



APGNS Gazette

A Newsletter of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia

President's Report



APGNS Members

Here we are in early fall with 2005 rapidly disappearing. The recent chilly temperatures turn our thoughts to the return of winter and the associated high cost of heating. Those of us on Council have the additional thoughts of the completion of another year of Council activities. We look forward to the Annual Meeting where our roles in the Association may change. This year we are planning the Annual Meeting for after the New Year. Date and location yet to be determined.

This year we have provided comment on two pieces of provincial legislation that have implications to our industry. It has been recognized in the revised Well Construction Regulations that professions are required to supervise water well testing.

Continued.. On page 2

The Association of
Professional Geoscientists
of Nova Scotia
PO Box 8541
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3K 5M3
420-9928

Logan Sail Day

On October 1, 2005, twenty five geologists, families and guests enjoyed a two hour cruise of Halifax Harbour aboard the Mar II. The weather cooperated providing rich colouring for photos and a beautiful sunset as the trip ended. During the voyage, several members and guests took the helm under the watchful eye of the captain. No one ran aground to check the local geology. The President of APEGAA, Larry Staples and his wife Moria accompanied our members. The intent of the event was to provide a family networking opportunity and celebrate Logan Day in honour of one of the earliest Canadian geologists. The result was an event to build upon.



APGNS participated in the GAC-MAC - CSSS- CSPG joint conference held at Dalhousie University in May. We plan to be involved in Mining Matters in November. I accepted an invitation to represent APGNS at the APENS Gold Medal dinner last month. David Carter attended the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists meetings, while Karen White-Smith attended a National Professional Practices Exam meeting on your behalf.

Our membership holds steady between 80 and 90. While we have added new members we have lost members through death and resignation. Our association requires approximately 20 members, as a minimum, to man our Council and associated committees. As you can see this requires close to 25% of our members to be actively involved each year. So when the Nominating Committee comes knocking volunteer.

We know there are more geoscientists working in Nova Scotia. Estimates of geoscientists working in Nova Scotia range from 150 to 200. Some of you work side by side with some of those unregistered. I hope all of you encourage anyone you know who should be registered with us to do so.

I encourage you all to keep an open mind when considering a merge with APENS. We should not join if it is not beneficial to geoscientists. But our counterparts in six provinces have seen fit to join with their engineering counterparts. APENS has a membership near 4000 strong. Less than 100 APENS members attended the Gold Medal dinner. Our 25% on Council and associated committees is a much higher participation rate. Even if only those people were to be active geoscientists would have a significant role in a new association. Already the current president of APENS is a hydrogeologist. Food for thought.

Lastly while we remain an independent organization, we need your ideas and support to progress. I am always open to hearing from any of you. Please feel free to contact me and express your opinion and ideas.

Sincerely
Andy
Andrew D. Cameron P Geo.

Announcements:

Please note that there is a call for members to act as mentors for Members in Training.

Please contact Howard Donahoe, P.Geo. at 424-7199 or Andrew Cameron P.Geo. at 424-0406 to volunteer.

APGNS Looks at Options in Light of Potential APENS Act Review

Past President, Jim Fraser, has agreed to provide Council with an analysis of the options available to APGNS should, the provincial legislation governing APENS be introduced into the legislature. At present it is our understanding this Act review will not be introduced at the Fall 2005 sitting of the legislature. Therefore any action or reaction is not likely required until the Spring of 2006 at the earliest. Never the less it does not hurt to be prepared.

Call For Nominations Canadian Professional Geoscientist Award 2006

The Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists (CCPG) is seeking nominations for its first award to honour an eminent and exemplary member of the Canadian professional geoscience community.

The CCPG award has been established to recognize outstanding contributions to the development and/or practice of professional geoscience by an individual who advances public recognition of the practice of professional geoscience in Canada.

Nominations can only be submitted by the provincial/territorial professional association and not by the individual member. Please contact our professional association (www.ccpge.ca) to get the information and eligibility conditions. The deadline to receive nomination is Friday and will be received up to February 17th 2006.

