



**AGS Distinguished Scientist Award. Gesner Medal 2004  
Dr. Alan Grant**

Alan Grant is one of the finest compilers of geology and geophysics that we have in our region of Atlantic Canada. His reputation for top-notch work is legion, and for the past 37 years there has not been a Canadian east coast compilation that has not included Alan Grant's work – be it the *Decade of North American Geology* volumes, reviews of the continental margin off Labrador, in Baffin Bay, off eastern Newfoundland, geophysical results for potential petroleum provinces of Eastern Canada, isopach maps of east coast sediment thicknesses, basement contours off Eastern Canada, Palaeozoic seafloor geology of Hudson Bay, seafloor geology of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, maps of seismic basement, Newfoundland to Nares Strait, or basement character and sediment thickness over the same area, etc., etc.

Alan Grant came out of six years of work with Mobil Oil Canada Ltd. as a seismic field person and an interpreter, and was comfortable working with deep seismic data long before these sorts of data were generally available to the Geological Survey of Canada or university scientists. He speaks the language of the oil company explorationist, and he has not ever forgotten it despite going back to school to earn a BSc, then an MSc and finally a Dalhousie PhD in 1971 (on the continental margin off Labrador and Eastern Newfoundland).

Al is used to working with early poor quality offshore seismic data. His recent Gulf of St. Lawrence work is a credit to his perseverance with such data! As a result, there is a steady stream of oil companies' personnel into his office at the Geological Survey of Canada/Atlantic., and Alan takes time to talk to them.

His areas of contribution cover not only all parts of Canada's offshore, from the Arctic Islands south along all parts of the eastern Canada continental shelf and slope, including those of west Greenland, the Labrador margin, Orphan Knoll and Flemish Cap, Hudson Bay, Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the Scotian Shelf through to Georges Bank, but also parts of southern and northern Ontario, and the subsurface geology of Alberta and southern Saskatchewan..

His curriculum vita and bibliography show us a very wide publication range, reaching beyond 200 items to date (and still growing!), from company private reports for Mobil Oil Canada Ltd.,

Geological Survey of Canada Papers, Memoirs, Maps and Open File Reports, to a wide variety of international, national, and regional peer-reviewed journals, including *Science* and *Nature*.

He has also published in journals reaching a very wide, more popular, audience, such as *Geotimes*, *Geos* and *Episodes*. Alan Grant's extensive bibliography includes regular presentations to the Atlantic Geoscience Society's annual colloquium. He is also a regular participant at the Geological Association of Canada's annual meetings, and at various national, and occasionally international, meetings.

Dr. Grant also served two periods of eight and two years as Associate Editor of the Bulletin of the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists.

Alan received the M.J. Keen Medal from the Geological Association of Canada in 1997. We can be quite proud to have a person like Alan Grant in our camp, and tonight we are delighted to honour his 47 years in geology and geophysics, with the award of the Gesner Medal, the Atlantic Geoscience Society's Distinguished Scientist Award.