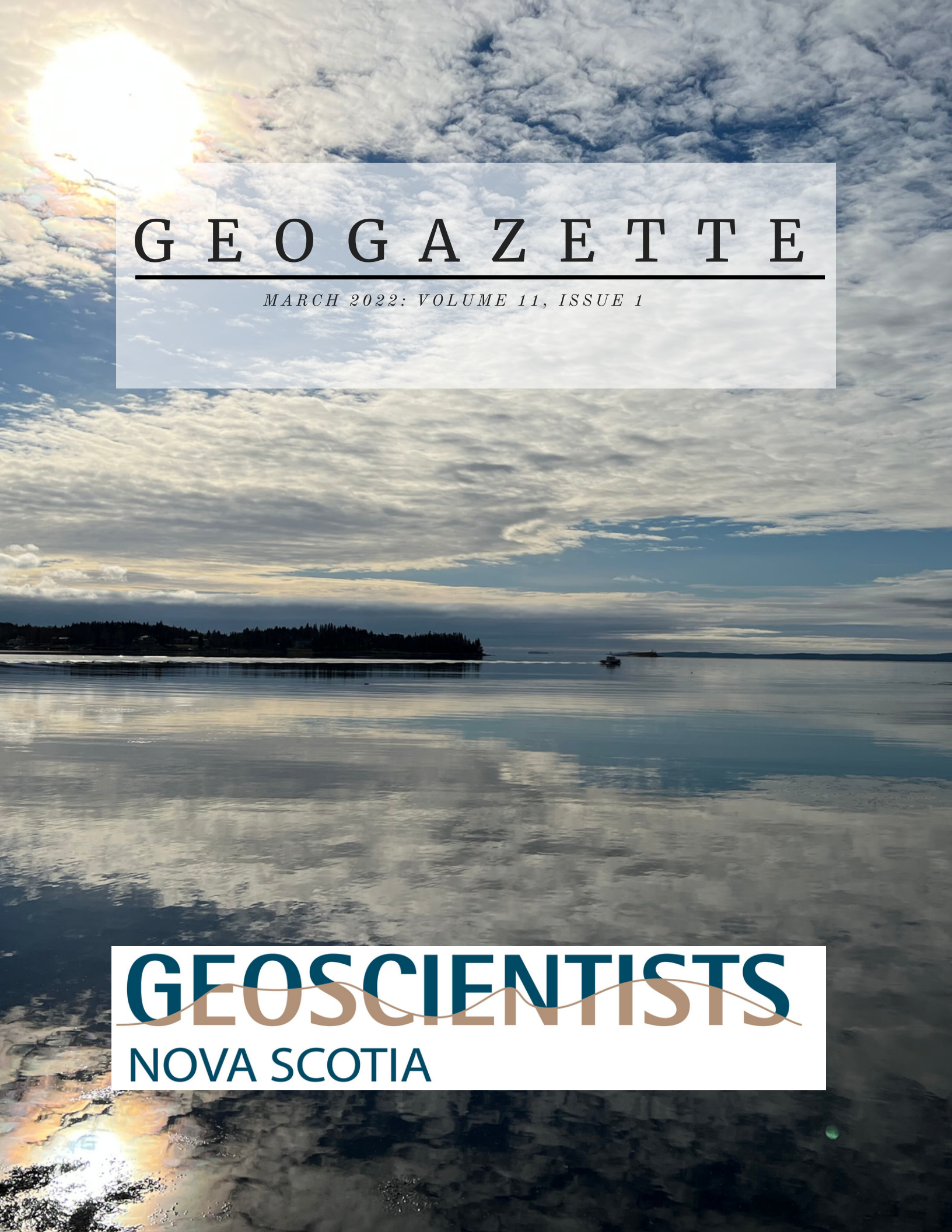


GEOGAZETTE

MARCH 2022: VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1

GEOSCIENTISTS NOVA SCOTIA

In this Issue

Photo Front Cover Credit Fiona Gallacher
Wintery St. Margaret's Bay.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome to your March 2022 edition of the GeoGazette. I hope you can sit down, grab a cup of your favourite drink and have a read through the first newsletter of 2022.

We seem to be optimistically coming out of a long two years of a world full of pandemic news. Spring is in the air and the birds are chirping. Although the world news is still one of unease with war in Ukraine, rising gas prices, and rising taxes, we must continue to push forward and be kind to one another.

This newsletter has an arrangement of topics for the first edition: 2022 marks the 20th anniversary of the Geoscience Profession Act, SAVE the DATE for the AGM, the Strategic planning team completed a members survey, a discussion on the NPPE, Theresa Rushton provided a lovely members profile, a memoriam for a wonderful professor, and the Maze of the Aguanish expedition is our highlight for GeoTravels section.

We are pleased to provide this issue of the GeoGazette. Please feel free to reach out to us with suggestions, articles and great photos to share in the next issue at fgallacher@dillon.ca.

So, go grab a cup and have a lovely read. Happy 20th Anniversary Geoscience Profession Act.

Respectfully, Fiona Gallacher, P.Geo.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dan Parker., P.Geo.

The first quarter of 2022 has been a fairly busy one for the Association. In late January, David Carter and I met with a number of staff from Department of Natural Resources and Renewables to discuss our revised Geoscience Profession Act. The meeting was a venue for us to provide background to the Department and address any questions they had before taking our Act to the next stage. David did an excellent job of leading the meeting and voicing our desire to have the Act advanced to the Legislature sooner than later. The meeting was very positive, and we are hopeful to have a more detailed update for our members at the upcoming AGM at the end of April.

Remember that survey we asked you to respond to regarding our strategic priorities for the next 3 years? Over the past months, the strategic planning committee, led by VP Robert Cuthbert, has been working diligently to compile the information and develop our strategic plan for the next 3 years. While our 4 pillars will not change, the various strategies and actions related to the pillars will ensure we're pushing the Association in the right direction. Thanks to Robert and all involved, including those who responded to the survey, for their efforts in pulling this important document together. The plan will be elaborated on at the AGM, and a more detailed update is provided by Robert in the newsletter.

Speaking of the AGM, which is scheduled for April 29th and detailed throughout the newsletter, we have another notable event in the coming month. The annual Earth Ring Ceremony will be held April 8th, 2022 at Dalhousie University and facilitated by Dr. Pat Ryall, P.Geo., FGC.

The ceremony, ring, and oath represents the obligations an earth scientist has to society, their peers and themselves. We encourage any registered members who may not be aware of the Earth Ring to reach out for more information and congratulate those who are receiving Earth Rings in 2022.

