
schematic diagrams, and maps were collected or commissioned for the project. The text went through many rewrites based on thorough reviews by geologists and non-geologists in order to provide an accurate, informative, and reader-friendly narrative. The success of *The Last Billion Years* has surprised even its most ardent proponents: the initial print run of 2,100 copies sold out in 5 weeks and the first reprinting of 2,000 copies was practically sold out by the end of 2001; the book was on the Nova Scotia non-fiction best-seller list for several weeks; and it elicited very positive reviews from national and regional newspapers. AGS can be justly proud of its truly collective product, which has brought Maritimes geology within reach of non-specialists in a way that has probably not been achieved since Sir J.W. Dawson's *Acadian Geology* in the nineteenth century. Lest it be thought that the AGS Book Committee is resting on its laurels, talk of further spin-offs (there is already a talk series based on the book) and a second edition of *The Last Billion Years* is already in the air.

**The Last Billion Years –
past, present, and future**

ROBERT A. FENSOME AND GRAHAM L. WILLIAMS
*Natural Resources Canada, Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic),
P.O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4A2, Canada*

Conceived in the mid-1990s, the book *The Last Billion Years – A Geological History of the Maritime Provinces of Canada* was finally born in July 2001. The book, under the authorship of the Atlantic Geoscience Society and jointly published by AGS and Nimbus, represents a collaborative effort involving over 50 geologists and artists. It tells the story of rocks, fossils, plate tectonics, and changing climates in the Maritimes for a general audience. Hundreds of images – watercolours, pencil sketches, photographs,