

Date: Wed., March 4th, 12:30, HSH 336.

Title: Letters to Dawson – History of Nova Scotia Geoscience (1840-1860)

Abstract

Dr E. F. Harding (1799-1860) was a physician in Windsor, Nova Scotia, who played an important role as a citizen scientist working with J. W. Dawson, and hosting Charles Lyell during his visit in 1842. New fossil discoveries in Parrsboro bring attention to the history of Carboniferous footprints *Hylopus hardingi*, and the role of historic museum collections for palaeontology research. Three letters from Harding to Dawson provide insights into the culture of geology that was developing in Windsor during the age of sail, and the relationships between citizens and science at the “dawn of a new epoch” of Nova Scotia geology.

Biographical information: Tim Fedak, PhD

As Curator of Geology, Dr. Fedak is responsible for the Nova Scotia Museum’s vast collection of fossils and minerals. Established in 1868, the Nova Scotia Museum collections include material and records of over 200 years of geology research, as well as recent discoveries like *Dendromaia* (Tree mother), Mastodons, and the history of gold in Nova Scotia. Dr. Fedak is also Adjunct Professor with Dalhousie Earth Science, a member of the Atlantic Geoscience Society, and a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society.

Fed