



# APGNS Gazette

A Newsletter of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia

## President's Report



### APGNS Members

I have the great privilege to be named the new President of the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia (APGNS). The field of geoscience is a craft, a passion and a profession of honour for many. The practice of professional geoscience touches countless fields of endeavour in today's world and its importance is increasingly recognized.

APGNS is a mature organization that continues to grow and improve. Opportunities for the organization are now greater and the responsibilities also greater. The recent decision of Council to create an Executive Director's position is one example of using our collective resources to better serve the membership.

Your Council has had numerous

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## News in Brief from APGNS

- Cliff Stanley P.Geo. continued in his role as APGNS representative to the Canadian Geoscience Standards Board (CGSB). He and colleagues have completed work on the revised knowledge requirements. APGNS Council has approved these on the recommendation of the Admissions Board. See story in this newsletter.
- Vice President Scott Llewellyn P.Geo. And Executive Director Howard Donohoe P.Geo. Attended the CCPG meeting and AGM in June at Kananaskis, AB.
- The *Ad Hoc* Social Committee of Annette Murphy P.Geo., Bev Smith P.Geo., Paul LaFleche P.Geo. and Howard Donohoe P.Geo. planned and ran the First Annual summer Picnic Social. Everyone who attended had fun and looks forward to next year. See story in this newsletter.
- Another social event is planned for the early Fall. The Committee is looking at a boat cruise in September.
- APGNS Council is working on a Memorandum of Understanding with APENS to create a Joint Practice Board. The JPB will review areas of dispute in professional practice and make recommendations to the two Councils.
- APGNS has a new website. Our Secretary, Jordan Mooers P.Geo., learned new techniques in developing websites and put his knowledge to work for us. Check it out at [www.apgns.ns.ca](http://www.apgns.ns.ca). Use the e-mail address on the site for comments and suggestions.
- President Gordon Check P.Geo. And Vice President Scott Llewellyn P.Geo. brought forward a new award for Councils approval. The APGNS Excellence Geoscience Award was approved by Council and will be

## Summer Addition of the APGNS Newsletter

### Stories

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Professional Development

**Editors:** Howard Donohoe P.Geo. and Jordan Mooers P.Geo.

**Contributions:** We welcome contributions to the newsletter. If you have an idea for a story or would like to write for the newsletter, please call Howard at 422-3486.

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discussions on enhancing ways to both promote the Association and improve services to members. In 2007, we intend to keep the focus on these, and to achieve tangible results. Some of the items we are looking at include:

Revising the APGNS website, improving content and keeping it more current  
Having regular, and more frequent newsletters  
Working together with other associations on development of Joint Practice Boards and Memorandum of Understanding regarding professional practice where overlap occurs  
Providing member social/networking functions  
Creation of APGNS geoscience professional practice awards of some type  
Promoting even greater awareness of professional geoscience and our Association at all levels in society.  
As incoming President I am aware of the challenges of largely volunteer organization, and the key function that volunteers play in our Association. I encourage any member interested in participating on Council, on committees, contributing articles for newsletters and so on to contact the Executive Director, myself or anyone on Council. By participating with peers in your professional Association you will gain rewarding and invaluable experience. The Association gains from the wide range of experience, expertise, ideas and energy that you the members bring.

The Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia has a legislative mandate that demonstrates and validates the importance of professional practice of geoscience in society. The challenges of our Association are to remain current, relevant and provide value to both new and current members.

Finally, I would like to say welcome to all new members of the Association as well as the newly elected members of Council. I look forward to serving Council and the Association in 2007. I think we have a great year ahead.

