

NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE SESSION 2006-2007

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During the past year, members of the Institute have actively engaged in furthering its mandate of promoting science in Nova Scotia. This has been achieved in seven ways, namely by:

- presenting a program of public lectures given by expert Nova Scotian scientists,
- publishing the peer-reviewed Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science,
- providing financial support for Regional Science Fairs,
- maintaining a library
- running the annual scientific writing competition,
- running a mentorship program for university science students, and
- developing and actively maintaining the Institutional web site at www.chebucto.ns.ca/Science/NSIS.

During the past year, the lecture program of six public lectures was organized by Mary-Jane O'Halloran; all but one of the lectures were held at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History and the Institute is indebted to the Museum for its continued support. Council surveyed members of the Institute especially for their comments on the lecture program and as a result particular attention was paid to make attractive the titles and abstracts provided by speakers. This, coupled with effective publicity organized by Sandra Nowlan, resulted in the lectures being well-attended. Lectures in the fall were presented by Todd Hachette (Department of Pathology, QE II Health Sciences Centre), "Avian Influenza: the coming pandemic" and Boris Worm (Department of Biology, Dalhousie University), "Large marine predators in the World's Oceans: how to save our most endangered wildlife".

The lecture planned for December had to be cancelled at the last minute due to a significant snow storm and resultant power outage at the Museum. However, the lecturer scheduled for January had to postpone his talk and was replaced by the December lecturer, Daniel O'Halloran (O'Halloran Campbell Consultants Ltd), who described "The Halifax Harbour Cleanup Project" to a large and attentive audience in the Alumni Hall at the University of King's College.

The winter/spring lecture programme was completed by Eric Mills (Department of Oceanography, Dalhousie University), "Learning from Europe: A.G.Huntsman and the new direction of Canadian marine sciences", Marc Mansour (ImmunoVaccine Technologies Inc., Halifax), "Therapeutic vaccines: from university to market" and, to a full house, John Calder (N.S.

Department of Natural Resources), "Coal Age Galapagos: Joggins and the quest for World Heritage status".

For the past several years, the Proceedings have been published under the very able editorship of Dr James E. Stewart who has maintained a high standard. He has been assisted by a dedicated Editorial Board. Jim has informed Council that he wishes to retire in the near future and Council has a process in place to ensure continuity in this important institutional activity. The Institute is indebted to Dr Stewart and to members of the Editorial Board for their services.

The annual Science Writing Competition was organized again this year by Ken Adams. Despite a considerable effort publicizing the competition, most of a promising list of potential entries did not materialize, with only three essays being submitted by the published deadline. One essay arrived several weeks after the deadline and in fairness to the other contestants, this late entry was not accepted. The essay by Jason Loxton (Dalhousie University Earth Sciences graduate student) was judged to be prize-winning in the Science Writing Category and the essay by Benjamin H. Rotstein (King's and Dalhousie undergraduate student) was judged to merit Honourable Mention in the same category.

The Institute has again provided financial support to the ten Regional Science Fairs in Nova Scotia and Sean Tibbetts has continued to run the mentorship program which matches students with working scientists. The Institute provided financial support to the Northeast Biological Graduate Student Conference, which was used to fund four prizes for excellent student presentations in different categories. In other activities, the Institute cosponsored with the Ecology Action Centre the 2007 Symposium on Sable Island at St Mary's University and cosponsored the first Canadian IRIS/SSA Distinguished Lecture with the Dalhousie University Department of Earth Sciences. The 2007 Canada-wide Science Fair will be held in Truro NS in May and members of the Institute will be assisting in this important event.

In conclusion, members of the Institute are undoubtedly aware that its mission of presenting and promoting science, especially research, can only be achieved by continued activity on the part of members by serving on Council and taking part in other activities of the Institute. As with all similar volunteer organizations, there is a need for younger members to become active as older members retire. The Institute has a long and proud history and will celebrate 150 years of promoting science to Nova Scotians in 2012, five years hence. Few other Canadian organizations can boast this track record and it will be appropriate if members can begin planning some modest celebrations to mark this event. Finally, I thank all members of Council for their diligence and hard work during the past year.

