

## Hank Williams - meticulous scientist wielding a broad brush

E.R. Neale

*5108 Carney Road, N.W., Calgary, Alberta T2L 1G2, Canada*

Harold (Hank) Williams arguably has more published geological maps to his credit than any Canadian of his generation. As he maps, he ponders the significance of his findings in the context of the evolution of the Appalachian/Caledonian mountain system and then he extrapolates boldly. This led him, thirty years ago, to write on the geological symmetry of his native Newfoundland. That much-cited paper and his later (1967) map of the Island of Newfoundland were two keystones in J.T. Wilson's and others' recognition and development of the concept of an opening and closing proto-Atlantic (Iapetus) ocean. Hank, in turn, became one of the first to appreciate the plate tectonic model as a key to unraveling the geometry and history of the Appalachian/Caledonian orogen. His approach has been and remains: first, meticulous mapping of selected problem area; then, extrapolation of results to other parts of the orogen in broad brush compilations usually in co-authorship with other regional experts; finally, back to his outdoor laboratory in Newfoundland to

test hypotheses and seek answers to new problems that have arisen. Little wonder that his elegant Tectonic-Lithofacies Map of the Appalachians hangs on classroom walls around the world and that his recently completed DNAG volume on the Canadian Appalachians has already excited praise from editors and reviewers. Hank Williams is indeed a worthy successor to Rodgers, Kay, King and Hall as our most knowledgeable expert on the Appalachians.

Accomplished musician; lively lecturer; inexhaustible party animal; mischievous, homespun Newfie wit and savant, Hank has generously shared his thoughts, his talents and joie de vivre with students and colleagues from all over the world through his lucid, informal, entertaining lectures and his exhilarating field trips. In the words of his friend and former professor, the late J. Tuzo Wilson: "I cannot think of any Canadian geologist more deserving of honour and recognition".