Lastly, I wanted to acknowledge the various recognized days over the past/coming months that relate to our members, including (but not limited to) World Water Day, Earth Day, Geology Day, and International Women's Day. These days not only highlight the importance of our profession, but also the importance of continuing to push for diversity and inclusion within our profession and society as a whole. So, while we celebrate these various geoscience-related events, lets also consider how we can continue to include, celebrate, and challenge more diversity in our daily activities as geoscientists.

See you at the AGM!

Respectfully,
Dan Parker, P.Geo.
APGNS President

FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

David C. Carter, P.Geo.,FGC.
Executive Director and Registrar

Photo from: APGNS

A colleague recently noted that regulatory operations are … "business as usual, in a most unusual way". Across the country, COVID 19 restrictions are being removed and we are all returning to a very "new normal". Geoscientists Nova Scotia is following the NSD Health Department recommendations regarding the lifting of the state of emergency, but our office time is still restricted and closed to the public. Please continue to be careful and mindful of others.

This year, 2022, marks the 20th anniversary of the proclamation of the ***Geoscience Profession Act*** and we will mark that accomplishment at the Annual General Meeting on April 29th. And we must recognize that it is truly an accomplishment. Geoscientists Nova Scotia has been mandated to protect the public interest and vested with the responsibility to self-govern, to regulate the practice of geoscience (e.g., develop best practices and standards) and to register professional geoscientists (members, licensees, members-in-training and certificate holders). The importance of ***"right to title"*** and ***"license to practice"*** must not be taken lightly. In recognition of our 20th anniversary, we designed and commissioned a lapel pin, and it has been sent out to all our members. We hope that you will wear it with pride and take the opportunity to explain the significance to all who comment on it and admire it.

On a sadder note, in February we marked the 40th anniversary of the Ocean Ranger disaster. Eighty-four lives were lost and the offshore exploration industry was changed forever. We will present a feature article on the Ocean Ranger disaster in a future issue of the GeoGazette (see the excerpt).

Introduction

The search for oil off Canada's eastern seaboard began in the 1960s and was well underway by the 1970s. Wells were drilled in the waters all around the island and off the coast of Labrador, but exploration focused mainly on the Grand Banks.These efforts paid off in 1979 when oil was found in the Hibernia field. It was clear that this field could contain huge oil reserves. To secure financial backing and plan production facilities, oil companies needed to know exactly how big the field was.To do this, Mobil Oil (which held the oil leases for the area) drilled "delineation" wells to map the Hibernia field. This is the work the Ocean Ranger was doing in the winter of 1982.

I am pleased to report that the process to revise and update the ***Geoscience Profession Act*** and create the ***Geoscience Practice Regulations*** is moving forward with the assistance and cooperation of the **Department of Natural Resources and Renewables.**

In addition to the DNR&R Policy Group, the Deputy Minister and the Executive Director and the Director of the Geological Survey Division are working with us and, together we are undertaking a review of the proposed revisions and the new regulations with a goal to chart the path forward. You may recall that the draft revisions and new regulations have been circulated to and approved by our members. They have also been vetted by DNR&R legal staff, as well as the Department of Justice and the Department of Labor and Advanced Education, so we are cautiously optimistic that much of the heavy lifting has been done and the next step will be significant.

CONTINUED

David C. Carter, P.Geo.,FGC.
Executive Director and Registrar

Photo from: Fiona Gallacher
Micou's Island

APGNS Register as of March 24, 2022

APGNS Membership	Registrants March 2022	Registrants March 2021
P.Geo. Members	204	192
Pending submission to the Admissions Board and approval by Council	10 (not included in the total)	not reported
License to Practice (non-resident)	24	22
MIT registrants	17	19
Pending submission to the Admissions Board and approval by Council	7 (not included in the total)	not reported
Certificate of Authorization	52	51
Sole Practitioners	22	24
Corporate	30	27
Total Registrants	**299**	**284**

The current number of registrants (Members, Licensees, Members-in-Training and Certificate of Authorization holders) is shown in the table below. The number of applicants pending submission to the Admissions Board and/or approval by Council is also included in the table but are not included in the number of total registrants so that the numbers can be compared to last year. Year over year, registration in the Association is up approximately 10%. This is more than the national average.

At the March meeting, Council approved a recommendation that effective March 31st the following registrants will be stricken from the Official Register for non-payment of professional fees.

At that time, these individuals and corporate bodies are not legally permitted to offer, provide, or undertake geoscience work in Nova Scotia, they may not use the designation "geoscientist", "geologist", or other related designation and they are not eligible for participation in any of the Association affinity programs.

- Stewart Yule – member # 174;
- Kyle Pederson – member # 264;
- Tanya Tettelaar – LTP # 125;
- McGregor Geoscience – CA# 042;
- Elements Environmental – CA # 056;
- Atlantic Industrial / Roscan – CA # 06; and
- Meguma Gold – CA # 081.

Geoscientists Nova Scotia (APGNS) will host the 2022 Annual General Meeting

Location: Virtual (GoToMeeting)

On behalf of the Association Executive and Council, we wish to extend an invitation for you to attend the Geoscientists Nova Scotia, Annual General Meeting on **Friday April 29, 2022** from **10:00 am to 1:00pm.**

The 2021 Annual Report and the 2022 AGM Program, including executive and committee reports, as well as the 2021-year end financial information, will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Nominations Committee report of nominees for the 2022-2024 APGNS Council will also be introduced at the meeting.

A CPD session will follow the business meeting.

CPD Topic: GHG, ESG's, SDG's, UNFC and APGNS - What is the significance of these acronyms to a Professional Geoscientist ?
Presented by Professor Grant Wach, P.Geo.

Professor Grant Wach of Dalhousie University is an expert advisor to the UN ECE Energy Sustainability Committee. He will navigate us through the morass of terms and explain how these will impact regulatory frameworks from the field to the corporate boardroom and government with connections to Nova Scotia. What are the opportunities for professional geoscientists?

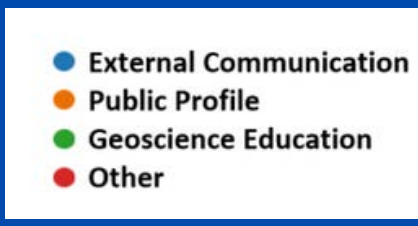
- *ESG - Environmental, Social and Governance*
- *SDG's - Sustainable Development Goals- the 17 goals developed by the UN*
- *UNFC - United Nations Framework for Classification of Resources*
- *GHG - Greenhouse Gas Emissions- the benchmark of progress of mitigating climate change*

Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend the AGM.

