

The 2020s

Moving into the 2020s, the Society's 2020 conference garnered 217 registrations, and because of its substantial financial sponsorship, resulted in a healthy surplus. This surplus is being used largely to fund such projects as guest speakers, equipment purchases, museum donations, and more social media activity. Within a month of the highly successful 2020 colloquium, however, the world shut down as Covid-19 struck with a vengeance.

Because of the continuing menace of Covid-19, the 2021 conference had to go online. Still, with nearly 200 registrants and a steady diet of three simultaneous sets of conference talks, the usual mid-winter weekend with worries of being trapped in a snowstorm went well, allowing several old faces to beam in from distant locations, and avoiding the perils of travel on treacherous roads.

As society changes, the Atlantic Geoscience Society has had to adjust. Its primary mandate remains the dissemination of geoscientific knowledge and information, primarily through the Annual Colloquia where there are usually more than 50 oral and poster presentations, and its research journal, Atlantic Geoscience. However, there is an increasing awareness of the importance of outreach activities and the need to play a role in the education of elementary and high school students, teachers and the general public. Based on its past accomplishments and present goals, the Atlantic Geoscience Society will continue to play an important role in the dissemination of earth science knowledge in the Maritime Provinces, whether at the professional or lay person's level. That's not a bad record for a group of volunteers, largely funded by the geological community.

Another encouraging outreach development has been the two New Brunswick Workshops. The first was held in Saint John in 2013. This was followed by a workshop at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Geological and Mineralogical Associations of Canada, which was held in Fredericton.