

EdGEO Workshops: Experience the Excitement of Earth Sciences

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The first EdGEO Nova Scotia Workshop, "The Earth Sciences: New Resources for Teachers", was held in Halifax, 22-23 August 1994. The enthusiastic response of those attending encouraged the local committee to continue the program,

with equally successful workshops in Sydney (1995), Wolfville (1996) and Bridgewater (1997). Each workshop highlights earth science resources available to K-12 grade teachers and how these can be used in the classroom. The program, which em-

phasizes hands-on activities, includes: identifying rocks and minerals common in Nova Scotia, use of the Nova Scotia Museum's mining and fossil kits, accessing the Internet and especially AGS's EarthNet, improvising in the classroom, and ideas for explaining the concept of geological time to young students. The highlight of each Workshop has to be the field trip, which is always to local sites. For Bridgewater, we visited a local quarry, Broad Cove, Crescent Beach, and The Ovens Natural Park, where we panned for gold. After the excitement of the half-day trip, everyone really enjoyed the evening's talk on the geology of Nova Scotia.

What were the teachers' reactions to the day and a half of intense activity? I quote from some of the evaluation sheets: "All the handouts are fantastic", "Excellent resources, excellent and enthusiastic resource people", "Without a doubt, the best workshop I have ever attended".

The 1998 workshop will be in Truro on 17-18 August. Because of the rapidly evolving format, this workshop will be titled, "Experience the Excitement of Earth Science". Handouts will include a rock and mineral kit, a fossil kit, four videos and video guides, maps, books, lesson plans, posters, and leaflets. The success of the EdGEO program is dependent upon funding from the National EdGEO Workshop Committee and the Geological Survey of Canada. The Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Saint Mary's University, the Nova Scotia Museum and GSC allow staff to participate in the workshops and provide numerous resources. And the volunteers are all enthusiasts. Why don't you consider becoming involved? Your commitment will help further interest in the earth sciences where it's most important, in the schools throughout our province.