Please RSVP (by email response to this notice), to
David C. Carter, P.Geo., FGC, Executive Director and Registrar –
(registrar@geoscientistsns.ca)
as soon as practicable and before April 15th.

SURVEY

Robert Cuthbert, P.Geo.
Vice President and Chair of the Strategic Planning Task Group



In the fall a strategic planning team was assembled to update the current 2017-2022 Strategic Plan.I would like to thank again, the members that participated in the team and work. Due to Covid protocols, the team decided that a survey was the best approach to solicit opinions, feedback, and ideas for strategic goals for the next three years.

The survey questions were developed around the existing four Strategic Priorities (Value for Members; Licensure Awareness, Compliance & Enforcement; Awareness of the Profession and Association; and Good Governance) as well as many of the Strategic Areas for each of these Priorities.

A total of 41 members took the time to respond to the survey and following is an overview of the results.A breakdown of respondents includes: 75% P.Geo members, 15% Licence to Practice, 2% Members in Training (MIT), and 8% identified as other.

Majority of respondents indicated they were satisfied with Internal Communications and that email is the best medium to communicate with members. With the growing popularity of social media, members informed us that LinkedIn is most popular and could be considered for some forms of communication including public education and outreach.

For young/new geoscientists, it's important to note that 10% of respondents were interested in finding a mentor and 40% of respondents would consider being a mentor or would like more information about mentoring. 40% of responded also indicated the number of awards issued is adequate. However, the most popular option for an additional award was young geoscientist/MIT or a scholarship.

We heard that we should maintain the same level of efforts in encouraging provincial departments to encourage individuals/companies to be registered with APGNS and continue cooperation with government departments

We heard that presenting to Earth Science/Geology Students at Nova Scotia Universities was a valuable effort. The presentation should be current and have additional information relating to the different streams of registration (Geoscientist/Environmental Geoscientist/Geophysicist). There was a recommendation to post the presentation on the Geoscientist Nova Scotia Website and to have a "champion" at each university to liaise with the Association related to events, activities, and general information.

75% of respondents indicated that they are interested in or already participating on council or a committee. Some additional committees suggested include Diversity and Inclusion as well as Sustainability.

The top three priorities members thought the Association should focus on for the next three years in order of importance were: Promotion/Awareness; Continuing professional development; and Compliance and Enforcement.
The 2023-2025 Strategic plan has been drafted, approved by council, and will be shared with members at the Annual General Meeting in April. While we couldn't include everything in this three-year strategic plan, hopefully you can see aspects of your contribution in this plan. I hope to see strong participation in mentoring and volunteering as indicated in the survey responses.

Respectfully,
Robert Cuthbert, P.Geo.
Vice-President and Chair of the Strategic Planning Task Group

THE NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EXAMINATION

Robert Stewart, P.Geo., FGC.

About every 5 years, the National Professional Practice Examination (NPPE) blueprint is refined to reflect professional practice expectations for engineers and geoscientists. The content and weighting of this subject matter was last prepared by the Professional Practice Examination Committee (PPEC or NPPEC as it is known to APGNS members) and approved by the NPPE Advisory Committee (NPPEAC) in 2017. The pandemic delayed the next review of the blueprint which will accommodate collective and individual input from the engineering and geoscience communities. A new stand-alone NPPE website will be on-line soon reflecting an evolutionary step away from the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA).

The NPPE has been built, maintained, refined and administered by APEGA for over 20 years. In 2008-2009, APEGA's partner associations' examination registrants only represented about 30% of the 5000 applicants but by 2018, APEGA applicants accounted for only half of the total registered to write the exam. In 2021, APEGA's partner association's members represented 85% of the 9215 NPPE registrants. Only Quebec's engineering (OIQ) and geoscientist (OGQ) associations are still using their own professional practice exams.

The core NPPE exam is still one hundred multiple choice questions with only one justifiably correct answer and three distractors for each question. These questions must be non-technical but about professional practice issues found in the blueprint. Questions must be fair for both engineers and geoscientists and must be written using a Grade 11-12 language level so that it is fair for applicants whose first language is not English or French. It is challenging to ensure questions in the operational database are current, fair and representative of the entire blueprint.

Ten professionals (3 P.Geo., and 6 P.Eng. and 1 P.Tech.) are presently involved with NPPE question content which includes 6 retirees and 4 in active practice.

Changes in legislation, as well as workplace and cultural changes require that new blueprint content be added in a timely manner. Professional practice expectations required through corporate social responsibility and community consultation are now a frontline responsibility for young professionals. This was not well addressed in previous blueprints.

International law e.g., United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Persons (UNDRIP), carbon-neutrality, sustainability, trade agreements (USMCA, US-Canada agreements on Critical Minerals and Energy Resource Governance), and recent Federal laws like the 2019 Impact Assessment Act and the 2021 UNDRP Act are examples of the changing legal landscape that will affect engineering and geoscience project timelines for future generations.The pending NPPE website will include the current blueprint and reading lists including textbooks, guidelines and other resource material that can contribute to establishing the current Standard of Care in any negligence deliberations. As such, this pending NPPE website will be a Continuing Professional Development resource for professionals and not just a study guide for examination candidates.

Geoscientist candidates still represent only 5% of those writing the NPPE. In 2021, Wendy Lam, one of two full-time APEGA psychometricians completed a differential analysis looking at NPPE question results for any bias exhibited by geoscientists and engineers. Alberta, Ontario and Nova Scotia were the only jurisdictions that could provide candidates separated by profession. Statistics show that geoscience candidates were better prepared for the examination and that any statistical bias reflected that preparation.

Your opportunity is available to contribute to the evolutionary refinement of the NPPE blueprint. If you have any difficulty in participating, you may contact me through **stewartrd@msn.com** for assistance.

Respectfully,
Robert Stewart, P.Geo., FGC.

MEMBER PROFILE

Theresa Rushton, P.Geo., FGC.

1.Tell us about yourself. Where are you from? Where did you go to university? What was your first job (or first few jobs) after University?

I was born in Longueuil PQ and grew up as an "Airforce Brat" mainly in Greenwood NS. Graduated Dalhousie University many eons ago with a degree in Geology. The theory of "Plate Tectonics" was recent so that gives you some idea of just how long ago!

2.Why did you choose Geology?

