

The 2010s

Entering 2010, President Grant Ferguson noted that the Atlantic Geoscience Society stood at a crossroads, as did the geoscience community nationally. The old Canadian Geoscience Council had gone the way of the dinosaurs, and been succeeded by the Canadian Federation of Earth Science, an umbrella organization for earth science-related societies in Canada. AGS became the only regional society to join the CFES, and in due course several of the offices were filled by people who had been or were AGS members. Elisabeth Kusters served as business manager, and both Scott Swinden and Sandra Barr became presidents of the Federation.

One of the highlights at the annual colloquium was that Rob Raeside, Secretary for more years than anyone can remember deservedly received the Laing Ferguson Distinguished Service Award.

The Society continued to diversify its activity, increasingly using its resources to initiate or further a wide range of projects – posters, conferences, provision of keynote speakers, funding of publications, the annual speaker tour, booths at trade shows, support of student conferences, supporting teachers to attend workshops, and exhibits. In 2011, we enticed the remains of the earliest reptile, *Hylonomus lyelli*, to return from Britain to the Joggins Fossil Centre for a visit!

The Publications Committee revitalized in 2013, arranged for all AGS publications to be archived in the Dalhousie library system (<http://dalspace.library.dal.ca/handle/10222/50639>). A similar arrangement was achieved with the AAPG Datapages, which archives all AGS publications in Tulsa, OK, thereby making them available to the general public.

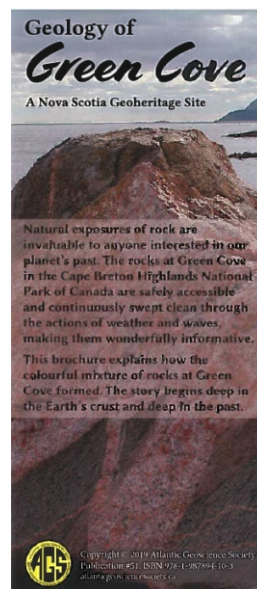
In 2014, AGS played an active role in the hotly debated proposal to erect a six-story veterans' memorial at Green Cove, Cape Breton Island in time for the national 150th anniversary in 2017. To help explain the importance of the site, the Society in 2019 published a brochure on the geology of Green Cove. On an international level, the Society was accepted as



Elisabeth Kusters



Rob Raeside, record serving secretary of Atlantic Geoscience Society



Green Cove Brochure

an affiliated society by the AAPG House of Delegates in 2014. Also in that year, AGS made substantial, and we mean substantial, contributions of St. George red granite, representing New Brunswick and North Mountain Basalt, representing Nova Scotia to the Peter Russell rock garden at the University of Waterloo. Shipping of these monsters was no easy task.

A significant landmark in 2015 was the 50th anniversary of Atlantic Geoscience, the Society's journal, initially known as Maritime Sediments. In honour of this milestone, a special session looking back at 50 years of research in the region was convened at the annual colloquium, with the banquet speaker being Sandra Barr, editor-in-chief of the journal; she was able to reminisce back to issue 2 when, as a summer student, she was involved in its early compilation. Another milestone was reached when Ken Howells decided to step down as treasurer, a position he held since the 1980s, to be replaced by the team of Nelly Koziel and Calvin Campbell. Ken was awarded the third lifetime membership in the Society in recognition of his services.

The Education Committee continued to be as busy as ever, in 2016 producing a Nova Scotia Pebble Guide, in the form of a brochure and available on the website. This guide has subsequently attracted considerable attention from rock hounds and the public in general, and a New Brunswick version is being planned.

The year 2017 saw major changes in the AGS's operations. Calvin Campbell stepped down as co-treasurer and sadly Nelly died in May. Nikole Bingham-Kozlowski, the new treasurer, relocated to Ottawa in 2020, when Paul Batson assumed the role. The “bookstore” also moved from BIO to Acadia University, where it is ably managed by Lynn Graves.

