

GeoGazette

Winter 2012

Volume II Issue 1

Geoscientists Nova Scotia Holds Strategic Planning Sessions

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In coordination with our Association's ten year anniversary, strategic planning sessions were held on November 17th and November 19th to chart the direction of the Association over the next five years. The sessions were facilitated by Wayne Marsh from Independent Facilitation Services, and sponsorship in support of the sessions was received from CRA Ltd. We had about twelve participants at each session in addition to comments from others unable to attend. There was representation from Council as well as various Boards and Committees.



In advance of the planning sessions, a questionnaire was circulated to the membership to help inform the strategic planning discussions. The rate of response was approximately 15%, and some of the more prominent themes conveyed in the responses related to licensure awareness and compliance, advocacy, communications and professional development.



The sessions were very helpful in defining the challenges and strategic priorities of our association as we try to move forward. A draft strategic plan is currently under development as an outcome of the planning sessions and we look forward to presenting the 2012 Geoscientists Nova Scotia Strategic Plan at the Annual General Meeting that will be held on March 1, 2012.

Participants included: Gavin Kennedy, David Carter, Jeff Parks, Andy Cameron, Robert Cuthbert, Beverley Smith, Brent Cox, Paul Batson, Nora Donald, Howard Donohoe, Diane Webber, Scott McCarthy, Wayne Marsh (Facilitator)



Geology Matters 2011

by: Diane Webber, P.Geo.



On October 24 and 25, 2011, the Mineral Resources Branch of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hosted its 35th annual fall conference. Geology Matters 2011 attracted a broad audience, and showcased the mineral wealth of Nova Scotia. Under the theme *Growing the Economy* there were displays and presentations by the Mineral Resources Branch, several partner organizations, universities, prospectors, Natural Resources Canada, and companies engaged in mineral exploration, development and mining. There were numerous guest speakers, two luncheons, two workshops and the annual Minister's Reception and Awards Ceremony hosted by the Honourable Charlie Parker.

The conference featured presentations under the themes *New Initiatives, Exploration and Mining, Energy, Reclamation and Land-use Planning*. Topics discussed included the new Natural Resources Strategy, 12% protected areas, automation of the Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles, carbon capture and storage, and the Surface Coal Mining Enhancement Initiative. Numerous companies presented exploration and development highlights during the two day conference.

An overview of the Muskrat Falls Development project was delivered at the first luncheon and a representative of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada presented the Mining Matters Education Program at the second. There was a Student Workshop and a Wetlands 101 Workshop where delegates learned about Nova Scotia wetland policy and regulations.

At the Minister's reception Pat Mills, president of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia, received the Terrance Coughlan Memorial Award for his contribution to the development of industrial minerals and Joe Richman received the Prospector of the Year Award. Geology Matters 2012 will be held on October 29 and 30, at the Westin Hotel, Halifax.

Professional Development Opportunities

Applied Stormwater Management Workshop

The Ecology Action Centre, in partnership with Halifax Water, HRM Department of Environment and Energy and Insurance Bureau of Canada, will be hosting an 'Applied Stormwater Management' workshop in Halifax.

This day and a half workshop will provide information, resources and opportunities to discuss topics such as:

- * Changing weather patterns
- * Stormwater policy, regulations and initiatives in HRM
- * Innovative stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) being used in HRM and other urban areas across Canada
- * Collecting and analyzing data to guide BMP implementation

Interactive presentations will be given by local and national experts with a theoretical and practical understanding of stormwater management.

The workshop will include a half day field trip to explore appropriate BMPs and retrofit options for a range of sites in HRM. Guided by a leading Canadian stormwater expert, the field trip will identify site-specific bioretention and water harvesting solutions to reduce stormwater runoff volume and rate. This will present a unique, interactive learning opportunity for participants.

The workshop will be held February 20-21, 2012 in Halifax, NS and February 22, 2012 in Digby, NS. For details on the workshop, please see the workshop website: <http://www.ecologyaction.ca/content/applied-stormwater-management-workshops-february>

Atlantic Geoscience Society Colloquium

Delta Beauséjour Hotel, Moncton NB
February 3-5, 2012

The 38th annual AGS Colloquium and Annual General Meeting will be held at the Delta Beauséjour Hotel in Moncton, New Brunswick on February 3-5, 2012.