Canadian Professional Geoscientist Award



NOVA SCOTIA ENVIRONMENT AND LABOUR PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE *WELL CONSTRUCTION REGULATIONS*

FACT SHEET

Background

Nova Scotia's *Well Construction Regulations* are made under the *Environment Act*. The *Regulations* set out the requirements and standards for the construction of water supply wells in the Province.

The current *Well Construction Regulations* were written in 1995. The regulatory amendments will implement a number of recommended revisions.

The proposed amendments to the *Well Construction Regulations* are intended to update a number of sections. Key changes include adding licensing of Potable Water Haulers to the *Regulations*, reducing yield testing requirements for some types of wells and adding technical upgrading requirements for all license holders.

Additional changes being proposed include a requirement for notification, upon request, of licensed work being conducted to allowing better auditing by the Department. For greater protection of groundwater resources the proposed changes also have the requirement that ground source heat pump boreholes be constructed by licensed drillers and that in no case may non-qualified individuals construct water wells. Other minor housekeeping changes are proposed as well.

The major changes have previously been discussed with key stakeholders including industry representatives and regulators.

The changes to the *Well Construction Regulations* should provide a more level playing field for industry, enhanced water supply resource protection for the public, lower costs for non-domestic well owners, better compliance and enforcement tools for regulators and overall greater clarity in regulation interpretation for all stakeholders.

Overview

Highlights of proposed changes include:

- re-organization and renumbering of sections to flow more logically
- clearer definitions and text
- additions to regulate Potable Water Haulers including a new certification process and sections referring to requirements and guidelines
- changes to certification process for well diggers and pump installers to include realistic experience requirements, based on NSEL database statistics

- addition of technical upgrading/continuing education requirements for certificate of qualification holders
- new section summarizing Variations possible throughout regulations and procedures to make process more smooth and have consistent responses
- changes/updates to well materials, drilling additives and installation to better account for suitable well installations in Nova Scotia
- clarification on well driller/well digger/pump installer responsibilities as well as owner responsibilities
- elimination of clauses that could allow non-qualified persons to construct wells, in order to protect groundwater resources
- clarification on necessary qualifications to construct, repair, modify and decommission wells; to install, repair or modify pumps; and to supervise pumping tests
- consolidation of well completion requirements
- clarification of yield test requirements
- scaled yield test requirements now allowing lesser duration tests for low-volume non-domestic use
- new section on Notification requirements
- requirement that ground source heat pump boreholes be installed by licensed drillers for protection of groundwater resources

Written comments on the changes to the regulations were requested from APGNS members. A submission was sent to NSDEL on October 3, 2005 on behalf of the membership. A significant positive change to these regulations, from our association's perspective, is the requirement for "a professional hydrogeologist who is registered to practice in the Province." (our association) to supervise yield tests.



