

St. John's is an ideal site for a Geoscape poster, with a city landscape much influenced by geology, a long history of geological hazards (flooding, avalanches, landslides), and a strong local geological community. Some themes have been tentatively identified (bedrock geology, plate tectonics, glaciation, urban rivers and flooding, geochemical landscape, St. John's harbour, landslides and avalanches, and building stone). It is anticipated that this meeting will provide a focus for discussion, consolidate possible themes, and lead to development of a draft poster in the course of 2005, with a projected production date in 2006.

**Geoscape St. John's –
a new initiative**

DAVID LIVERMAN¹ AND ROBERT TURNER²

*1. Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador,
Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 8700, St. John's NL
A1B 4J6 ¶ 2. Geological Survey of Canada, 101-605
Robson St., Vancouver, BC Canada V6B 5J3.*

The Geoscape concept was created by John Clague and Bob Turner of the Geological Survey of Canada, and was launched in 1995 with Geoscape Vancouver. The Geoscape project aims to better inform Canadians about important geoscience issues in their communities and to improve “geoliteracy” through a series of products. Canadian communities can be more sustainable if they understand their local geological landscape – their water resources, natural hazards, earth resources, and environmental services. Benefits include: protection of groundwater and surface water supplies; mitigation of natural hazards such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, radon; development of earth resources such as aggregate and minerals; and protection of natural services provided by soils, streams, and wetlands.

The heart of the project has been a series of posters that are widely distributed within the communities that are supplemented by other material – web sites, transparencies, slide sets, thematic posters. They have been backed up by workshops and field trips for teachers. Eleven Geoscape posters have been completed (Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, Fort Fraser, Whitehorse, Edmonton, Calgary, southern Saskatchewan, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec City), and five more are in preparation (Halifax, Grand River, northern Saskatchewan, Northwest Territories and Nunavut). A Geoscape geological map of Canada has also been prepared.

Each poster is prepared based on contributions from the local geological community, but an examination of the posters prepared to date shows some common themes. The basic layout consists of an arresting central image, surrounded by 10 – 12 panels, each illustrating a single theme. The panels rely mainly on graphics to illustrate the theme, accompanied by 200–400 words of explanation. All posters to date cover themes encompassing bedrock geology, glaciation, groundwater, and mineral resources, and most cover hazards (earthquakes, landslides, volcanism, flooding). These common themes are supplemented by those of more local relevance – agriculture, radon, water resources, building stone.