

The EdGEO Workshop Story: Building On Success After Success After . . .

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The Atlantic Geoscience Society has had many successes for such a small organization. Some are one-time events or projects such as GAC/MAC Wolfville '92 or the Geological Highway Map Project. Other successful projects continue almost with a life of their own; the best example is the Video Committee and its remarkable work. Another project qualifies for praise and this is the EdGeo Workshops. Like most successful projects, this one made its name because it met a real need for Nova Scotia teachers in supplying "hands on" work about the earth sciences. Teachers from grades 3 to 12 attend this workshop to increase their awareness about the earth sciences and to learn how to apply the information and resources from the workshop to the classroom. In August 1998, the fifth workshop will be held at the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro. Participants will work with six to ten

instructors that represent a variety of employers in Nova Scotia: federal and provincial governments, universities, and public schools. The teachers learn about (1) identifying minerals, (2) classifying rocks, (3) using Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History school loan kits, (4) the mineral industry, (5) the connection between earth science and the environment, (5) fossils and geological time, and (6) use of computers and WWW resources. Coupled with all of this information are the instructors who "model" effective teaching methods and the many practical exercises for the teachers' classes. The workshop's successful formula of two half day class room sessions separated by a field trip and evening speaker has changed little since the start five years ago. What has changed is the renewed sense of importance and of relevancy that the 100 "graduates" of the workshop have for earth science!