

GeoGazette

Spring 2011

Volume 1, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Incoming President's Remarks	1
APGNS Signs MOU with MANS	1
APGNS Award Winners	2
Review of AGM	2
Committee Updates	2-3
New Council	3
Executive Director Update	4

Incoming President's Remarks

Gavin Kennedy, P. Geo

Welcome to Volume 1, Issue 1 of the GeoGazette! I'd like to introduce myself, and thank the members for the opportunity to serve on their behalf over the next year. For those of you who don't know me, I have been practicing geoscience for over 8 years, first as a consulting hydrogeologist and then as a provincial government hydrogeology at the Department of Natural Resources since 2007. I've been involved with Geoscientists Nova Scotia as a volunteer since 2008.

Our association has undergone many changes in the past few years and I'd like to thank outgoing president Chrystal Kennedy, P. Geo for the excellent job she has done with staff and volunteers to move the association forward, increasing our professionalism and strengthening our capabilities to provide services to members. As you will hear about through committee updates in this issue, we also have experienced increased

engagement and involvement in the association by the membership and we continue to encourage members to get involved. If you are interested in joining a committee, e-mail your contact information to info@geoscientistsns.ca. Some of our active committees include:

- Communications
- Energy
- Environment
- Mining and Minerals
- Professional Development
- Recruitment
- Social

One of the areas in which I will focus my efforts this year will be improved communication between the association and members and the general public through more regular website updates and a newsletter publication. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes and it is important that members are aware of what's going

on and feel like they are involved in association business. Along those lines I hope everyone feels that they can contact me at any time if they have concerns or suggestions or want more information on our activities.

Upcoming events include the Geoscientists Canada Annual Meeting of the Members in Vancouver in June, where the executive director and I will represent our association at the national level. Also look for upcoming opportunities for professional development.

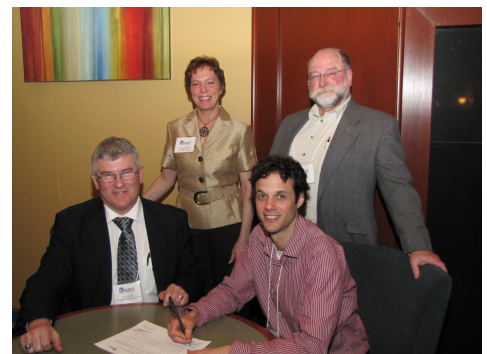
I look forward to the challenges ahead and will work with Sandra Warner and David Carter, P. Geo to advance the interests of our association and members.



Geoscientists Nova Scotia signs MOU with the Mining Association of Nova Scotia

Geoscientists Nova Scotia and the Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which will allow us to work together on providing professional development opportunities for members.

The MOU was signed at the MANS Annual General Meeting on April 13, 1011. Gavin Kennedy, P. Geo, President and David Carter, P. Geo, Executive Director attended the meeting and were on hand to sign the MOU with MANS executive director, Linda Deschenes, and MANS president Paul Smith.



APGNS Recognizes Award Winners

Geoscientists Nova Scotia awarded the Excellence in Geoscience Award and the Exemplary Service Award at the AGM in March. The awards were presented by Andy Cameron, P.Geo.

The Excellence in Geoscience Award was given to Greg Isenor, P.Geo. Mr. Isenor is a professional geologist with 40 years of continuous experience in the mineral resource industry. During his career he has been involved in exploration for metals, industrial minerals, oil and gas and coal bed methane resources and has served on the APGNS Admissions Board. The award, which consists of Two-Islands (Parrsboro) porcelain agate perched upright on a base of Wallace sandstone, was established to honor an eminent and exemplary member of Geoscientists Nova Scotia who is also a valuable contributing member of the Nova Scotia, Canadian or global geoscience community. Past winners include David MacFarlane, Heather Cross and Jim Reeves.

The Exemplary Service Award was given to Peter Webster, P.Geo for his many years of valuable service to the association. Mr. Webster is one of the founding members of the association and has served as councilor and treasurer. Past winners of the award include Pat Ryall and Jordan Mooers.



