

Peddling the rock cycle: vignettes to explain the most fundamental Earth system

ROBERT FEN SOME¹, JENNIFER BATES¹, MARTHA GRANTHAM², NANCY MUZZATTI³, PHILIP SPENCER¹, AND GRAHAM WILLIAMS¹

1. Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic), Natural Resources Canada, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 4A2, Canada <rob.fensome@canada.ca>

2. Natural Resources Education Centre, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 100, Middle Musquodoboit, Nova Scotia B0N 1X0, Canada

3. Storytellers Circle of Halifax, 44 Ellenvale Avenue, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2W 2W5, Canada

Collaboration between the Atlantic Geoscience Society (AGS) and the Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia (PGNS) has been underway for over 15 years and includes a competition within PGNS, sponsored by AGS. Under the rules of the competition, images entered may be copied and kept by AGS and used in its outreach activities. Images in the collection now number several hundred and, in thinking of a way to use this resource in a retrospective presentation of the collaboration, the lead author had the idea of using the images to tell the story of the rock cycle. The resulting presentation included a mixture of images from the Guild and others, the latter to fill gaps; it also (with help from Guild members) involved narration and music. With the AGS Video Committee planning a series of vignettes rather than "feature-length" videos, it was suggested that the rock cycle might be a good theme: the Committee agreed and an ad hoc committee (the current authorship) was struck to develop the idea. We are currently considering two possibilities, one based on PGNS images, with a global perspective; and one with a more regional aspect - "A Nova Scotia Rock Cycle" based mainly on the lead author's collection of thousands of images. These vignettes would include simple graphics as well as photographs, and an entertaining but informative narration will be developed. Several factors need to be considered: for example, the target audience, and at what part of the cycle to start the presentation. The first rocks on Earth were igneous, so a focus on such rocks would make a logical beginning. But would it be more intuitive for a general audience to start with sediment? There will be a need to balance close-ups and landscapes, to vary colour and locations (though hard not to overload on the geologically gorgeous Parrsboro shore for the Nova Scotia version), and to avoid overly technical images and subjects. If these rock-cycle vignettes prove to be successful, similar vignettes could be planned for other jurisdictions (for example, New Brunswick) and other topics, such as plate tectonics and the Maritime's journey from the South Pole to mid-northern latitudes.