Sincerely,  
Gordon Check, M.A.Sc., P.Geo.  
President  
The Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia

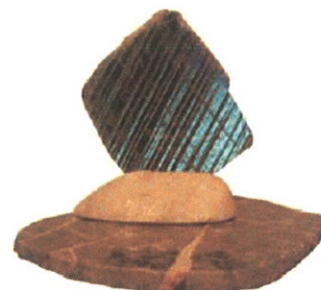
## Announcements:

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

Please contact Howard Donahoe, P.Geo. at 422-3486

awarded annually at the Associations AGM. Nominations can be made by members in the Fall and then the Review Committee will select a winner from the candidates. A Call for Nominations for the Award will be broadcast to members in September. Please begin thinking about deserving individuals in the organization.

- Unlawful practice and unlicensed practitioners continue to be a challenge for APGNS and other jurisdictions. Please advise the Registrar if you become aware of these practices. See story on Professional Practice in this newsletter.
- All firms employing geoscientists in Nova Scotia will be required to have a Certificate of Authorization as required by the *Geoscience Profession Act*. The certificates are issued by the registrar annually for a modest fee. All firms will receive a Certificate this year *gratis*. Beginning in the 2008 calendar year each firm will be required to pay a modest fee for their Certificate.





## The Successful Family Picnic

On Sunday, June 24, 2007 more than 30 APGNS members, spouses and children enjoyed a beautiful afternoon for a social event. The picnic was a first for the Association but I think its become an annual affair. I volunteered my home and yard for the event and I was delighted that so many people attended and that the weather was so perfect.

Earlier in the day I had set up a canopy for a sun shelter. Then Annette Murphy, P.Eng., P.Geo. and her spouse John Goss arrived with the food. The hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, pop, beer and wine were all consumed over the course of the afternoon. Of course there were some surprises. Little did I know that Jordan Mooers was a juggler until I saw the crowd of kids watching someone very intently. I suppose that Jordan would become a busker if he ever became tired of geoscience.

Everyone agreed we should do this again. So next year the Association will have a June Family Picnic. Enjoy the photos.

Well have another social event in the early part of the Fall probably a boat cruise. Look for an announcement with details in early September.

*Howard Donohoe P.Geo.*



## News in Brief from the CCPG

At the annual general meeting in June 2007 of the CCPG at Kananaskis, AB several important events took place.

- Hamid Mumin P.Eng, P.Geo. was elected CCPG President. See his open letter in this newsletter.
- David Carter P.Geo. was honoured on his retirement from the CCPG Board of Directors. Many people acknowledged Davids many contributions to the CCPG. See the photograph below.
- A Maritimer, Dwight Ball P.Geo., former CCPG President and long time member of the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of New Brunswick, was honoured by the CCPG as the 2007 recipient of the Canadian Professional Geoscientist Award.
- The Board of Directors unanimously agreed to recommend the revised Knowledge Requirements to constituent associations. See story in this newsletter. This step brings to a close about three years of work by the CGSB. The APGNS Council has already approved the new requirements on the recommendation of the Admissions Board.
- The Inter Association Mobility Agreement Task Force made public their report. In it the IAMA TF said that each constituent association should be responsible for their members anywhere they work, be willing to discipline them accordingly, encourage the acceptance of incidental practice in other CAs, develop more uniform rules about professional development requirements, work to discourage unlawful practice, and agree to a more consistent approach in admissions. The IAMA is due for renewal in June 2008.
- Much of the discussions in the Staff Liaison Officers meeting, the Board of Directors and the Presidents meeting were about the importance of the mobility and the new IAMA. See the stories in this newsletter about Knowledge Requirements and the Open Letter of the CCPG President.

*Howard Donohoe P.Geo.*



## The Importance of Professional Registration

Professional registration of geoscientists is required in all Canadian jurisdictions. Licensed professional geoscientists have a duty to protect the public, to act with integrity, to provide high quality information and advice, and to protect the environment. Our work provides all sorts of helpful and essential information to various groups of people and protects the public in many ways. We become members of professional licensing bodies such as APGNS because we accept the calling to practice geoscience and we understand the duty to the public.