Theme: *"Current Research in the Atlantic Provinces (and Beyond)"*

Special Sessions:

"Fundy Oceanography and Sedimentation" (Elizabeth Kusters)

"Paleontology in Atlantic Canada" (Deborah Skilliter and Melissa Grey)

Workshop:

Dan Kontak and Jacob Hanley will be presenting a Friday afternoon short course on *"Practical Applications of Fluid Inclusions to Ore Forming Environments"*.

Abstract Deadline:

January 9, 2012

Additional Information:

Contact Reg Wilson (reg.wilson@gnb.ca; 506-547-2070); Sue Johnson (susan.johnson@gnb.ca); 506-432-2234); or see the AGS website (<http://ags.earthsciences.dal.ca/ags.php>).

Exploration and Mining 101 Workshop

PRESENTED BY



Rescheduled - Date to be announced – 09:00-12:00

NSCC Truro Campus, 36 Arthur Street, Salon C, Truro, Nova Scotia

Cost: \$99+HST at door (or invoice onsite)

RSVP to attend: www.tblresourcesolutions.ca

Overview

Multi-sector demand for minerals has stimulated exploration around the world – including Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia has a rich and varied history of mining dating back over 300 years that supported small towns and villages throughout the province. While old practices have left a poor legacy in some areas, mining today is subject to numerous regulatory requirements from the financial, environmental, and social perspectives.

Objectives

This basic workshop is designed for those who are interested in learning about exploration and mining activities, the various regulations associated with this industry and how the industry is evolving to address environmental and social concerns.

Content

- Why companies explore for minerals
- How minerals and claims are regulated
- Landowner rights
- What mineral exploration entails
- Public vs. private companies
- The stages of mine development
- Environmental regulations
- Community engagement
- Innovative reclamation planning
- Tools for tracking exploration activity in NS
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- National initiatives/expectations of exploration companies
- Provincial Expectations (DNR Strategy)
- Sustainability in Minerals Sector

Anticipated Participants

- Municipal officials, planners and development officers
- Watershed committee members/managers
- Landowners & Environmental groups
- Aboriginal, Federal, and Provincial owners, directors, and officers

Instructor: Fred Bonner, B.Sc., M.A.Sc., M.U.R.P., P.Geo.

Fred holds Masters' Degrees in Applied Science and Planning from Dalhousie University, Halifax. Fred's 25 year career includes extensive experience in the geosciences, sustainability, corporate social responsibility, public engagement and environmental management in government and private industry. He has held executive level positions in private and public companies. Fred is Vice President of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of NS and was appointed to the Minerals Panel of Experts in 2009 by the Minister of Natural Resources to help guide the development of a new Natural Resources Strategy for Nova Scotia. In 2010 he started TBL Resource Solutions Inc. to help mining/exploration companies develop environmental and corporate social responsibility programs.



2012 Meeting & 2nd Atlantic Canada WATER Symposium March 22 – 24, 2012

The purposes of this symposium and workshop are to:

- bring together some of the leading scholars and practitioners of watershed management from across Atlantic Canada;
- run a specialized workshop on the role and uses of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analysis in watershed research and management .

Nova Scotia Agricultural College in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ecology Action Centre and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

For more information go to <http://nsac.ca/water/>

The Geoscientists Nova Scotia Certificate of Authorization

by: David C. Carter P. Geo.

Since 2011, Geoscientists Nova Scotia has offered a corporate "Certificate of Authorization".

The *Geoscience Profession Act (2002)* requires that a body corporate undertaking geoscience must hold a Certificate of Authorization (C of A). The APGNS by-laws state that a partnership, association of persons or a corporate body which undertakes and carries out the application of geoscience in its own name by providing geoscience services to the public shall provide the required application information, together with the required administrative fee, and the Registrar shall issue a Certificate of Authorization.

