
Al Grant, an East Coast icon

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Few earth scientists can claim to have left a legacy comparable to that of Alan Grant, whose contributions are being recognized by the dedication of a Special Session at the 2013 Colloquium of the Atlantic Geoscience Society. A foretelling of Al's future success was his education at Pictou Academy, the same institute that produced another famous Nova Scotian geologist, John William Dawson. After graduation from Acadia, Al went to work as a geophysicist in Calgary. He returned to Nova Scotia to further his education and later accepted employment at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. At BIO, Al focussed on geophysical studies of offshore northeastern Newfoundland, the Labrador Margin, Baffin Bay and Hudson Bay, research that often involved cruises lasting several weeks. Al became a good sailor and a top-notch interpreter of single- and multi-channel seismic data. This inevitably led to the publishing of numerous outstanding reports and ground-breaking maps, showing the offshore bedrock geology, depth to basement, and tectonics. One major milestone is the map *Tectonic Assemblages: Atlantic Canada Region*, which he co-authored with Harold (Hank) Williams.

During his career with the Geological Survey of Canada at Bedford Institute, Al Grant published over 200 scientific papers in addition to his maps. His accomplishments have been recognized multiple times by his peers: he was the recipient of the M.J. Keen Medal for the Marine Geosciences Division of the GAC in 1997, the AGS's Gesner Medal in 2004, the CSPG's Douglas Medal in 2005 and, with Bruce Sanford, the AAPG's I.A. Levorsen Memorial Award for best paper in 1990. Al also received the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*, from Dalhousie University. By any standards, that's a great legacy for someone who started his education in a one-room school in Pictou County.