



### **AGS DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST AWARD. GESNER MEDAL – 1993**

#### **Les Fyffe**

Les is a native of Cornhill, NB, and received his BSc and MSc from the University of New Brunswick. Since joining the New Brunswick government in the early '70's, Les has carried out geological mapping in almost all areas of the province, establishing an enviable reputation as a keen observer, and for his photographic memory of outcrops. Les is generally regarded as the "the authority" if the age or affiliation of a rock sample is in question and help is needed in identification of the source formation. As many can testify, his presence on a New Brunswick field trip is a learning experience for those participating.

In a larger context, his comprehensive knowledge of New Brunswick geology has translated into many important contributions to our understanding of the Appalachian orogen. Indeed, he is recognized as one of the area's foremost authorities on the tectonostratigraphy of the northern Appalachians. A measure of his versatility and scope of knowledge can be gleaned from a perusal of his lengthy bibliography, which includes papers dealing with terrane analysis, various aspects of the plutonic, volcanic, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks of NB, and massive sulphides of the Bathurst Mining Camp. Les's major contributions deal with the stratigraphy and tectonics of the Miramichi and St. Croix terranes; in particular, his mapping and stratigraphic correlation within the northern, central and southwestern parts of the Miramichi Terrane has led to the first workable stratigraphic framework for the complexly deformed Bathurst Camp.

Les was awarded the W. J. Wright award by the New Brunswick Branch of Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum in recognition of his role in the advancement of our knowledge of New Brunswick geology. His expertise in northern Appalachian geology was also acknowledged by the geological fraternity in the state of Maine, where he was invited as keynote speaker at a 1992 conference. Other contributions range from a leading role in publication of the Geological highways Map of New Brunswick, to major input on the Lexicon of Atlantic Stratigraphy.