Mr. Castle, one of my high school teachers was keen on geology. Anyway, I guess it was his enthusiasm, which prompted me to take an introductory first year geology course. I loved it and the rest is history. Interesting note: by second year, there were only 2 or 3 females in most geology classes – happy to see that has changed!

3.Do you have any geoscientists in your family or at work or in University that influenced you? Other professionals?

I was fortunate to get summer jobs with NS Environment. Under the direction of hydrogeologists such as John Jones, Chang Lin, Heather Cross, Fred and Lynn Baechler and Terry Hennigar (to mention a few) it was easy to steer in the direction of hydrogeology. At that time (early/mid 1970's) the department was more active in fieldwork then policing. Hydrogeological studies were being conducted in regions across the province. Salt contamination, naturally occurring but elevated levels of fluoride, arsenic and uranium in domestic wells prompted massive sampling programs.

4.What is your current job? What do you like most about your job?

I've been retired for some time and although I'd be the first to say don't wish your life away, I must say that life is good on the Wallace River.

5.What do you think is your most significant accomplishment as a geoscientist?

In the 1980s I took a contract job with Dillon Consulting (Porter Dillon at that time). The contract was intended to last 4 months. I stayed for 23 years before retiring as a Partner. The field of contaminant hydrogeology was really just coming into the forefront. There was an evolution of groundwater testing equipment and monitoring techniques and the industry exploded. There were a seemingly endless number of investigations at service stations. Open dumps were replaced with regional landfills prompting a combination of engineering and hydrogeological studies. Extensive environmental assessments (EAs) that in many instances took place over several years were initiated at both existing and former military bases (both Canadian and American) and airports. In the late 1990's a massive investigation was began at the Sydney Tar Ponds. All of these large projects were complex, typically joint ventures involving 2, 3 and sometimes 4 consulting firms and funded by more than one agency. To say the least, they were both challenging and rewarding. Dear to my heart is Argentia NL where over a 17-year period I oversaw projects from the initial Phase I EAs to the completion of Phase IV's and Closure Documentation.

CONTINUED

Theresa Rushton, P.Geo., FGC.

6. Do you have a favorite rock sample? Tell us about it.

Not really – but outcrops always catch my attention. We (pre COVID) took a road trip that included some amazing scenery/geology in Canada and the states, particularly Yellowstone and the Black Hills – there were a lot stops much to the chagrin of my husband. I still do have my high school rock/mineral sample kit (well sort of). Digging this out of the basement bought back fond memories although aside from mica and of course gneiss (and perhaps a few other obvious ones), the identification quiz was an epic failure. In also reminded me (not so fondly) of staring through the microscope at thin sections during university – do they still make you do that?

7. What are your interests outside of work? What do you do for fun?

My obsession with getting 10,000 steps/day (thank you Garmin) has encouraged us to build several kms of trails through our woods. I've also had some awesome backpacking/hiking adventures in Newfoundland (Gros Morne), the Gaspe, Baxter State Park in Maine (PHOTO), Mt. Washington and the Adirondacks to mention a few. I'm a volunteer (Team Leader) with Pugwash Ground Search and Rescue, and last but not least, find time to kayak and bike in the summer, curl and snowshoe in the winter and play bridge and spend quality time with the grandkids all year!

8. Do you have a favorite book and/or TV show and/or movie?

I always have a book on the go. It's hard to pick a favourite but Tolkien's Hobbit and Lord of the Rings Trilogy is near the top. Typically, I gravitate to "historical fiction".

9. If you could tell the public one thing about geoscientists, what would it be?

In addition to have been fortunate to have a great career that I loved, I've also been privileged to have been part of our (and I emphasize our) association, APGNS since its creation serving as president, secretary and board member for a number of years. For the past several years I've served on the Admissions Board. Since retiring this has allowed me to stay in touch with the geology community. We stress, and for good reason, the importance of progressive and cumulative experience, not just for career development but for your own self-satisfaction.

Respectfully,
Theresa Rushton, P.Geo.,
FGC.

UNIVERSITY CORNER

Memoriam

Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Dalhousie University

Anne Marie (Mia) Ryan, faculty member and University Teaching Fellow in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, passed away unexpectedly with her loving family by her side at the QEII Hospital on January 20, 2022 after an emergency surgery. Born in Ireland on May 17, 1955, she was the daughter of the late Padraig O'Beirne and Eithne O'Beirne (née Gilsenan). She attended Dalhousie University (PhD), Mount Saint Vincent University (MEd), Acadia University (MSc and BEd), and University College of Dublin (BSc).

Anne Marie was a geologist, teacher, and leader. She was also an advocate for the important role of women in science and was an amazing, active example of such. During her early career she was attracted to "hard" rocks (igneous and metamorphic), and tectonics, but later she developed an interest in the new field of Medical Geology. Her PhD thesis project represented a completely novel direction focused on weathering of granites and mobility of uranium and radon. Her published work on the subject has been regularly cited, and influential in the field of environmental geochemistry.

Anne Marie was incredibly talented and passionate about teaching and learning, especially in the sciences. She understood the unique challenges, perspectives, and considerations of teaching science and worked tirelessly to ensure these perspectives were included at all levels of the institution.

She approached teaching by not only ensuring that her students understood natural geological phenomena, but also focused on teaching the whole person – empowering her students to be effective citizens and act for positive social and environmental change.

She pushed students to think outside the box, taught them how to ask good questions, and designed creative assignments that provided space for them to take risks. She helped students make connections between science and society, consider various perspectives when approaching a problem, and she wasn't afraid to teach about the non-linear messier side of science including talking about the moral and ethical dimensions of science. She also loved sharing her passion for the natural world by taking students outside to see and learn firsthand about the world around them. It filled her with joy to build relationships and create trust with, as well as to care about, each and every student.

Anne Marie pushed back against traditional views of leadership, focusing on the value and need of servant leadership – in which a leader shares power, puts the needs of others first, and most notably in Anne Marie's case, helps others to develop, perform, and achieve as highly as possible. With her students and colleagues alike, Anne Marie helped to guide, support, and encourage everyone to become the best version of themselves. She believed that all teachers can be amazing leaders, each in their own context.

CONTINUED

Memoriam

She wanted each of us to recognize who we are as a teaching leader through understanding what matters most to us, deciding where we think we can make a difference, and following through. She was a leader in the field of teaching and made significant contributions through teaching courses, supervising theses and student research projects, publications, numerous conference presentations, educator workshops, and contributing to online forums. In the Faculty of Science, she taught a Science Leadership course and was the creator and coordinator of the Science Communication and Leadership Certificate – connecting and sharing with students across all Science disciplines. Ten years ago, Anne Marie recognized a need for community amongst the newest hires in the Faculty of Science and so created Dal's first Faculty of Science Community of Practice (CoPSci). Anne Marie's ability to develop community and support personal growth was so successful, there are now several CoPSci groups that bring together dozens of faculty members from across all Science departments.

