



APGNS Gazette

A Newsletter of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia

President's Report



It is mid March already. I have been President of the Association for three months now and it only feels like we have just started. First I want to congratulate elected Council Paul LaFleche Vice President and Councilors Gordon Check, Charles Schafer, Brent Cox, Scott Llewellyn, and Robert Stewart; and appointed members Registrar Patrick Ryall, Treasurer Marcos Zentilli, Secretary Jordon Mooers and Councilor Richard Gagne.

In December at the Annual Meeting I indicated I had several goals that I would like to meet during 2005. First I want to make APGNS an organization that geoscientists want to belong to, rather than need to belong to. Only time will tell the progress we make on this goal. Second I would like to increase membership by 20 geoscientists. Since the Annual Meeting, the Admissions Board has reviewed four applications, recommending membership for two individuals. This is 10% of the goal.

The Association of
Professional Geoscientists
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GAC-MAC-CSPG-CSSS
HALIFAX 2005
Building Bridges—across science, through time, around the world
JOINT MEETING Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
May 15-18, 2005
www.HALIFAX2005.CA
Call for Registration

The organizing committee, on behalf of the Atlantic Geoscience Society, welcomes you to Halifax. We have assembled a wide-ranging, multi-disciplinary science program, consistent with our "building bridges" theme, that reflects the broad range of science represented by our four host societies. We are also offering a wide selection of short courses, field trips, community outreach, and special events for delegates and guests (including a celebration of MAC's 50th Anniversary), that will add interest and excitement to your visit to Halifax. Please join us at Dalhousie University from May 15 to 18. We look forward to providing you with the opportunity to discover the charms of our beautiful city and renew the ties that bind our geoscience community.

REGISTRATION

On-line registration is the preferred method. A downloadable, fax-in registration form will also be available at the conference website (www.Halifax2005.ca).

Electronic registration will be available on the website beginning Monday, February 14, 2005. Early registration at reduced costs is available until May 6, 2005. All preconference registration ends at midnight May 6, 2005. Registration after that date will be onsite at the conference.

Full registration instructions can be found under "Registration" on the website.

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Third I indicated I wanted to talk with all of you about your needs and desires for the organization. To date, I have had conversations with about 30% of you.

Awareness is a key factor in making our organization grow. Our advertisement in the Resources Supplement of the Chronical Herald on Sunday January 30th, has generated many responses. However one of the consistent messages has been "Gee, I wasn't aware of your organization." Our Council firmly believes that the path to the successful growth of our organization will be through awareness building.

In the near future, we expect to join in the support of the Joint Meeting of the Geological Association of Canada (GAC), the Mineralogical Association of Canada (MAC), Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists (CSPG) and the Canadian Society of Soil Scientists (CSSS). This meeting will be held in Halifax from May 15 to 18, 2005. This will be an opportunity to meet more of our geoscience colleagues and promote our organization. I urge each and everyone of you to attend the appropriate sessions of this event.

Council has been approached to provide comments on the Draft Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour *Contaminated Site Remediation Standards*. Notice of this request was transmitted to the membership. A response was crafted from your input and submitted to the Department. This type of recognition is beneficial for our organization.

Council has discussed the concept of student membership. Students will be our future lifeline. If we can engage them early in their careers and provide services of interest to them, our future will be assured. Another group that should also be addressed are the "emeritus". That is older retired geoscientists who wish to remain informed, but not practice. These and other issues may require changes to our by-laws.

We have been a formal organization since 1997 and a legislated body since March 2003. During this period, we have, on occasion, experienced some operational difficulties as a result of our by-laws. Our Council will review the by-laws and, if necessary, recommend changes for operational ease. These changes will be presented at our next Annual Meeting or, with proper notice, a Special Meeting if changes are needed for operational efficiency.

Many of us belong to sister organizations such as the International Association of Hydrogeologists or the Mining Society. I would like to establish as many partnerships with these organizations as possible. We will provide information on our website for any up coming events of a geologic nature. I urge you to participate and support these events and spread the word about the Association of Geoscientists of Nova Scotia.