To meet these obligations, geoscientists need to enroll in professional associations. All geoscientists who practice geoscience in Nova Scotia must be registered. According to the *Geoscience Profession Act* only those geoscientists who are licensed may call themselves professional geoscientist and use the letters P.Geo after their name. Yet there are many who have not joined APGNS or other associations.

All of us as members should be vigilant about unlicensed practitioners and unlawful practice. Let me know if you find anyone practicing geoscience who is not registered. I will send them a letter outlining professional registration, showing them how to apply and urging them to become APGNS members. If you see any advertisements for positions that include the practice of geoscience but no requirement to be a registered professional, please let me know. Together we can build a strong association and meet our duty to the public.

Howard Donohoe P.Geo.

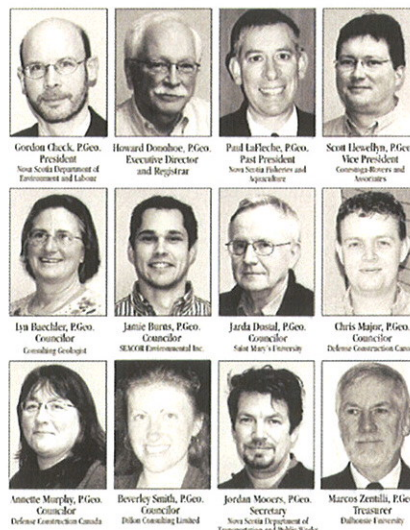
## Managing Association Affairs

In February members of the APGNS elected a three new Councillors, a Vice President and President. The new members of Council joined three others who were serving the last year of their two year terms. Council meets usually once a month to discuss Association business and to make decisions on recommendations from the Admissions Board and Executive Committee. Council has the responsibility under the *Geoscience Profession Act* to act on behalf of the members. The President, Executive Director/Registrar and others may make recommendations to Council but it is Councils decisions that direct much of the work of the Association.

Being a Councillor is rewarding for the person volunteering and very important to the successful operation of the Association. The Nominations Committee is headed by the Past President, Paul LaFleche. If you wish to volunteer for the position of Councillor or for other positions in the Association, please contact Paul at [LAFLECPT@gov.ns.ca](mailto:LAFLECPT@gov.ns.ca).

If you have any questions or comments, please call Norma Keeping, Assistant to the Registrar, at 420-9928 or Dr. Howard Donohoe P.Geo., Executive Director and Registrar, at 422-3486 or 223-4544. You may contact us at [nkeeping@dal.ca](mailto:nkeeping@dal.ca) or [howarddonohoe@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:howarddonohoe@hfx.eastlink.ca).

Howard Donohoe P.Geo.



The APGNS Council at work. From left, Vice President Scott Llewellyn P.Geo. and Councillors Annette Murphy P.Geo. and Bev Smith P.Geo.



## Knowledge Requirements for Membership

When you become a member of the APGNS you fulfill five requirements. You must be able to demonstrate that you:

- have progressive and cumulative geoscience work experience of 48 months or more;
- are able to communicate in the English language;
- have good character;
- are legally able to work in Canada;
- write and pass the National Professional Practice Examination (NPPE); and
- meet all of the knowledge requirements (science and geoscience courses).

Knowledge requirements are the courses in science and geoscience that candidates must have in order to join. A degree is not as important as actually having all of the required courses. These courses are set out in several categories. It is these categories that the Canadian Geoscience Standards Board (CGSB) is modifying somewhat. The current requirements are in the form of guidelines on the Canadian Council of Professional Geoscientists website:

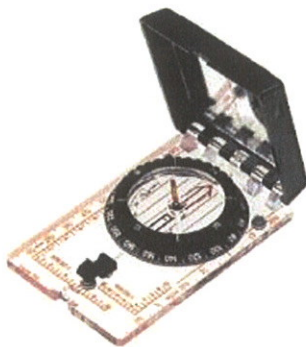
[www.ccpge.ca/guidelines/guidelines\\_knowledge\\_experience.html](http://www.ccpge.ca/guidelines/guidelines_knowledge_experience.html). These are considered by most constituent associations (CAs) of CCPG to be minimum requirements.