Beyond her teaching and the Communities of Practice, she was an active member of the Dalhousie community at all levels. She was a member of various Earth and Environmental Science (EES) departmental committees, acted as a first-year EES student advisor for many years, and provided much valued mentorship to new faculty in the department. At the faculty level, she played a pivotal role in providing support for faculty in Science as Dalhousie transitioned into online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. At an institutional level, she was the first Faculty Associate at Dalhousie's Centre for Learning and Teaching where, for fifteen years, she taught courses, held workshops, and inspired faculty and graduate students in teaching and learning endeavours across the disciplines. She was a vocal member of Dal's Academic Quality Team (AQT), ensuring the voices of course instructors were included in institutional decisions pertaining to teaching and learning.

She recently began co-leading Dalhousie Leading in Teaching Excellence (D-LITE) bringing together interested faculty from across campus to encourage leadership in teaching and learning. Whether in groups, or individually, she always took the time to have deep and lasting conversations, sharing her teaching wisdom, always supportive and challenging, while also listening and learning with others.

Anne Marie's substantial impacts on the world of teaching and learning are apparent in the institutional, regional, and national teaching and leadership awards she has received. Amongst the many awards, notably are Dalhousie's Alumni Association Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching, The Association of Atlantic Universities' Anne Marie Mackinnon Educational Leadership Award, and the 3M National Teaching Fellowship, Canada's most prestigious recognition of excellence in leadership and teaching in higher education. Anne Marie leaves a deep and enduring legacy focused on personal growth, risk-taking, kindness, creativity, and wonder, that will continue to live on through her Communities of Practice, her students, colleagues, friends, and all those whose lives she touched though her leadership and support. Despite all the accolades she received over the years, she recently wrote about the impact that she had on students saying that what mattered most to her was "to know that I could make a difference when I look back – that is gold."

Respectfully,
Department of Earth and
Environmental Sciences,
Dalhousie University.

THE WAY OF THE AGUANISH TRAPPER

GeoTravels

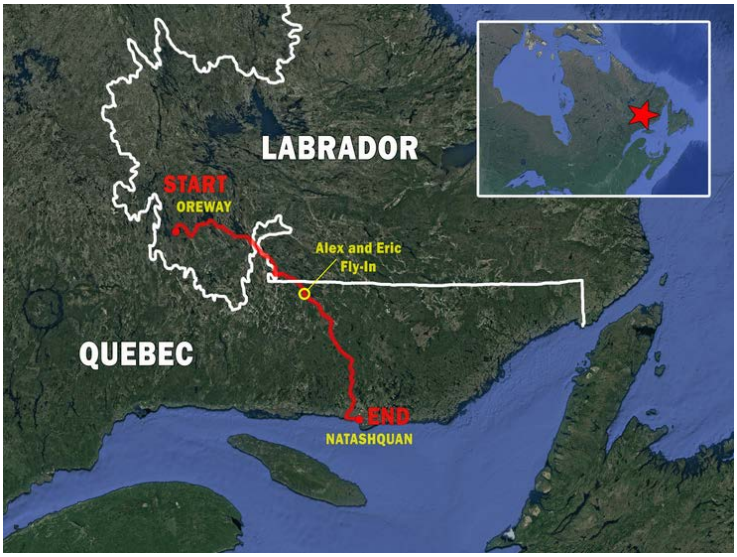
Noah Booth, P.Geo.
Dillon Consulting Limited.

A Month long canoe journey through Côte-Nord, Quebec

I stiffly kneeled in the stern of the canoe, scanning vigilantly for a route to take our boat as we floated towards yet another boulder-strewn section of the river. Again, we were forced to the shoreline to unpack the maze of obstacles that lay before us.

The Aguanish (also called the Aguanus) flows through the heart of Côte-Nord, Quebec. Starting among the sphagnum-rich bogs of the Labrador–Quebec plateau, the unassuming river quickly gains momentum as it falls off the ancient Laurentian mountain range through an array of commanding canyons, magnificent drops, and glacial landforms (i.e., eskers, drumlins and kames). Historically, the trappers of Aguanish relied on this powerful river as a traditional hunting and fishing ground. Today, the river is rarely traveled and has only seen a handful of descents in the last half-century. The ambiguity of this little-known area of Côte-Nord has had me fantasizing of paddling this mysterious waterway for the past two years.

Our team consisted of Matt Balcombe, Alex Traynor, Eric Taucer and myself. Matt and I would start our 30-day journey at the Oreway Train station of the Tshiuetin Rail Line and travel 350 km east across the Labrador plateau to the headwaters of the Aguanish. There we would meet Alex and Eric who would be dropped off by float-plane 17 days later.



The four of us would then descend the river and finish our voyage in the coastal village of Aguanish on the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The Labrador plateau has a rich history of being the ancestral homeland of the Innu who called the territory Nitassinan - meaning “our land”. Large lake systems expand across the land characteristically marked with black spruce horizons and scoured shorelines. Broad white-sand beaches streak across points and coves offering a welcome reprieve for weary travelers. We spent many nights camping on these sandy shores taking in the ocean-like vistas we had all to ourselves. Unbeknownst to us, a record-breaking heatwave pushed across the country making for balmy breezes and glass-like conditions as we travelled across the giants that are Lac Joseph and Atikonak Lake, two major lakes of Southern Labrador.

THE WAY OF THE AGUANISH TRAPPER

Continued

After slow progress, the plateau that we became so familiar with over the past two weeks slowly began to give way to the ancient crests of the Laurentian mountain range. As the landscape shifted, the river began to open up into a sequence of tannin rich shallow lakes and navigable current allowing us to track our boat up-stream and over the final height-of-land. With a day to spare, we awaited the boy's arrival on Lac Uatnakantuk.

The arrival of Alex and Eric brought a surge of energy to the team as we prepared for the second half of the journey. Unlike Matt and I who were eased into the trip, Alex and Eric were starting at the most technical part of the route. The upper 50 kms of the Aguanish is marked with many continuous rapids that forcefully tumble down the boulder-strewn river. Many sets that would have been navigable in higher water had to be meticulously negotiated using ropes as we waded through knee-deep current. Progress was painfully sluggish and for the first week we often wondered if we would ever get off the river, at times travelling as little as 5 kilometers a day.

