Geoscience Editing and Publishing

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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. Editor Doug MacDonald and contract editor Kathy Mills carry out this work for the Minerals and Energy Branch. The second part involves producing a published document. The editors work with word processing operators Barb MacDonald, Susan Saunders and Angela Miller to produce our branch publications.

Editing

In the Minerals and Energy Branch, all scientific publications must be reviewed by at least one scientist 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:

1. significance of the content,
2. soundness of the content,
3. completeness of the content, and
4. presentation.

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 publications used to release information as soon as possible, and can be approved for release after peer review and minimal editing.

Resubmission of the manuscript after peer review initiates the next step in the editorial process, often called 'substantive' editing. This step may require re-writing parts of the document, re-organizing sections, and generally suggesting ways that the author can improve the presentation of their research for its intended readers. Since the subject matter is geoscience, the editors are geologists. Although the editors cannot be experienced in the particular field of research for each manuscript they understand the concepts, terminology, and scientific methods employed. The relationship between author and editor is most important during this phase of substantive editing.

Another aspect of the editorial process is often referred to as 'copy' editing. This function requires careful attention to every detail in a document in order to meet the Branch publication standards. For the Minerals and Energy Branch, these standards reflect those used by the Geological Survey of Canada. Some standards, such as consistent capitalization, spelling and punctuation, are easily applied. Others may require much more time and effort, such as accurate citation and listing of references, and making sure that tables, maps and drawings meet the appropriate specifications.

Publishing

The final appearance of our publications is largely determined by the publication team, which includes an editor and a word-processing operator. In the modern age of computer-based publication, the job title 'word processing operator' is an anachronism. 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 WordPerfect® and PageMaker®. Manuscripts travel back and forth between the editor and the word processing operator many times before they are ready to be published, either on paper or on-line.

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 Minerals and Energy 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 of our other, shorter publications are also converted to HyperText Markup Language (HTML) 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 following publications were released in 1998:

**Annual Report**


**Contribution Series**


**CS ME 1998-8** $^{81}$C-3H$^{18}$O-$^{40}$Sr covariations in Ore-Stage Calcites at and around the Gays River Zn-Pb Deposit (Nova Scotia, Canada) - Evidence for Fluid Mixing, by Martine M. Savard and Daniel J. Kontak; *in Economic Geology, vol. 93, 1998*, p. 818-833.


**Illustrations**


**Information Circulars**


Open File Illustrations


Open File Maps

OFM ME 1998-1 Preliminary geological map of Guysborough, Richmond and Antigonish Counties (parts of NTS sheets 11E/08, 11F/05, 11F/06, 11F/10, 11F/11, 11F/12 and 11F/15), Nova Scotia, by C. E. White and S. M. Barr. 1 coloured map, scale 1:100 000.


OFM ME 1998-12 Geological Map of Bill Meadow Mountain (part of NTS sheet 11E/04), Hants County, Nova Scotia, by R. J. Horne and D. Fox, 1998. 1 coloured map, scale 1:10 000.


OFM ME 1998-14 Geological Map of the McAdams Lake area, Cape Breton County (parts of NTS sheets 11F/15, 11F/16, 11K/01 and 11K/02), Nova Scotia, by C. E. White and S. M. Barr, 1998. 1 coloured map, scale 1:20 000.


Open File Reports


Reports