These provisions have always been part of the Act and by-laws, however, the Association is now able to administer and offer Certificates to corporate bodies. This system is similar to corporate licensure in other jurisdictions and most organizations that are familiar with corporate licensure in these other jurisdictions have complied with the NS legislation.

Most of the questions arising from the offering of the C of A concerns individual or sole practitioners. Geoscientists Nova Scotia has a number of registered geoscientist members who are president, senior professional, chief cook, bottle washer and janitor all in one. In most cases these professionals have recognized the advantages of offering services through a corporate identity. In that case, the individual is required to be registered as a professional geoscientist (P.Ge) and the company is required to obtain a Certificate of Authorization.

For a corporate body with one professional geoscientist, there is a one-time administration fee of \$150.00. The annual renewal is \$100.00.

For a corporate body with two or more professional geoscientists, there is a one-time administration fee of \$150.00. The annual renewal is \$500.00. The Association will issue a registration certificate (suitable for framing) and the C of A



holders will be listed on the website and in the newsletter. If requested, for example by a stock exchange or another professional constituent association, unless the holder requests otherwise, we will provide confirmation that a company has a valid C of A and is therefore authorized by Geoscientists Nova Scotia to provide geoscience services.

There were a total of 26 corporate bodies issued an Geoscientists Nova Scotia Certificate of Authorization for 2011 and 31 issued for 2012. For more information, question or comments, please refer to the website (www.geoscientistsns.ca) or contact us at info@geoscientistsns.ca or registrar@geoscientistsns.ca or directly at 902-883-7415.

TECHSPLOURATION
EMPOWERING *young women*
TO EXPLORE CAREERS IN
SCIENCE, TRADES & TECHNOLOGY



As a volunteer role model with Techsploration, Nora Donald, P.Ge., Hydrogeologist with AECOM and APGNS Council member, was recently profiled in Techsploration's Women in Action Video Series. The Women in Action series provides young people with the opportunity to check out in-demand sciences, trades, technology and technology-related careers and meet some amazing role models. To watch the video and for more information on Techsploration, visit www.techsploration.ca

Earth Ring

The Earth Ring ceremony is a ritual of welcome for qualified Geoscientists into the profession by senior practicing Geoscientists. The ceremony started in Alberta in 1975 and has spread across Canada. It carries many of the same passages written by Rudyard Kipling for the Engineers' Iron Ring ceremony. The Earth Ring ceremony symbolizes the commitment and responsibility that come with wearing the title of a "professional".

The Earth Ring is not a mark of qualification. It is intended to direct the newly qualified Geoscientist toward a consciousness of the profession and its social significance. It also indicates to the more experienced Geoscientist that they have a responsibility

in supporting the qualified Geoscientists.

The simplicity and strength of the Earth Ring symbolize the calling of the Geoscientist. The ring is made of silver, marked with the crossed hammers of geology and the seismic trace of geophysics.

The Earth Ring ceremony includes a charge (speech) by a senior Geoscientist and an obligation (pledge) taken by the group of Geoscientists who are about to receive a ring. The charge reads in part ... "We tell you here that you will encounter no difficulty, doubt, danger, defeat, humiliation or triumph in your career which has not already fallen to the lot of others in your calling

by: David C. Carter P. Geo.

...". The obligation includes the words, "I will not pass ... false information or too casual interpretations in my work as a Geoscientist. My time I will not refuse; my thought I will not grudge; my care I will not deny towards the honour, use stability and perfection of any project to which I may be called to set my hand. My reputation in my calling I will guard honourably ... I will strive my uttermost against professional jealousy and the belittling of my co-workers in any field of their labour."

The 2012 Earth Ring ceremony is scheduled for Thursday April 5th.



Proposed Revisions to the APGNS By-Laws: Nominations

By: Jeff Parks, P. Geo.

Background

Until recently, the nomination and election process for Geoscientists Nova Scotia Executive and Council positions was quite informal and not in compliance with the by-laws of the Association. It generally consisted of candidates being identified by a committee or staff member and standing for election at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). In 2010, Council determined that the process should be reviewed in relation to the existing by-laws. The review concluded that an attempt should be made to follow the by-laws to determine whether the process could be made to work and also if the process was appropriate for the Association. In 2011, Council determined that the nomination and election process, by-law no. 6, was flawed and should be revised.