With patience and persistence, the river steadily gained volume as the branches of the upper Aguanish converged into a significant watercourse channeling into a deep river valley that funnels into a torrent of chutes and waterfalls. The landscape was a true balance of power and grace. The exhilarating sections of white-water intermittently softened to a meander as the river cut through deep stratified sand dunes laid down by the historic Laurentide ice sheet. The strong contrast of rock and sand kept things interesting as we never knew what was going to be around each river bend.

As our time on the Aguanish was nearing the end, our physical and mental fortitude was put to the ultimate test as we approached the "Canyon de le Grande Chute" - a daunting 1 km canyon holding a sequence of strong rapids and waterfalls.The canyon's walls rose over 40 m above the water, cresting with thick trees and a sheer cliff that extends beyond the river

Historically the Aguanish trappers used to take a route that skirted the mountain which had since been erased by the power of time. The bleak realization started to sink in that we would be forced to forge our own path across the heavily forested mountain.

On day 25 as the daylight dwindled, we set up camp for the night on the mountainside. It was a quiet evening as we mentally and physically prepared for the unknown that lay ahead. The portage took two labour intensive days to cover a mere 2.2 kms by blazing trail and hauling gear through the steep and uneven terrain. We would often get "cliffed out" by the steep rock walls and gullies that would force us far and wide of the river. We traveled at a snail's pace and by late into the second day we emerged on the other side elated, albeit battered and bruised from the mountain. The portage was appropriately named Folsom Prison, as a tribute to Johnny Cash's iconic blues single.

After a month of wilderness travel through the blissful array of landscapes and challenges, the familiar drone of an outboard motor echoed in the distance as we approached the small coastal village of Aguanish. We were enthusiastically welcomed by locals who had caught wind of our expedition and bestowed us with a smoked salmon and lots of horn honking. As we unloaded our canoes for the final time, with a heavy heart I looked back up river. Our 620 km journey through the heart of Canada's land of big hydro and wild rivers was a testament to why this region is cherished by many for both its majestic beauty and raw power.

Respectfully,
Noah Booth., P.Geo.

CORE LIBRARY STELLARTON

Alex MacKay., P.Geo.
Geological Survey Division, Department of Natural Resources and Renewables

The Geological Survey manages the Core Library in Stellarton, which houses material from more than 7,500 drillholes in an extensive archive of drill core and other sample media from past programs (mineral and petroleum). The Library also provides logging and sampling facilities to the public.

The Core Library in Stellarton (Geological Survey Division, Natural Resources and Renewables) regularly performs an assessment of its holdings to optimise onsite storage space and maximize utility for current and future clients. As part of this assessment, staff have identified core and materials for potential disposal.

In anticipation of the 2022 disposal program we are providing this notice to current and potential Core Library clients and invite your feedback. Please contact Alex MacKay (Core Library Geologist) by Friday, April 29th, 2022.

To learn more or to book an appointment, please visit our website **https://novascotia.ca/natr/meb/information-services/core-library.asp** or contact the Core Library Geologist, Alex MacKay at Alex.Mackay@novascotia.ca or 902-497-3427

Respectfully,
Alex MacKay, P.Geo.

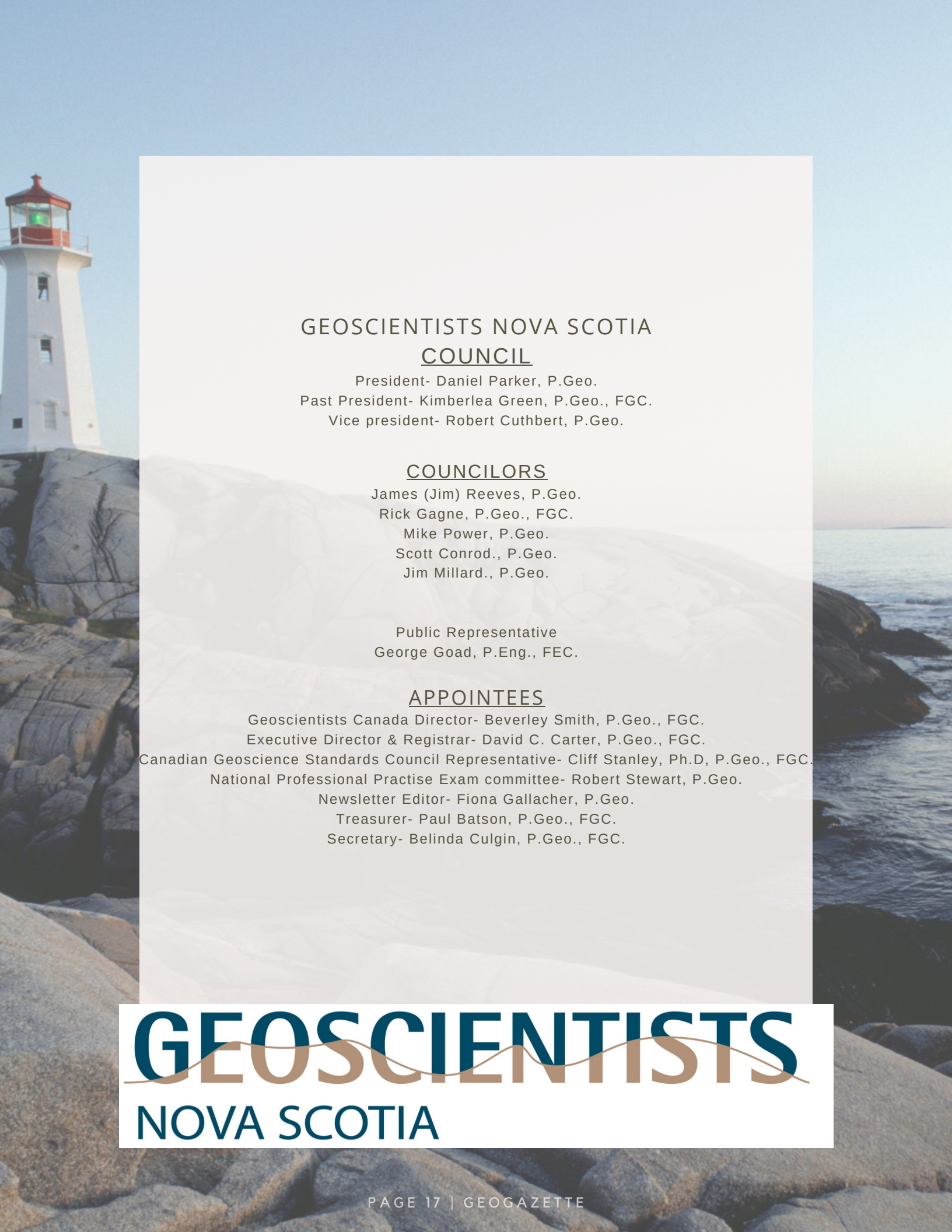
PHOTO REQUEST

Trees and sky
(Submitted by Fiona Gallacher)

