

## PROVINCIAL GEOLOGISTS MEDALIST 1999

### A. Bruce Ryan



*Bruce Ryan (left) receiving the Provincial Geologists Medal from the Honourable Donald MacKinnon, Co-chair of the Mines Ministers Conference and Minister of Development for P.E.I.*

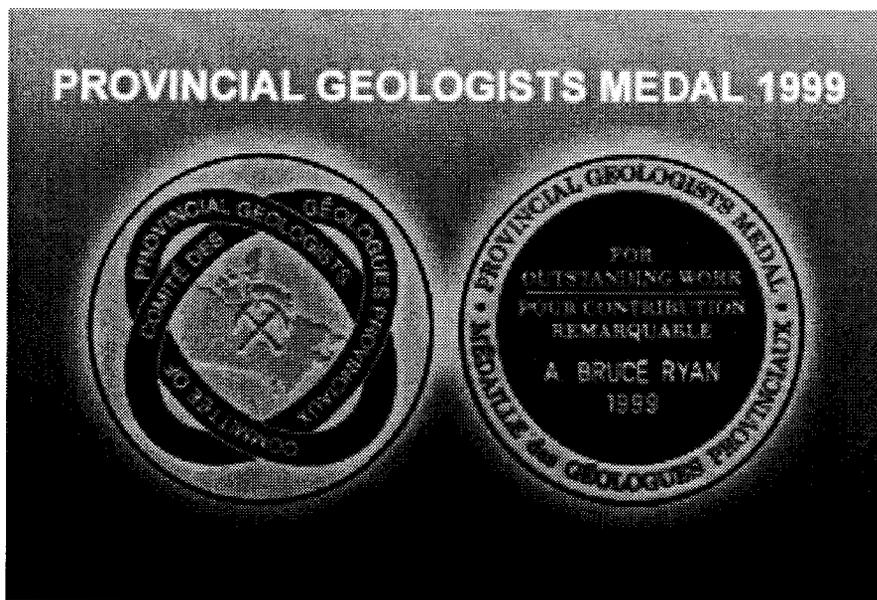
The Provincial Geologists Medal is awarded to recognize major contributions in the area of geoscientific research and related developments or applications that serve to meet the mandate of Canada's provincial and territorial Geological Surveys. Each Survey may nominate a candidate each year, and an external national selection committee chooses the recipient from the pool of nominees. For 1999, the winner of the inaugural Provincial Geologists Medal was A. Bruce Ryan. The citation below was read by Dr. Andy Fyon (OGS), Chairman of the Committee of Provincial Geologists, during the medal presentation at the Energy and Mines Ministers Conference in Charlottetown, P.E.I., September 13, 1999.

#### CITATION

Bruce Ryan, a senior geoscientist with the Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador, Newfoundland Department of Mines and Energy, has made profound contributions to our understanding of the geologi-

cal evolution of Labrador. Most notably, this has been through his diligent work in four geological terranes: the Makkovik geological province of central Labrador; the ancient 2.5 billion-year old rocks of northern Labrador; the boundary zone between the Nain and Churchill geological provinces; and the granite-like rocks of the so-called Nain Plutonic Suite.

Bruce was also instrumental in the recognition of the ancient Torngat mountain-building episode of northern Labrador, and the fundamentally important manner in which it brought together the Nain and Churchill geological provinces to form part of the Canadian Shield. His meticulous mapping in the Nain Plutonic Suite defined its full internal complexity, including the breakthrough recognition that it contains both 2-billion-year-old and 1.3-billion-year-old rocks. This work also resulted in the discovery and definition of a hitherto unrecognized rock unit, which would later be found to host the world-class Voisey's Bay deposit. In fact, Bruce's landmark 1990 geological map of the Nain region, together with a remarkably prescient model for the origin of the Voisey's Bay nickel-copper-cobalt deposit, formed the foundation for the exploration rush that followed the discovery.



*Obverse and reverse images of the 1999 Provincial Geologists Medal.*

Bruce Ryan has well elucidated his science through a large number of Geological Survey and international journal publications, as well as through numerous technical lectures. In 1996 he was presented with the Geological Association of Canada's Boldy Award for his paper on the Voisey's Bay deposit. That same year he was selected again by the Geological Association of Canada as its Robinson Distinguished Lecturer for 1996-1997, and he undertook a very successful 24-stop national lecture tour. Bruce has also promoted the public awareness of geoscience at all levels, including public lectures, newspaper articles and television and radio interviews.

In closing, listen to Professor Tony Naldrett of the University of Toronto in a letter supporting Mr. Ryan's nomination: "*These qualities, coupled with his inquisitive, logical mind, his unselfish enthusiasm for geology and his courage in adversity make him, in my view, one of the most exceptional Canadian geologists active today*"; And Mr. Colin McKenzie, Vice President of Voisey's Bay Nickel Co.: "*Bruce's mapping and studies have laid the geological framework for understanding the setting and controls of mineralization at Voisey's Bay*"; Finally, Professor Tony Morse of the University of Massachusetts: "*Scholar, artist, servant of society, Bruce Ryan is the quintessential Provincial Geologist*".

Ladies and gentlemen, for these accomplishments and personal attributes, Bruce Ryan richly deserves the inaugural Provincial Geologists Medal.