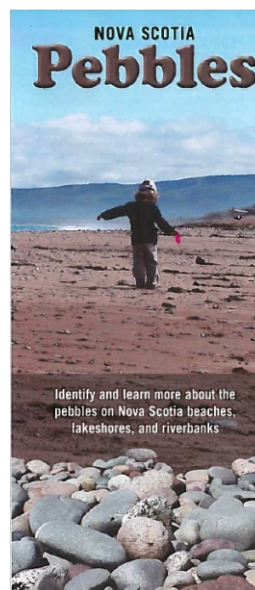
The end of the decade saw ramping up of activity leading to Halifax 2022 – a joint meeting of the Geological and Mineralogical Associations of Canada with the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH-CNC) and the CSPG. Some major projects that were undertaken with Halifax 2022 in view included a second edition of The Last Billion Years with co-editors Rob Fensome and



North Mountain Basalt at Cape d'Or



Ken Howells when President



Nova Scotia Pebbles Guide

Graham Williams,, with updates to reflect nearly 20 years of geological research, and new editions of the Geological Highway Maps of both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick & Prince Edward Island. These two maps will use common colour schemes and unit descriptions.

A list of Geoheritage Sites in Nova Scotia was also compiled by the Society and in due course approved by the Provincial Legislature: as a follow up, a Geoheritage Committee was established to continue monitoring this effort and to extend it into New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Through the second half of the decade, annual Colloquium meetings fell into a rhythm of being held every second year at the Holiday Inn in Truro, with meetings in Fredericton or Wolfville in the intervening years. Attendance at these conferences continued to be very strong, generally around 200 people, and upwards of 75 presentations, which has taxed the facilities at these establishments.

Nova Scotia EdGEO orkshops continuerd to draw enthusiastic participants throughout the decade, being held in Halifax (2010–2015), Joggins (2016) and Halifax (2017–2020). The presenters at the twenty-five Workshops have all been primarily geologists, who have volunteered their time because they believe that they can help to make teaching earth science a lot more fun. And the support of others, in helping with the logistics, has been tremendous.

Another encouraging outreach development has been the New Brunswick EdGEO Workshops. The first were organized and held by Dave Lentz in the late 90s and early 2000s, since when Ann Timmermans has been active in continuing the trend, including one associated with the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Geological and Mineralogical Associations of Canada in Fredericton.

One encouraging development in the Society is that one couple have served as Presidents; Bob and Martha Grantham in 2016 and 2019 respectively. They termed out to be ideal choices.



Paul Batson

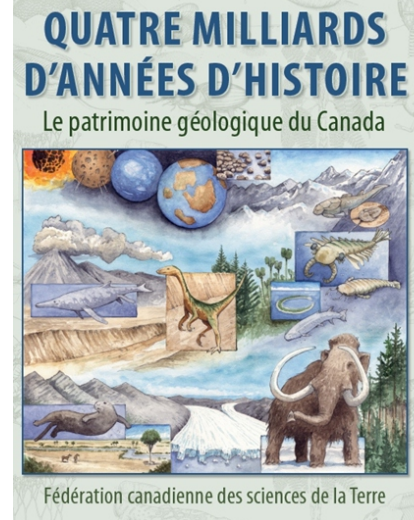
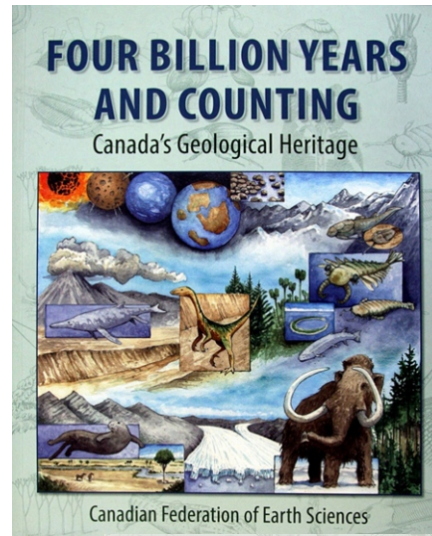


EdGEO Workshop activity: Landscapes of Canada, held in Halifax.



Bob and Martha Grantham at Joggins

2014 marked the publication of the book *Four Billion Years and Counting: Canada's Geological Heritage*. Although a joint publication of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences and Nimbus Publishing, as noted earlier two of the editors were AGS members. One major achievement was that there was also a French edition: *Quatre Milliards d'Années d'Histoire: Le patrimoine géologique du Canada*.



The English and French Editions of
“Four Billion Years and Counting”