The GeoGazette is always looking for more photos from it's members:
We want to feature your photos in our next issue.
Rules:

1) The photos should be taken by members of the Association.
2) The photos can be geology related (outdoors or indoors)
3) A brief description to the photo and photographer's name

Please submit all photos to fgallacher@dillon.ca



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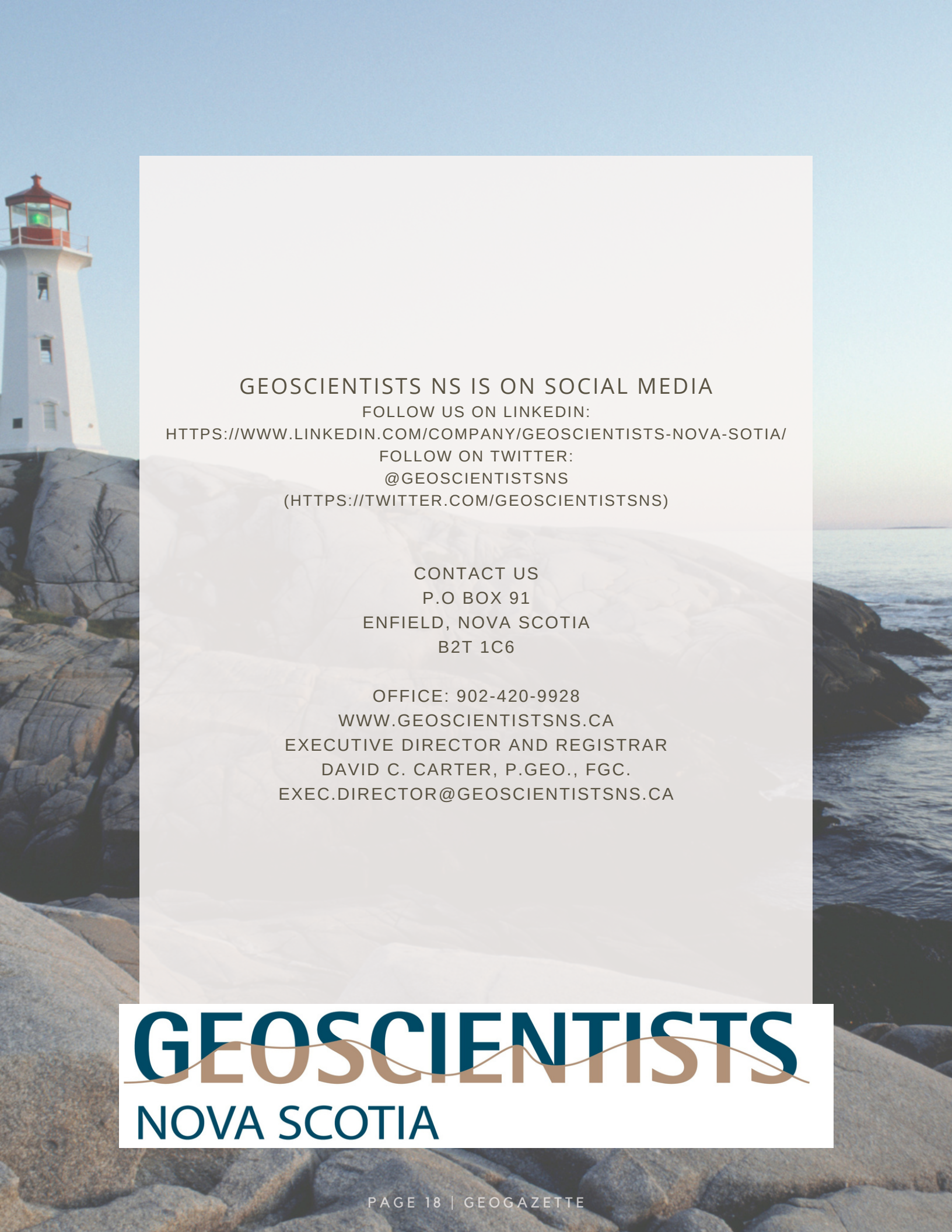

