

### **EdGeo workshops: continuing earth science assistance for Nova Scotia teachers**

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For the past three summers, the Nova Scotia Branch of the AGS Education Committee has been offering one and a half day EdGeo Workshops for teachers. The workshops focus on earth science resources available to teachers and how to use them in the classroom in support of the curriculum. On the first day, working with rocks, minerals, ores and the variety of Nova Scotia Museum loan kits, teachers learn the rudiments of classifying rocks, identifying minerals and ores, and applying the information to the classroom. During this time they receive their own reference collection of Nova Scotia rocks, minerals and ores. The second half of Day 1 is a field trip that shows: (1) the geological history of the area, (2) the importance and methods of mineral production, and (3) different techniques and strategies for running field trips. During Day 2 the teachers learn about fossils and geological time, and using computers and the Internet for earth

science information. Near the end of the morning, we ask teachers to reflect on how they might use the information presented at the workshop and to critique the workshop.

More than 80 teachers have attended previous EdGeo workshops in Halifax, Sydney and Wolfville. Most teachers are teaching grades 4 to 8, but we do have teachers from grades 1 to 12. Principal funding for EdGeo workshops is provided by the National EdGeo Workshop Committee and the Geological Survey of Canada. Saint Mary's University and the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources provide additional support and each of the host institutions assist with facilities. These EdGeo workshops are an important educational resource and are working extremely well according to the teachers who attend. Look for another success this August when EdGeo goes to Bridgewater, Nova Scotia.