In closing I also urge you to consider committee work within our Association. Contact me with your comments, ideas and concerns.

Sincerely
Andy
Andrew D. Cameron P Geo.



Announcements:

Members interested in getting involved in APGNS. Please contact Cliff Stanley P.Geo., Peter Webster P.Geo. or Scott Conrod P.Geo. (cliff.stanley@acadiau.ca; peter@mercatorgeo.com; and

Please note that there is a call for members to act as mentors for Members in Training. Please contact Cliff Stanley, P.Geo. at 585-1344 or Andrew Cameron P.Geo. at 424-0406 to volunteer.

Future of Geoscience

by Cliff Stanley P.Geo.

Many of you may not realize that over the next 10 years, 76% of all Canadian geologists will retire (or at least reach retirement age; Simpson 2004; Foden 2003). This reality is probably not too unexpected by many of you, as a quick count of the numbers of grey hairs on your colleagues down the hall will probably verify this observation. An obvious consequence of this fact, though, is that there will clearly be a dearth of geologists in the near future, and the various geology-related industries will be actively looking for, recruiting, and employing young geology graduates to fill the vacant positions (or at least they should be).

At the same time, some universities in Canada, as well as the United States, Australia and Europe, have, over the past decade or so, dissolved their geology programs, or merged them with other departments (Lubick 2004a, 2004b, 2004c; Foden 2003). This change has been largely due to declining enrolments because of a relative lack of demand for geologists by industry during a period of consistently low commodity prices, and a widespread failure to recognize the importance of geoscience to society. Furthermore, high schools have excised earth science courses from their curriculum, preventing exposure to geology by students at a fundamental level, and this change has also served to limit geology enrolments in universities (Roy 2002; Ridkey 2002; Pinkster 2002b; Foden 2003), a factor that has motivated some of the department closures. Even federal and provincial/state government funding of geoscience research and geological surveys has been substantially reduced, leading to fewer geoscientists serving the general public, lower demand for geologists (Geotimes 2001; Pinkster 2002b; Sever 2004), and fewer students enrolled in geology programs. As a result, just when a surge in geologist retirements is about to take place, a critically low capacity exists among geology departments in universities to provide new geologists who will take the place of these retirees.

Foden, J. (2003): A Survey of the Changing Enrollment and Staffing Levels in the Geosciences at Australian Universities Since 1990. *The Australian Geologist*, 27:21-24.

Geotimes (2001): Fieldnotes: Budget Cuts for Geoscience Programs. URL Website:<http://www.geotimes.org/may01/fieldnotes.html>.

Lubick, N. (2004a): Education: University Losses at Home and Abroad. Website URL:http://www.geotimes.org/mar04/NN_UConnBasel.html.

Lubick, N. (2004b): Education: Geology Cut in Missouri. Website URL:http://www.geotimes.org/may04/NN_missouri.html.

Lubick, N. (2004c): Education: Capitol Loss. Website URL: http://www.geotimes.org/july04/NN_GWclosing.html.

Pinkster, L.M. (2002a): Science Policy: USGS Water Research Threatened Website URL: http://www.geotimes.org/april02/NN_usgs.html.

Ridkey, R. (2002): Why We Need a Corps of Earth Science Educators. Website URL: http://www.geotimes.org/sept02/feature_educators.html.

Roy, E.C. (2002): Earth Science in Texas: A Progress Report. Website URL: http://www.geotimes.org/sept02/feature_texas.html.

Simpson, Robert (2004) Endangered Species. *Geotimes*, Summer, pp. 16, 18.

Tribute to Jim Vaughan, P.Geo. Number 0079

We inform you with regret that Jim Vaughan, a member of APGNS, passed away on December 16th, 2004 at Colchester Regional Hospital in Truro, after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 54, and would have been 55 on December 25th, 2004. Jim is survived by wife Laura (Campeau) Vaughan (Truro); twin teenage children Matthew and Megan and their mother, Charlotte Hatfield (Halifax); parents Bernie and Rita (McNab) Vaughan (Truro); sisters Elizabeth Vaughan (Truro), Ann Marie Gaetz (Edmonton), and Margie Thompson (Medicine Hat); and two nieces.