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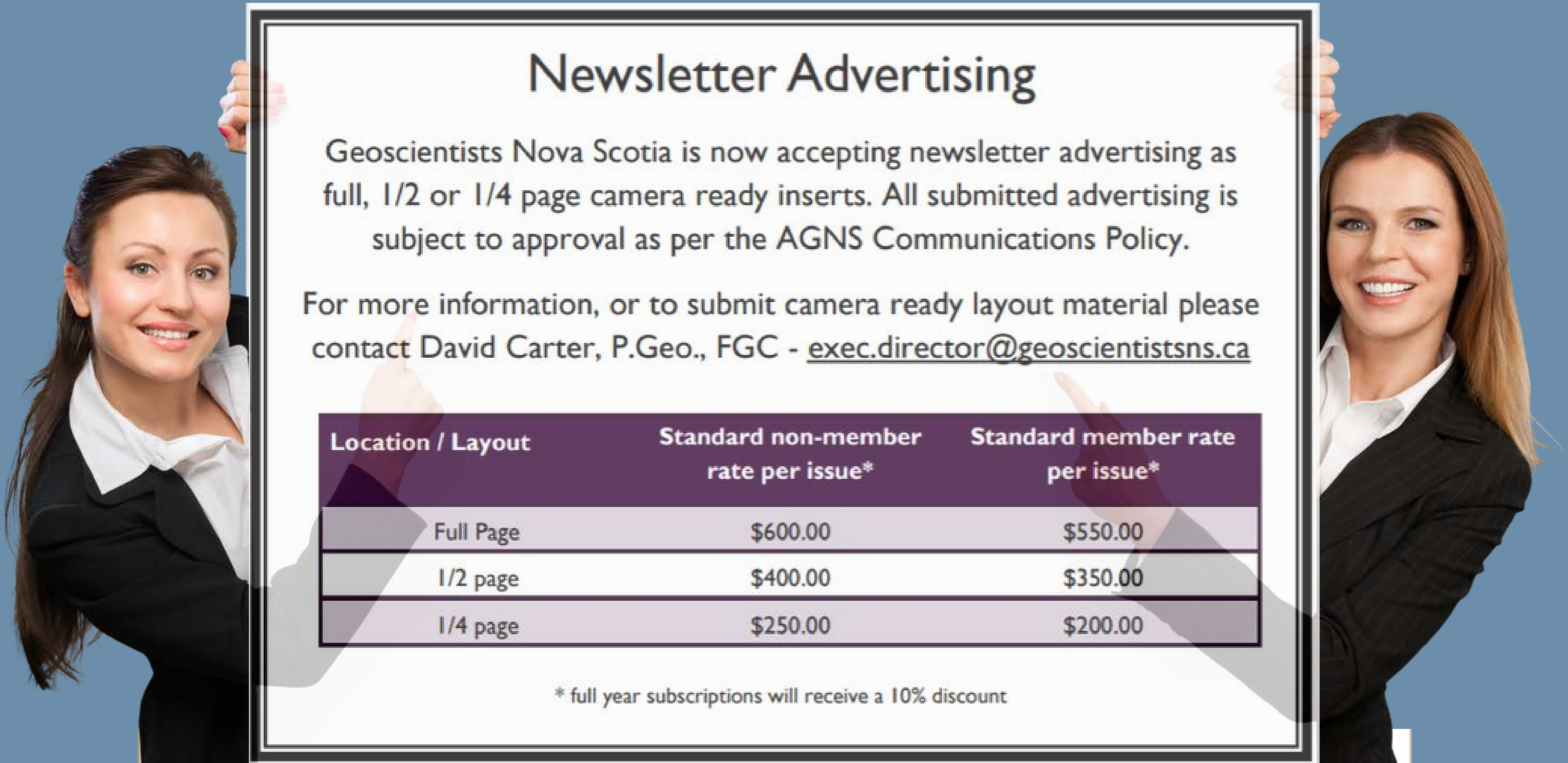

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Geoscientists Nova Scotia is now accepting newsletter advertising as full, 1/2 or 1/4 page camera ready inserts. All submitted advertising is subject to approval as per the AGNS Communications Policy.

For more information, or to submit camera ready layout material please contact David Carter, P.Geo., FGC - exec.director@geoscientistsns.ca

Location / Layout	Standard non-member rate per issue*	Standard member rate per issue*
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The ***GeoGazette*** is a quarterly publication of Geoscientists Nova Scotia.

Members are welcome and encouraged to submit editorials, letters to the editor and articles of interest, including photographs, for publication.

Opinions and views independently expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of Geoscientists Nova Scotia, the Council, Boards, Committees, and/or Staff.

Subscriptions to the ***GeoGazette*** are provided electronically to all registrants (members, licensees and members-in training, and student members) in good standing, and are included in the annual registration fees.

The ***GeoGazette*** will be distributed electronically and posted on the Association website (www.geoscientistsns.ca).

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APGNS Publication Policy

APGNS encourages the submission of articles and editorials for publication in the ***GeoGazette*** on topics related to the science and profession of geoscience.

Submittals shall be of interest to the members of APGNS, and others interested in earth science. Articles and editorials may be noted as follows at the discretion of the editor:

"The opinions, positions and conclusions presented herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions, positions or conclusions of APGNS."

All materials submitted for publication, including author opinions contained therein, shall include accurate and appropriate references. The Editor has the authority to solicit, edit, accept, or reject articles and editorials and other written material for publication. The APGNS Editorial Board has the authority, if it chooses to act on any particular case, to support or overrule actions of the Editor regarding the solicitation, editing, acceptance, or rejection of any particular article, editorial, or other written material for publication.

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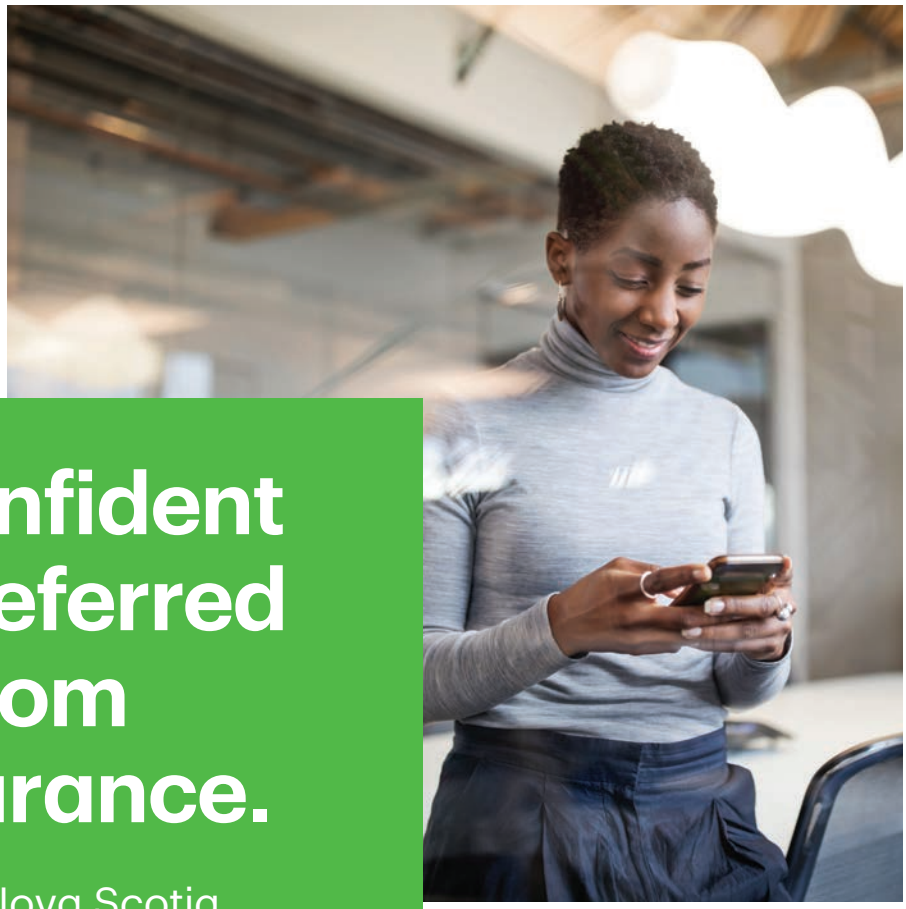

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