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**NEW AGE DETERMINATIONS IN THE
ATLANTIC PROVINCES**

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FOREWORD

Over the past six years, there has been an explosion in the acquisition of age data in Atlantic Canada, from both paleontological and isotopic investigations. To a large extent, these data have been made possible, whether directly or indirectly in the form of related studies, by the federal-provincial mineral development agreements in place in the last decade in New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia. In some cases the dating has been provided directly at the laboratories of the Geological Survey of Canada; in other cases it has arisen from parallel studies stimulated by on-going detailed investigations. In virtually all cases, the recently acquired wealth of geological field work has been a basic prerequisite - without it the detailed investigations of age relations would have no perspective. In turn the procurement of new age data is fundamental in constraining models for the geological and tectonic development of the Atlantic Provinces.

The gap between the acquisition of age data and their establishment in the written record can be protracted. Because of this, the Atlantic Geoscience Society convened its 1990 symposium to present these data to the wider audience, and to enable the publication, at least in abstract form (*Atlantic Geology*, Vol. 26, pp. 165-190), of many new data. The present issue is an outgrowth of this symposium and presents further details about the geological significance of newly acquired age data in six areas of the Atlantic Provinces.

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The papers published here illustrate well the broad spectrum, from economic geology through stratigraphy to regional tectonic interpretations, of applications of new age determinations.

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