
**How a committee earns its keep: current activities of the
Atlantic Geoscience Society Education Committee**

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Translating ‘geo-jargon’ into words that can be understood by teachers, students and the general public is a daunting task. But I guess some people are up for the challenge – and, thank goodness, some of these people are members of the

Education Committee of the Atlantic Geoscience Society (AGS). This Committee began its task in the late 1980s and grew to take on a number of what seemed to be formidable projects. The Nova Scotia EdGEO Workshop Program started in 1994 with last year marking the presentation of the twelfth in the continuing saga. EarthNet (earthnet-geonet.ca) was also one of the Committee's early projects. Development continues as it strives to become a true national resource for teachers. The popular geology book *The Last Billion Years*, published in 2001, is probably the group's most notable accomplishment. Please note that other excellent education products have been developed by sister committees of AGS; they are the geological highway maps of the Maritime Provinces and the "The Geology of Atlantic Canada" video series (plus teaching guides).

Today, the AGS Education Committee is thriving. Members include geologists and educators. Representatives from local museums, science centres and like-minded education groups also sit on the Committee. All this generates a natural setting for good discussion and collaboration. Recent activities include production of the "Nova Scotia Rocks", a pamphlet for those at the first-level entry to Nova Scotia geology; a partnership role in the NSERC-funded UNB-SFX CRYSTAL (Centres for Research in Youth, Science Teaching and Learning) project that will study the effectiveness of education outreach; a series of original watercolour paintings destined to tell us the geological history of the Fundy Basin; a new EdGEO workshop program in New Brunswick; and the 5th season of evening public talks at the NS Museum of Natural History. New activities under development are a booklet on the Fundy Basin story, resources for use at EdGEO workshops, and a book series for young readers. And ideas are always cooking on the back burner. If you are at all interested in how the AGS Education Committee earns its keep, you will want to attend the AGS Colloquium session *Education Outreach: A Required Element of the Geoscience Community*.