Respectfully submitted to the AGM

May 7, 2007

J. Stuart Grossert

President NSIS

APPENDIX: MONTHLY LECTURES

- October 2: *Avian influenza: the coming pandemic.*
Todd Hatchette, Department of Pathology,
QE II Health Sciences Centre
- November 6: *Large marine predators in the world's oceans:
how to save our most endangered species.*
Boris Worm, Department of Biology,
Dalhousie University
- December 4: Cancelled due to storm
- January 8: *The Halifax Harbour cleanup project.*
Daniel O'Halloran, O'Halloran Campbell
Consultants Ltd.
- February 5: *Learning from Europe: AG Huntsman and the
new direction of Canadian marine Sciences.*
Eric Mills, Department of Oceanography,
Dalhousie University
- March 5: *Therapeutic vaccines: from university to market.*
Marc Mansour, ImmunoVaccine Technologies Inc.
- April 2: *Coal Age Galapagos: Joggins and the quest for
World Heritage status.*
John Calder, NS Department of Natural Resources
- May 7: *Extracting energy from the wind*
Charles Demond, Pubnico Wind Farms

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

There are currently one hundred and eighty-seven NSIS exchange partners. One institution, Universitetsbiblioteket i Trondheim, cancelled their exchange program with us over the past year. The number of institutional members remains unchanged from last year and continues to be twenty-seven. Invoices were sent out in February 2007 for institutional memberships and to date we have received payment for eighteen renewals.

In August 2006 volume 43, Part 2, of the Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science was published. The Library mailed the issue to exchange partners and institutional members. In addition, we also did the mailing to personal members. Postal charges for distribution of the printed journal cost the Institute \$1,813.55 in 2006.

The Flora of Nova Scotia by A.E. Roland was reprinted in 2005 and has a new one-volume format with spiral binding. We have 15 copies remaining, of the 50 printed, and they are priced at \$35.00. Sales of past volumes of the Proceedings during 2006/2007 generated \$706.50 in revenue. (See Appendix A (attached) for details.)

At the April 2007 Council meeting the NSIS Librarian, Sharon Longard, introduced the idea of having past volumes of the Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science digitized and made available electronically online. There is currently a Digital Initiatives Committee in the Dalhousie University Libraries and they are looking for proposals of suitable digitization projects. The NSIS Librarian, working with other librarians at Dalhousie, would like to submit a Pilot Project Proposal to digitize volume 1, 1863-1866 and volume 2, 1867-1870 of the Proceedings. Council supported this proposal in principle, but Mrs. Longard was asked to obtain additional information re: access to the material and NSIS rights.

Publications continue to be received regularly from our 187 active exchange partners and this material is added on an ongoing basis to the collection. I would like to thank Carol Richardson and the Serials Department staff in the Killam Library who ensure that the NSIS Library operations continue to function smoothly.

Respectfully submitted,
May 7, 2007
Sharon Longard

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

APPENDIX

Sales of Proceedings June 2006 – March 2007

Qty	Date	Issue	Price
1	June 2006	Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science v 19 pt 4	\$5.00
1	June 2006	Forest Aphidae of Nova Scotia	\$5.00
1	June 2006	The vegetation and phytogeography of Sable Island	\$7.50
1	June 2006	Chondrus crispus	\$5.00
1	June 2006	A forest classification for the Maritime Provinces v 25 pt 2	\$5.00
1	June 2006	The birds of Sable Island	\$7.50
1	June 2006	The Lepidoptera of Nova Scotia	\$5.00
1	August 2006	Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science v 42 pt 1	\$22.00 + \$2.50 shipping
14	September 2006	Flora of Nova Scotia	\$35.00 = \$490.00
1	September 2006	Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science v 42 pt 1	\$22.00 + 2.50 shipping
1	September 2006	Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science v 42 pt 1	\$22.00 + 2.50 shipping
2	October 2006	Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science v 42 pt 1	\$22.00 = \$44.00
1	January 2007	Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science v 42 pt 1	\$22.00 + 2.50 shipping
1	January 2007	Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science v 25 pt 2	\$5.00
1	February 2007	Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science v 42 pt 1	\$22.00
1	March 2007	Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science v 27 pt 1	\$5.00 + \$2.50 shipping
30			\$706.50