Jim was well known in the hydrogeological community. He started his hydrogeological career in government at NS Department of Mines (which later became Department of the Environment, and currently Environment and Labour) under John Jones and Dr. Chang Lin. Since then, he held various positions, many of them managerial, in hydrogeology and environmental services. He worked with many companies in Nova Scotia and elsewhere such as H.J. Porter and Associates, M.M. Dillon Ltd. (Toronto), Groundwater Technology Inc., CBCL Limited, Porter Dillon, J.G. Vaughan Remediation Ltd., NS Department of Supply and Services and Department of Transportation and Public Works, and most recently AMEC. He worked for a number of years with various companies in Ontario and British Columbia. Jim enjoyed the work and challenge of hydrogeology, and continued to take on projects until his illness prevented it.

Jim loved his family and was especially proud of the accomplishments of his children. He enjoyed the outdoors and spent as much time as possible at his Farm on Economy Point. Many think of age 55 as 'Freedom 55', an age to retire and enjoy life. Instead, Jim's freedom was relief from the pain and suffering of cancer. We share the family's sorrow in his loss. He will be greatly missed by those who knew him.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Cross P.Geo. and Howard Donohoe P.Geo., colleagues and friends of Jim for 30 years.



“Canadian professional associations are coming to grips with the fact that the standards of conduct which govern our professional lives need to be plainly set out, universally understood and frequently reinforced.”

CCPG Geoscience Book Review

Canadian Professional Engineering and Geoscience: Practice and Ethics by Gordon C. Andrews. Scarborough: Thomson Nelson, 2005. 398 pages plus interactive CD-ROM, \$72.95 paperback.

What did the Challenger space shuttle explosion and the Bre-X stock market fraud have in common? There were both shocking demonstrations of the importance of engineering and geoscience professional ethics.

The days of ethics as an intuitive indefinable sense of right and wrong are passing into history. Canadian professional associations are coming to grips with the fact that the standards of conduct which govern our professional lives need to be plainly set out, universally understood and frequently reinforced. Professional ethics are now taught in law and ethics seminars across the nation. Some experienced practitioners who thought the professional practice exam would be a piece of cake have been rudely surprised.

Before you start dusting off your copy of the Code of Ethics and scratching your head take a few moments to consider what might be gained by reading this book.

The author is a professor emeritus of mechanical engineering at the University of Waterloo. Having co-edited two editions of a previous work on engineering practice and ethics he knows his stuff. This book is the first to address both engineering and geoscience in one volume. It will serve primarily as a textbook in the law and ethics seminars, but it may also earn a place in the libraries of practicing members. It is

well written and well organized. The author intends "to acquaint engineers and geoscientists with the structure, practice and ethics of their profession, and to encourage them to apply ethical concepts in their professional lives".

The Challenger and Bre-X tragedies are among the practical examples cited as study guides in each chapter. All the examples are interesting, but one is particularly memorable the case of the famous structural engineer, William LeMessurier. After having served as a consultant in designing the 59 storey Citicorp Tower, built in New York City, LeMessurier discovered that his strength calculations were inadequate. The new building was at risk of being demolished if strong winds blew against two walls from a quartering direction. He decided to face his error directly and revealed his concerns to the building designers and the client. The building was reinforced in record time, before the onset of the hurricane season. Even though the repairs cost millions of dollars LeMessurier was shielded from most of the financial loss and was highly praised for his prompt, ethical actions. In fact, his liability insurance premiums were later reduced! It is "a tale of professional ethics at its best" and it is, like this book, well worth reading.

Barry Collins, Q.C. (C), P. Geo.
Crocodile Resources Inc., Saskatoon,
President-elect of the Canadian Council
of Professional Geoscientists.

Note that this book is the study material for the PPE and is available from APGNS.

