

## The 1990s

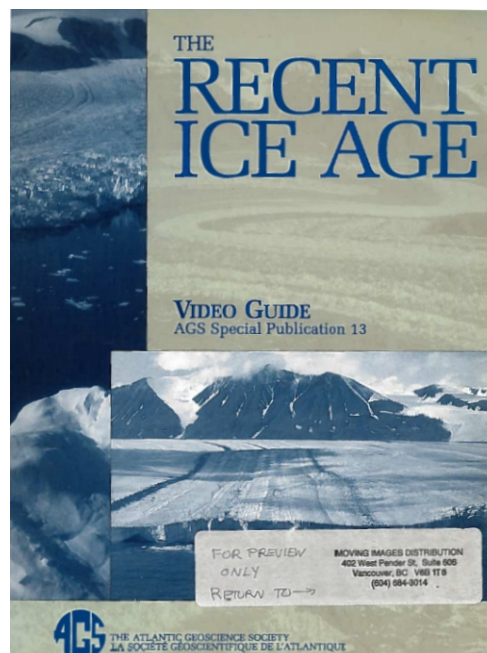
The new decade started off with the launch of the third video in the series The Geology of Atlantic Canada, whose production was motivated by the educational value of the first two videos. This was “The Recent Ice Age”, which was first shown on Wednesday, 11th April 1990 at the Archives of Nova Scotia to a select audience. “Offshore Oil and Gas” had a more impressive send off at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax, Wednesday, 4th November 1992. This, the last in the series, also featured Jay Ingram as narrator.

It was quickly realized that the impact of the video series could be enhanced by production of video guides for teachers, so plans were set in motion to write and publish these as quickly as possible. The three published are “The Appalachian Story”, “The Recent Ice Age”, and “Offshore Oil and Natural Gas”.

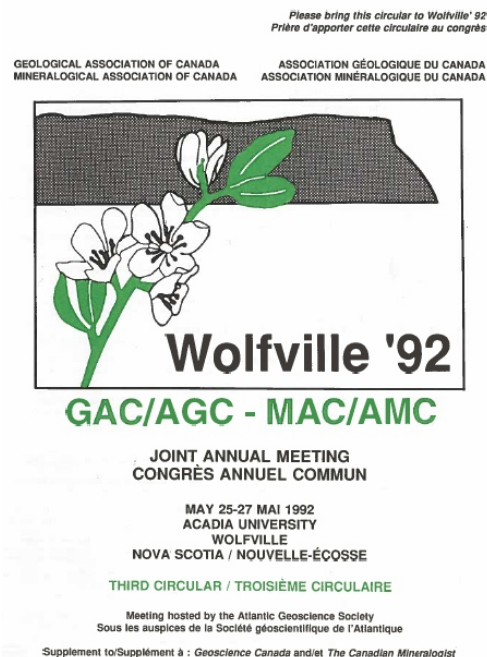
The videos have reached a wide audience, duplication rights being sold to many Departments of Education, including the provinces of, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and British Columbia. There have been a surprising number of sales to university departments throughout North America, several regional school boards, and libraries. The video guides have also developed a loyal following.

Hosting of the 1992 Annual Meeting of the Geological and Mineralogical associations of Canada, held in Wolfville, 25-27 May 1992, turned out to be another success, equal to Halifax '80 and Fredericton '85. The meeting differed in having a strong outreach program, however, including a teachers' workshop with an accompanying field trip.

Retrenchment in the economy in the late 1980s and early 1990s had a major impact on the Atlantic Geoscience Society. Memberships lapsed and attendance at the Annual Meetings declined although there always remained a committed cadre. This was demonstrated at the 1993 Annual Meeting in Halifax, 12-13th February, when about 175 registrants braved a fierce storm (rain surprisingly) to attend. A notable event at this meeting was the awarding of the Gesner Medal to Les Fyffe, the first recipient. The Medal, designed by Gordon Fader, is given to a person who



The Recent Ice Age



Wolfville, 25-27 May 1992



Les Fyffe

has, through her or his own efforts, developed and promoted the advancement of geoscience in the Atlantic Region in any field of geology, and whose contributions are of such significance that they have made an impact outside the area.