The Canadian Geoscience Standards Board (CGSB) has spent the last three years reviewing the current knowledge requirements. For the three streams of geology, environmental geoscience and geophysics the requirements were repackaged into easier to understand headings. Some of the required courses in geophysics were greatly changed. The streamlining of knowledge requirements means that the prospective candidate for membership will have an easier time in understanding what courses he or she needs in order to be registered.

The work on the knowledge requirements has another benefit. Foreign educated and trained geoscientists will be able to understand more clearly what the knowledge requirements are for membership and to measure their work against the required Canadian standards. The Federal Government, through HRSDC (Human Resources and Social Development Canada), is encouraging the immigration of professionals to Canada. HRSDC has a role in assisting CCPG and other professional groups to make their requirements known to foreign trained immigrants.

By 2009 the Federal Government wants restrictions on trade and employment between provinces and territories to end. To meet this objective for geoscientists the Standards Board has prepared revised knowledge requirements that all the CAs can support and implement. At the June AGM, the CCPG Board of Directors agreed to seek the formal approval of all CAs for the revised guidelines. The intent of these changes is to meet the new federal requirements and to encourage a more uniform application of knowledge standards across the country. Hopefully this not only encourage uniform admissions procedures but will be one of several initiatives to enhance the inter association mobility that CCPG President Hamid Mumin, P.Eng., P.Geo. mentioned in his open letter.

*Howard Donohoe P.Geo.*



*Members representing constituent associations of the CCPG work on the new knowledge requirements at a meeting the Canadian Geoscience Standards Board.*



## Environmental Site Professional Contaminated Site Assessment and Management

Nova Scotia Environment and Labour have established the Guidelines for Management of Contaminated Sites in Nova Scotia (the Guidelines). These guidelines specify an Environmental Site Professional as a person who is responsible, on behalf of owners, for ensuring that appropriate environmental assessment, remediation and compliance processes are followed at a site, and for determining/implementing environmental site management actions.

APGNS is recognized by Nova Scotia Environment and Labour as one of two licensing bodies whose members may qualify as Environmental Site Professionals, pursuant to the requirements of the Guidelines. Professional geoscientists who are appropriately experienced and knowledgeable in environmental geoscience may make submissions under the Guidelines. The designation allows professional geoscientists to use and follow provincially endorsed Risk Based Corrective Action (RBCA) procedures, including determining alternative risk based clean up levels for sites.

Members are requested to use their stamp, along with the acronym P.Geo., when submitting environmental remediation reports and Certificates of Compliance (COCs) under the Guidelines to Nova Scotia Environment and Labour.

*Gordon Check P.Geo.*

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### Professional Development

One issue that was discussed many times at the CCPG AGM in Kananaskis, AB was professional development. Members may remember that each Winter when they pay their annual dues, they are asked to complete a voluntary statement of professional development activities. Nova Scotia has a n uncomplicated and voluntary process for compiling professional development information. We request that you list any kind of professional development activities. These may include, but are not limited to, geoscience consulting, teaching geoscience at university, attending geoscience meetings, reading journals and volunteering time for the APGNS.

Professional development is important to you and the APGNS. You benefit with additional knowledge, new techniques, increased opportunities for networking and enhancement of your capabilities. In addition you can start training in new a discipline meet the Code of Ethics dictate that you practice geoscience only in areas of competency.

The Association benefits because we can demonstrate that our members are actively involved in upgrading and enhancing their abilities. This means that APGNS members can move more freely to other CAs with fewer inter association mobility problems.

The APGNS Council will be studying this issue over the Fall and may have recommendations to the membership at our AGM in February. I suggest that you continue to use every opportunity to upgrade and enhance your skills and competencies.

*Howard Donohoe P.Geo.*