Greg Isenor receiving Excellence in Geoscience Award



Peter Webster receiving Exemplary Service Award

Review of Annual General Meeting

Geoscientists Nova Scotia held their annual general meeting on March 17th at the University Club at Dalhousie University. The AGM was well attended with over 40 members in attendance for a pre-dinner social reception at the downstairs pub and a dinner in the Great Hall.

Invited guests that joined us at the AGM included Dan MacDonald, P. Eng., Past President of Engineers Nova Scotia and Len White, P. Eng., Chief Executive Officer of Engineers

Nova Scotia, Adam Cooney, Executive Director of ESANS, Linda Deschenes, Executive Director of MANS, and Dan Hemsworth representing the Deputy Minister of Nova Scotia Environment.

The business meeting featured comments from Chrystal Kennedy, P.Geo., President of Geoscientists Nova Scotia as well as the presentation of financial and committee reports. The council of the association was announced, including three new

councilors, and that was followed with a presentation of awards and introductory remarks from the incoming president, Gavin Kennedy, P.Geo.

The guest speaker for the event was Gordon Fader, P.Geo. Mr. Fader, a well known and respected marine geoscientist, provided an entertaining and informative presentation on the history, progress and current status of the Bay of Fundy tidal power projects.

Social Committee Update

For the past several years, many of you have enjoyed the social events planned by the Social Committee. Members of the committee have changed over the years, with the current membership including Chrystal Kennedy, P.Geo, Bridget Adams, P.Geo, and Beverley Smith, P.Geo.

We have met after work for a nice cold one and a bite to eat, all the while chatting about the latest happenings at work, changes at NSDNR or NSE, or our travels in the big wide

world! Our interests are varied and fantastic.

In addition to after work gatherings, previous socials have included a family picnic (graciously hosted by Howard Donohoe, P.Geo.), a trip on the Tall Ship Silva and, of course, the annual gathering before the AGM.

During the upcoming year, the Social Committee plans on having regular, bi-monthly social events to get people out of their office or field vehicle

Beverley Smith, P. Geo, Committee Member

and intermingling with your wonderful, multi-talented colleagues! Some of you we haven't seen in awhile! These events will alternate between the Halifax and Dartmouth side of the harbour ferry.

Having said that, I am happy to announce that our next social will be June 8th at 5:30 pm at the Old Triangle (5136 Prince Street, downtown Halifax). Hope to catch up with you soon!

Mines and Minerals Committee Update

Steve Warren, P. Geo, Committee Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Mines and Minerals Committee to the Geoscientists Nova Scotia general membership. The function of this committee is to keep up with the trends in the industries of mining and exploration in Nova Scotia, Canada, and internationally and monitor how changes in policy, technology impact professional practice in those industries. Also, the committee exists to advise the Council from time to time on matters pertaining to mining and exploration to assist Council with conducting its business.

At the last meeting, the committee reviewed the upcoming changes to the National Instrument 43-101 *Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects* which come into effect on June 30, 2011. Last year, our association was involved in the consultation process and submitted recommendations to the Canadian Securities Admisistrators (CSA). The process took two years and last month the CSA made the announcement of the upcoming changes. The resulting changes modify the definitions of "Qualified Person" (QP) and "Professional Association", address the issues regarding foreign credentials, and clarify certain

reporting requirements. For example, the changes to the definition of QP now require the individual to possess "a university degree, or equivalent accreditation, in an area of geoscience, or engineering, relating to mineral exploration or mining" and at least five years of experience "relevant to his or her professional degree or area of practice".

Professionals in mining and exploration can find a summary of these changes on the APGNS website. mmissions websites. If you have any further concerns or questions you may contact the Executive Director.

Recruitment Committee Update

Beverley Smith, P. Geo, Committee Chair

Since August 2010, the focus of the Recruitment Committee has been to invite university students studying geoscience to become members of the Association under a new class of membership. Committee members initially contacted local universities in the province to announce the upcoming campaign. Presentation and handout material were prepared using the CCPG National Licensure Awareness Campaign materials as a template.

