

## Embracing citizen science for promoting geoscience education in Nova Scotia, Canada

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Citizen science involves providing members of the public with an opportunity to collaborate and contribute to scientific research projects. There are many forms of citizen science; some involve private collectors and academic researchers, while others involve the design of special research projects to engage members of the public.

Eldon George was recognized for his contributions to developing tourism and rural economy of the Town of Parrsboro and Cumberland County, receiving the Order of Nova Scotia in 2013. The same year Eldon received the Laing Ferguson Distinguished Service Award from the Atlantic Geoscience Society. The Fundy Geological Museum (Cumberland Geological Society) is now establishing an exhibit to recognize Eldon's contributions to highlight his work as a citizen scientists and private collector.

Mr. George devoted a lifetime established expertise in fossil and mineral collecting, finding his first fossil at the age of eight and opening the Parrsboro Rock and Mineral Shop in 1948. His collaborations with researchers such as Donald Baird (Princeton) and Paul Olsen (Lamont Doherty) have been particularly important for the region, providing important specimens of Carboniferous fish skulls as well as Carboniferous and Mesozoic footprints. In 1957 National Geographic magazine published an article on the "Great Tides of the Fundy" that included photos and text describing Eldon's rock collecting interests.

Throughout his career Eldon worked at the Nova Scotia Museum (as Assistant to Peter Von Bitter), and as a field geologist surveying sites across New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. However, the focal point of his life's work was directed to the Parrsboro Rock and Mineral Shop and Museum. By sharing his enthusiasm and knowledge with all tourists and professional geologists that visited his shop, Eldon inspired a generation of professional and amateur geologists.

While building an exhibit to pay tribute to the legacy of Eldon George, the Fundy Geological Museum also seeks to continue to offer public with opportunities to engage the public with citizen science projects. New projects at the Museum will provide opportunities to volunteer in the Fossil Research Lab, or assist as a volunteer in palaeontology field work. The goal of these new citizen science projects are to encourage an interest in geoscience and promote science literacy among the general public.