EDITOR'S REPORT

The Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science Volume 43 Part 2 was published in August 2006. This 177-page issue included the 6 papers of the written Symposium on Marine Sciences. This symposium described much of the background, development and purpose of marine geology, oceanography and fisheries science in government institutes in the Atlantic area and was focused largely on activities at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Dartmouth, NS.

In addition, the issue contained 5 prize-winning papers from the 2005 competition of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science: Student Science Awards. These 5 papers formed an eclectic and interesting array covering the topics of Apoptosis (i.e. programmed cell death), Latent Semantic Indexing, the enzyme Phenylalanine Ammonia Lyase, a Design Study for Scintillation Counters and an essay on Rational Drug Design. We were pleased to note that these originated at 4 different academic institutions, Dalhousie University, Cape Breton University, St. Mary's University and the University of King's College. The issue also includes the report on the NSIS 2004-5 season.

Preparation of Volume 44 Part 1 is well in hand. Publication by the coming summer is anticipated with distribution taking place before the 2007/2008 NSIS season.

Respectfully submitted to the AGM
May 7, 2007
James E. Stewart
Editor NSIS

TREASURER'S REPORT

ASSETS:

Bank Account	\$5,939.50	
Petty Cash	0.00	
		5,939.50
Investments		<u>54,084.13</u>
		<u>59,986.48</u>
Account Receivable		60,023.63

LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH:

Accounts Payable (Science Fair cheques)		-200.00
Rental (Museum)		<u>-175.00</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Worth		59,648.63

INVESTMENTS:

Cash Balance		10.29
CIBC Premium T-Bill (short-term)		15,677.84
CIBC Investment Certificate A @4.40% (due Apr 2008)		8,396.00
Can Western Bank Certificate A@3.30% (due May 2007)		10,000.00
Laurention Bank Certificate A @3.675% (due May 2009)		10,000.00
Laurention Bank Certificate A @4.500% (due June 2010)		<u>10,000.00</u>
		54,084.13

REVENUE

Membership Dues

Individuals	\$1830.00
Institutions	252.90
AGM (2006)	1020.00
Donations/Grant	1026.25

Sales/Page charges

Proceedings	5264.17
Other	549.00

GST Rebate/Interest 1963.24

\$11,905.56 Total

EXPENDITURES

Advertisement/promotion	\$159.61
AGM (2006)	1135.21
Office supplies	37.19
Proceedings printing	6977.50
Postage	1957.88
Donations/Prizes	<u>1250.00</u>

11,517.59 Total

Net: \$387.97

Treasurer's Report (Continued)

Notes

Finances

The Institute's finances remain stable with a net worth of 59,648.63. Revenue included a NS museum grant (\$1000) and a rebate for GST paid during the last 4 years amounting to \$1959.92.

Under expenditures, Donations/prizes of \$1250 include \$100 donations to each of 10 regional science fairs in Nova Scotia and a \$250 donation to the 14th annual Northeast Biological Graduate Student Conference held at Dalhousie University.

Membership

We collected \$1830 in membership dues in 2006-2007. Membership sits at 133 including 4 Life members.

Respectfully submitted to the AGM
May 7, 2007 (prepared March 31, 2007)
H. Stephen Ewart
Treasurer NSIS