In October 2010, the Student Aware-

ness Campaign was launched at Dalhousie University. A presentation on the Association & Act, importance of licensure and the new class of Student Membership ("which is free and looks great on a resume!") was given to about 30-40 students and professors. The audience was receptive and the students asked a lot of questions.

Subsequent presentations were given in October at the Geology Matters Student Workshop and the AUGC Conference. Although attempts were made to meet with St. Mary's Univer-

sity and St. FX University contacts, however, no engagements have been made to date.

The past president (Chrystal Kennedy, P. Geo.) and Executive Director (David Carter, P. Geo.) also gave a presentation to the Department of Natural Resources geologists regarding licensure awareness and compliance in December 2010. The Association currently has six student members, who are invited to our AGM and social events and are showcased on our website.

APGNS Introduces 2011 Council

Front Row (left to right):

David Carter, P. Geo (Executive Director), Gavin Kennedy, P. Geo (President), Bridget Adams, P. Geo (Treasurer)

Back Row (left to right):

Andy Cameron, P. Geo (CCPG Rep and councillor), Colin Walker, P. Geo (Councillor), Robert Cuthbert, P. Geo (Councillor), Fred Bonner, P. Geo. (Vice-President), Steve Saveur, P. Geo (Councillor) Jeff Parks, P. Geo (Councillor and Secretary), Nora Donald, P. Geo (Councillor)

Absent: Chrystal Kennedy, P. Geo (Past-President)



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Upcoming Events

RemEast
 Halifax
 June 1-2

Brownfield
 Marketplace
 June 3

Geoscientists Canada
 Meeting of the
 Members
 Vancouver
 June 3-4

Mining Society of
 Nova Scotia AGM
 Ingonish Beach
 June 8-11

Geoscientists Nova
 Scotia Social Event
 Old Triangle
 June 8

MANS Networking
 Mixer
 June 16

Executive Director Update

David Carter, P. Geo

So how does the Association respond to the question ... "I have been contemplating the benefit of the Association to my professional career." Or ... "What are the benefits of registration to me?"

I personally think that the greatest failure of APGNS has been in our inability to effectively communicate with our members, the geoscience community, stakeholders and the public. This newsletter is just one of several Association initiatives that aims to improve our communications.

The short answer to the benefits question is, professional registration should be, if not an employment requirement, a personal requirement. You have invested a considerable amount of time and effort in achieving your status as a professional geoscientist, why would you not want to be registered as a professional? The *Geoscience Profession Act* states that if you practice as a geoscientist you must be registered. Period. That is the case in all provincial jurisdictions. If you write, file or review any type of report, scientific paper or assessment; if you su-

pervise or mentor other geoscientists; whether you work in mineral exploration, investigation of contaminated sites, or hydrogeological fields - you must be registered.

Would you (or a client) contract the services of an un-registered doctor, lawyer, or an accountant? What about an un-registered engineer? Why would you (or a client) want to contract, accept, or pay for services from an un-registered (therefore non-professional) geoscientist? The same logic that applies to services provided to the public sector applies to services provided by the public sector.

The other question, regarding the benefits provided by APGNS, has many answers:

- we are working with Geoscientists Canada on licensure awareness to target and promote professional registration to, among others, provincial and federal government geoscientists;
- we have also participated in developing a national framework for geoscience professional practice

guidelines, applicable to a variety of topics (e.g. brownfield assessment, mineral reporting, hazard identification, flood risk, slope stability, etc.);

- we have established standing committees in Mining, Environment and Energy to work with Council on issues related to professional geoscience practice (e.g changes to Environmental Site Professional regulations);
- the Professional Development committee has offered a seminar in conjunction with an environmental meeting and they are working on a follow-up meeting; and
- the APGNS Governance Committee is investigating the revision of the Geoscience Profession Act and the Association by-laws, in order to make the APGNS rules more relevant and effective.

Geoscientists Nova Scotia is working to provide a range of professional services and networking opportunities for members. We encourage you to get involved!

We'd like to thank the following sponsors of our Annual General Meeting:



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