



The Distinguished Service Award (Laing Ferguson Award) shall be given in recognition of exceptional and altruistic contributions to the Atlantic Geoscience Society and/or to foster public appreciation of Atlantic geoscience over a long period of time. The recipient of this year's Laing Ferguson Award is Dr. Tim Fedak.

For 2.5 decades, Tim has played a prominent role building institutional capacity (as current Curator of Geology for the Nova Scotia Museum, and past Curator of the Fundy Geological Museum); preserving/cataloguing Nova Scotia's physical & historical geological history; and conducting novel and effective outreach. Tim has had a major impact on an institutional level. At the Fundy Museum together with the Cumberland Geological Society, in safeguarding the unique and extremely important collection of Eldon George. He has played a similar—if less well-known role—over the past year regarding the collections of retired paleontologist, Dr. Erwin Zedrow (Cape Breton University). Without Tim's efforts, it is very likely that this unique collection would have been lost.

Tim has been a leading figure in the area of developing geotourism in the Maritimes, and has played a significant role in the development of the Cliffs of Fundy Geopark and other geoheritage initiatives. Tim has continued pushing boundaries in digital science communication (in addition to many hundreds of hours on in-person outreach, through the Fundy Museum, NS Museum, and as an instructor at Dalhousie University). These efforts include blogging, social media, virtual field experience (including one he is creating to expand accessibility at the upcoming 2022 GAC-MAC), and 3D modeling. He has also written excellent articles on the history of science in Nova Scotia, which include highlighting the work of pioneering female geologists and citizen scientists from all walks of life.

Tim is currently playing a lead role in the Nova Scotia's Museum upcoming Age of the Mastodons exhibit. This exhibit will showcase fossil material never before made public, and—importantly—will include a travelling component to ensure impact beyond Halifax Regional Municipality. Tim has already begun outreach to find ways of using this exhibit to help support small institutions, such as the Cape Breton Fossil Centre. Tim is an excellent ambassador for geosciences in the Maritimes and beyond and the Ferguson Award is a wonderful recognition of these efforts.

(text extracted from several nomination letters)