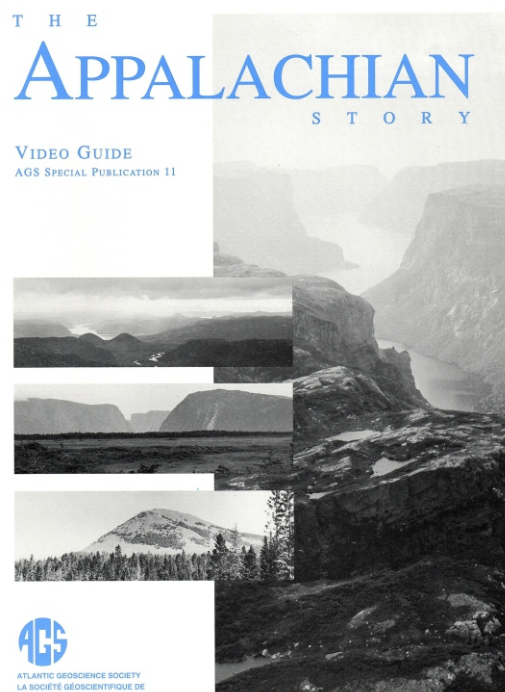
Associations of Canada, to be held in Wolfville, 25-27 May 1992.

While the above major developments were taking place, production of the first video in the Geology of Atlantic Canada series began under the direction of Bill Skerrett. The video, “The Mineral Wealth of Atlantic Canada” was released 16th September 1987, when it was shown at a Society evening meeting. In 1986, Shell Canada had provided funding for a second video, “The Appalachian Story”. The premier of this production, , was at the AGS Symposium in Antigonish, 6th February 1988: what a way to start the year.

Bringing the 1980s to a close was the first presentation of the AGS Distinguished Service Award. The recipient, Laing Ferguson, received the honour at the 1989 Annual Colloquium, 3-4th February, fittingly held in Amherst. Laing was one of the founders and stalwarts of the AGS, organizing for several years the Annual Meetings of the Society, first at Mount Allison University and then the Wandlyn Inn Amherst. In a well-deserved tribute to Laing the Distinguished Service Award was subsequently renamed the Laing Ferguson Award. In 1989, Laing became the first recipient of the Lifetime Membership Award.



Bill Skerrett left (in light blue jacket)



The Appalachian Story



Laing Ferguson and Sandra Barr at an AGS Colloquium