By-law No. 6

APGNS by-law no. 6 (as approved March 2003) uses the number of days prior to the closing of ballots as a marker for when certain events happen. A summary of the existing bylaw, including the timelines is shown below.

- (1) The Council appoints a Nominating Committee not later than 120 days before the date established by Council for the close of ballots.
- (2) (a) The Nominating Committee prepares a list of eligible members for the officers of the Association and members of the Council for the next ensuing year and delivers this to the Secretary not later than 90 days before the close of ballots.

(b) The Secretary informs the membership (not later than 120 days prior to the close of ballots) that nominations for President, Vice President and members of Council will be received by the Secretary up to 90 days before the close of ballots. Any ten members of the Association may submit nominations for candidates for any or all of the offices.

(c) *[This sub-section discusses residential eligibility of the President and Vice-President that will be reviewed outside of this discussion.]*
- (3) The Secretary, on approval from Council, prepares a ballot not later than 60 days before the close of ballots with the request to each member to indicate their choice of officers and councilors and to return the ballot not later than 30 days before the close of ballots.
- (4) All ballots received by the Secretary are given to the Scrutineers appointed by Council not later than 15 days before the AGM. The Scrutineers notify the candidates not less than one week before the meeting, and will submit to AGM the names of the members who have received the greatest number of votes. The presiding officer at the AGM shall then declare such members duly elected to their respective offices.
- (5) In the event of a tied vote, the members attending the AGM will hold vote to break the tie.

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Upcoming Events:

*Exploration and Mining
101 Workshop—
Rescheduled - Date
TBA*

*Atlantic Geoscience
Society Colloquium—
February 3 –5, 2012,*

*Applied Stormwater
Management
Workshop— February
20-21, 2012 in Halifax
and February 22, 2012
in Digby*

*APGNS AGM,
University Club,
Dalhousie University—
March 1, 2012*

*2012 Meeting & 2nd
Atlantic Canada Water
Symposium—
March 22– 24, 2012*

*2012 Earth Ring
Ceremony—
April 5, 2012*

*National Professional
Practice Exam—
April 16, 2012*

Suggested revision of by-law No. 6 (as applied in 2011)

The Nominating Committee concluded that the electoral process, which was modeled on the APENS by-law, does not serve our Association well, particularly the timeline structure. Therefore, the Committee proposed a timeline better suited to a traditional mid-March AGM to Council for approval to be used in the 2011-2012 nominating process. This timeline anticipates that the AGM will occur on or after March 2 of a given year.

- October - Council appoints a Nominating Committee.
- November 1 – The Secretary issues a “Call for Nominations” to the membership.
- December 1 - Nominations close
- December - The Nominating Committee provides their list of nominees to the Secretary. The Secretary reports on all nominations received at the regular Council meeting in December.
- If required (i.e. if there are more nominees than positions available), the Secretary shall prepare and distribute a ballot to each member-in-good-standing of the Association no later than January 1.
- January 31 - Ballots close.
- The ballots will be scrutinized by the Secretary and two Scrutineers (members of the Association) no later than February 15. The Secretary shall report the results to Council and the Nominees shall be notified of the result.

Membership Update

| | Pending Applications | MIT's | P.Geo's | Certificates of Authorization | Student memberships |
|--------|----------------------|-------|---------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Totals | 28 | 18 | 143 | 26 | 8 |

Compliance and Enforcement

Geoscientists Nova Scotia is actively pursuing members of the Association who have outstanding fees and dues. As a results of recent efforts by Council, 5 members (4 P.Geo and 1 MIT) have indicated that they will address outstanding fees. 3 other P.Geo members were identified as non-compliant and/or non-responsive with our requests to submit outstanding fees and dues. They have been contacted to advise that they are being stricken from the Register, they are being requested to return their stamp and their names will be published. The members to be stricken include:

- Clare Robinson (no current contact information);
- Victor Petryshen; and,
- Stephen Bigg.

If there are any Association members who are in contact with any of the above-listed individuals, please contact David Carter.