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MAGDALEN BASIN PROJECT

Edited by

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FOREWORD

This volume of *Atlantic Geology* is the first of a two-part Special Issue containing a series of contributions from participants in the Magdalen Basin Project, a component of the National Geoscience Mapping Program (NATMAP) of the Geological Survey of Canada. The Special Issue has been split between two consecutive issues of *Atlantic Geology* in order to facilitate publication.

Initiated in the spring of 1993, the Magdalen Basin Project represents a cooperative and collaborative effort to address the origin and evolution of the western Maritimes Basin. Approximately thirty participants representing regional as well as national geoscience arms of government, universities and the private sector are involved in multidisciplinary studies of the basin. Within the Magdalen Basin Project, thematic emphasis is placed on the basin's lithostratigraphic fill, its structural and tectonic history, the role of igneous rocks in basin evolution, regional climatology, and the framework for mineralization in the Carboniferous of eastern Canada.

With one exception, all papers were presented at the Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Geoscience Society held at Antigonish, Nova Scotia on February 3rd and 4th, 1995, as contributions to a Special Session on the origin and evolution of the Magdalen Basin. Those presentations highlighted progress achieved by the Magdalen Basin Project since its inception in 1993. At the time of the Special Session, the project had completed two years of field investigations and had yet to undertake regional synthesis of results. This is evident in the wide range of topics and disciplines reflected in these papers. Nevertheless, as examples of the latest ideas regarding the stratigraphy and structural history of the western Maritimes Basin, and the character of mineral deposits hosted by the basin fill, the papers presented in this volume are both exciting and timely.

Thanks are due to the editors of *Atlantic Geology* for their encouragement in publishing this Special Issue. The efforts of G.L. Williams in overseeing the editing process are particularly appreciated. With Dr. Williams, we thank all of the reviewers who patiently and thoroughly assisted in maintaining high quality for the papers. We also thank D.M. Feener, Production Manager, for her continuing help at the production stage.

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