A milestone in the nineties was the official recognition of the Society's outreach program by formation of the Education Committee. During its existence, this Committee, with Jennifer Bates as Chair, has fostered several new initiatives, including bringing the EdGEO teachers' workshops to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. EdGEO is a committee of Canadian geologists, which organizes Workshops for elementary and high-school teachers in most of the provinces and territories. Funding for these Workshops is provided by the geological community, primarily the Canadian Geoscience Council (now the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences) and its member societies. On 22-23 August 1994, the first Nova Scotia EdGEO Workshop, "The Earth Sciences: New Resources for Teachers", was held in Halifax-Dartmouth. The format, adopted and maintained for several Workshops, was a Monday morning classroom session, Monday afternoon field trip, Monday evening banquet and talk, and Tuesday morning classroom session, concluding with a summation. Teachers' reactions to the Workshop were encouraging. They were enthusiastic, especially about some of the resources handed out, and liked the two day format. However, the neglect of earth sciences in the school curriculum was reflected by several requests to run a workshop, "Introduction to Geology". Other suggestions were for more field trips and for field trip guides.

The response to the first Teachers Workshop led to the decision to make it an annual event and to move location, so that teachers from other parts of the province could attend and each field trip would be different. Subsequently, other Workshops in the 90s were held in Sydney (1995), Wolfville (1996), Bridgewater (1997), Truro (1998) and Parrsboro (1999).

1996 marked the introduction of field trips to the Annual Colloquium as AGS held its first meeting in Bathurst, New Brunswick. Twenty five people took



First EdGEO Workshop, showing Jennifer Bates, shown helping a teacher.



Fenton Eisner conducting the 1995 EdGEO workshop field trip in Sydney.



Glen Stockmal trying to wheel in his audience at a Colloquium held at the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville.

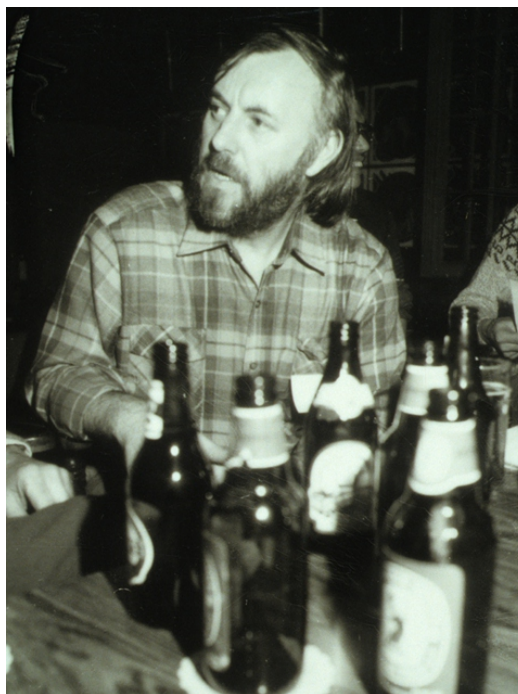
part in a tour of the Brunswick No. 12 Mine. Many of the 180 registrants enjoyed taking the train to avoid a long drive. A workshop on Exploration Geophysics was also held.

In 1997, the Atlantic Geoscience Society celebrated its Silver Jubilee at the Annual Meeting in Amherst, Nova Scotia, on 7-8 February. One of the highlights was initiation of the Graham Williams Award for Best Poster Presentation by a student. The first recipient was Sandra Marshall of Acadia University. It also marked the introduction of the Noranda Award, initiated by Dave Gower of Noranda Mining Inc., for the best Economic Geology presentation by a student. Kelly Janssens from UNB was the first winner.

1998 saw the publication of "Discovering Rocks, Minerals and Fossils in Atlantic Canada", an informative guide to some of the best geological sites in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The impact of this publication is reflected in the sales, and the speed at which the first printing sold out. This is not surprising since it is of interest to professional geologists, teachers, students and the general public.



Art Ruitenberg giving a demonstration of active plate tectonics, during his talk at a Colloquium held at the Orchard Inn, Wolfville



Graham Williams collecting empty beer bottles for the refund.