APENS Annual Meeting

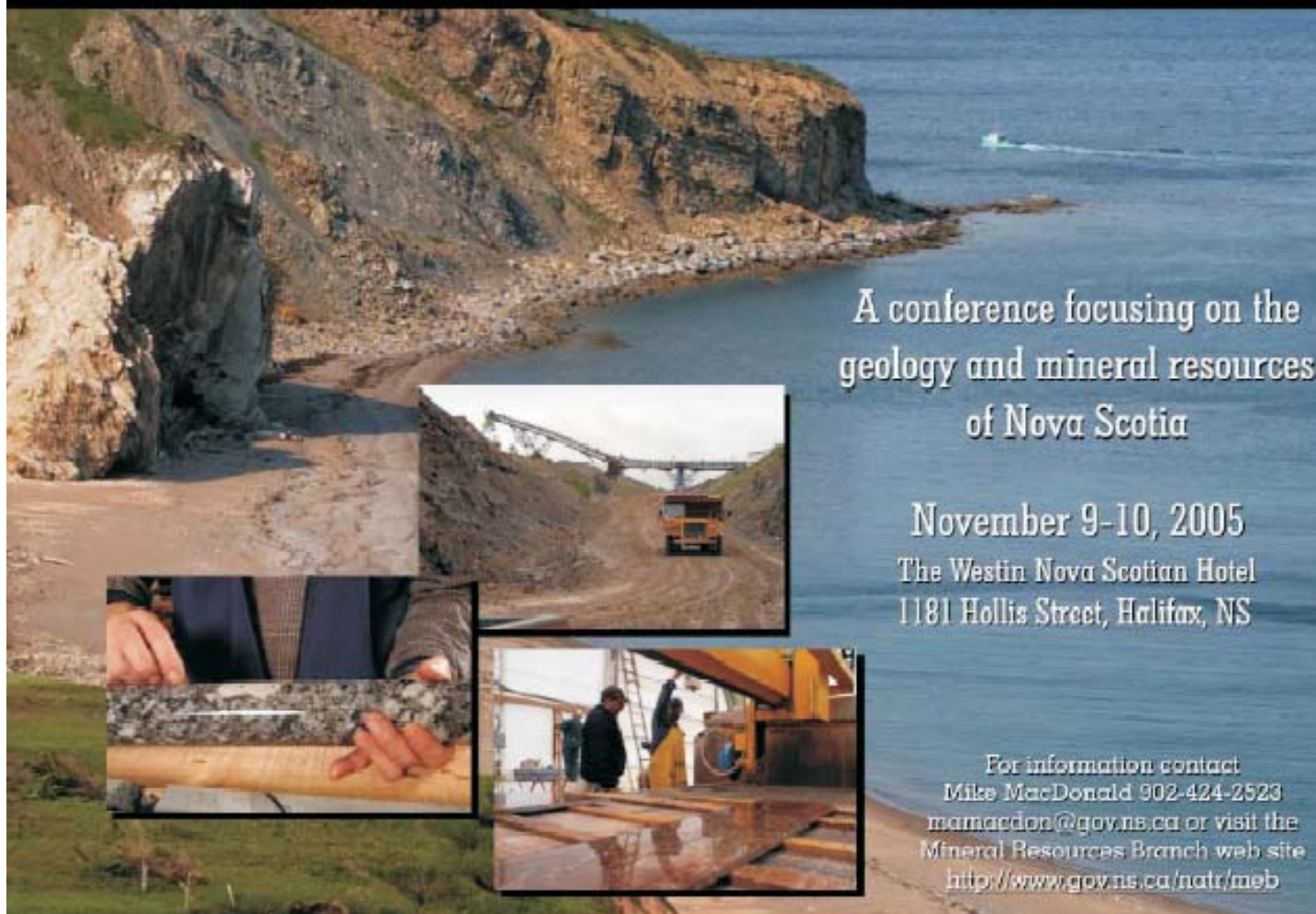
APENS held their 84th annual meeting, dinner and dance in Halifax at the Westin Hotel, September, 29 and 30, 2005. Technical Session events included : HRM Land Use Planning, Sydney Tar Ponds Cleanup -An Overview, and Immigration and Engineering in NS. The new president of APENS is well known hydrogeologist Terry Hennigar.

Your president was an invitee to the Gold Medal Dinner on September 30th. Presidents of Associations representing geologists from across Canada including British Columbia, Alberta, Newfoundland and New Brunswick also attended as well as the President of the Prince Edward Island Engineers and a Councilor from the Ontario Association of Professional Engineers. Representatives of the local associations of surveyors, architects, and consulting engineers as well representatives from the government and opposition parties.

The 180 engineers and guests attending the Gold Medal Dinner witnessed the presentation of the Sexton Gold Medal to Marc Garneau, head of the Canadian Space Agency and first Canadian in space. Marc is a member of APENS, starting his career with the Canadian navy here in Halifax in 1974. After presentation of the gold medal, Marc addressed those present with a snapshot of the Canadian Space Agency, and its role with NASA in Project 2018, the return to the moon in 2018. During his presentation he made a number of references to moon soils and geology. Future and young geologists take note - The first Canadian on the moon could be a **geologist**.

In addition to the president, APGNS members Paul LaFleche, and Jordon Mooers were also in attendance. Paul representing the Premier, while Jordon attended with his wife, a new member of the APENS Council.

Mining Matters for Nova Scotia 2005



A conference focusing on the geology and mineral resources of Nova Scotia

November 9-10, 2005
The Westin Nova Scotian Hotel
1181 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS

For information contact
Mike MacDonald 902-424-2523
mamacdon@gov.ns.ca or visit the
Mineral Resources Branch web site
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/mrb>