Geoscience Editing and Publishing

D. R. MacDonald, B. L. MacDonald and J. S. Saunders

Publications play an important role in delivering geoscience information for the Mineral Resources Branch, educating the public, and conveying the professional image established by the branch. A publication is often the first chance we have to make an impression on someone who comes into contact with the Department of Natural Resources.

Staff of the geoscience editing and publishing group work toward the goal of consistent high-quality, timely, and cost-effective reporting on activities carried out by the Mineral Resources Branch. All geoscientists in the branch are required to publish accounts of their work. These accounts may be published as scientific reports, memoirs or maps, or they may best be communicated in less technical publications such as information circulars or newsletters. The branch newsletter Nova Scotia Minerals Update is produced quarterly and distributed to approximately 1600 subscribers around the world. The newsletter and many other publications are also converted to HyperText Markup Language (HTML) or Acrobat® PDF and are available on-line as part of the branch web site. These activities ensure that current geoscience information on Nova Scotia is readily available to enhance public awareness and to promote the mineral resources of the province.

The role of the geoscience editing and publishing group in the Geoscience Information Services Section can be roughly divided into two parts. The first part involves editing a manuscript (report, article or map) to the author’s satisfaction, while at the same time applying the branch standards for style and content in the interest of our readers. Editor Doug MacDonald carries out this work for the Minerals and Energy Branch. The second part involves producing a published document. The editor works with desktop publishing technicians Barb MacDonald and Susan Saunders to produce publications.

Editing

In the Minerals and Energy Branch, all scientific publications must be reviewed by at least one geoscientist who has not contributed to the research being presented. This process is called peer review and finding a suitable reviewer is usually the editor’s first task after receiving a manuscript. The editor assigns the manuscript to a reviewer who is experienced in the field of study being presented by the author. The editor supplies the reviewer with detailed guidelines to direct the review toward the most critical scientific aspects of the manuscript. The reviewer’s comments are then given to the author so that the manuscript can be revised in an effort to improve its scientific content. Open File Reports and Open File Maps are used to release information as soon as possible, and may be approved for publication after one peer review, revision by the author, and minimal editing.

Other publications may require two or more reviews, and substantial revision and editing. The branch follows editorial standards detailed in the Geological Survey of Canada Guide to Authors.

Publishing

The final appearance of a publication is largely determined by the publication team, which includes an editor and a desktop publishing technician. This function consists of preparing camera-ready (or Internet-ready) manuscripts for publication, and involves words, figures, tables and other design elements that are electronically composed using a variety of publishing applications, such as Microsoft Word® and Publisher®, Corel Draw® and WordPerfect®, and Adobe Acrobat®. Manuscripts may travel back and forth between the editor and the desktop publishing technician many times before they are ready to be published, either on paper or on-line.

The following publications were released in 2003:

**Contribution Series**

CS ME 2003-1 Nitrogen Distribution in Lower Paleozoic Slates/Phyllites of the Meguma Supergroup, Nova Scotia, Canada: Implications for


 newsletters Nova Scotia Minerals Update, volume 20, numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Open File Maps


OFM ME 2003-2 Airborne Magnetic Total Field Map for Part of NTS 11F/10, St. Peter's Area, Nova Scotia, by M. S. King, 2003, scale 1:50 000.


OFM ME 2003-4 Airborne Magnetic Total Field Map for Part of NTS 11F/11, Port Hawkesbury Area, Nova Scotia, by M. S. King, 2003, scale 1:50 000.


OFM ME 2003-6 Airborne Magnetic Total Field Map for Part of NTS 11F/14, Whycocomagh Area, Nova Scotia, by M. S. King, 2003, scale 1:50 000.


OFM ME 2003-14 Airborne Magnetic Total Field Map for Part of NTS 11K/03, Lake Ainslie Area, Nova Scotia, by M. S. King, 2003, scale 1:50 000.


OFM ME 2003-29 Airborne VLF-EM Total Field Map for Part of NTS 11K/02, Baddeck Area, Nova Scotia, by M. S. King, 2003, scale 1:50 000.


OFM ME 2003-31 Airborne VLF-EM Total Field Map for Part of NTS 11K/03, Lake Ainslie Area, Nova Scotia, by M. S. King, 2003, scale 1:50 000.


OFM ME 2003-33 Airborne Magnetic Total Field Map for Part of the TGI Project Area, South-central Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, by M. S. King, 2003, scale 1:100 000.

OFM ME 2003-34 Airborne Magnetic Calculated First Vertical Derivative Map for Part of the TGI Project Area, South-central Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, by M. S. King, 2003, scale 1:100 000.


Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, by M. S. King, 2003, scale 1:100 000.

**OFM ME 2003-38** Airborne VLF-EM Total Field Map for Part of the TGI Project Area, South-central Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, by M. S. King, 2003, scale 1:100 000.

**OFM ME 2003-39** Airborne VLF-EM Quadrature Map for Part of the TGI Project Area, South-central Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, by M. S. King, 2003, scale 1:100 000.

**Open File Reports**


**Outside Publication**


**Reports**
