

The earth sciences: new resources for teachers

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Specialization in the sciences and the rapidity of technical development is making it increasingly difficult for educators to be aware of the latest concepts and resources. To encourage updates in the earth sciences, the EdGeo Committee of the Canadian Geoscience Council funds workshops for elementary and junior high-school teachers. The motivation, organization and hosting of a workshop, however, is the responsibility of regional groups. EdGeo workshops in Nova Scotia have had an intermittent history, the most recent prior to 1994 being in 1983. This situation is changing, as witnessed by the success of the workshop, "The Earth Sciences: New Resources for Teachers", held in Halifax-Dartmouth, last August 21 and 22. This was hosted by the Atlantic Geoscience Society EdGeo Committee. The main intent of the workshop was to update teachers on

such recent developments as: the Scientists and Innovators in the Schools program; the Nova Scotia Museum geology kits, including the new Mining Kit; "Earth Science Resources", a project of the Atlantic Geoscience Society Education Committee; rock kits (each teacher was given one); Internet services such as "Geology in the Classroom"; and the Atlantic Geoscience Society video series and guides. An essential part of the workshop was the half-day field trip. Because of the encouraging response of the teachers attending, the Committee plans similar workshops throughout Nova Scotia, with the next scheduled for Sydney in August 1995. Each workshop will have a local flavour, especially the field trip. And if these workshops are also successful, we intend to explore new directions, both in subject matter and participation.