

Nova Scotia

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Minerals Update

Department of Natural Resources, Minerals and Energy Branch

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If you have any comments or questions about *Minerals Update*, please call or write:

The Editor, Minerals Update
Nova Scotia



Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 698
Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2T9
Phone: 902-424-2523
Fax: 902-424-7735



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Re-organization of the Department

A re-organization plan designed to make the Department of Natural Resources more efficient and less costly was presented to staff on March 29. Implementation of the plan began immediately. The restructuring will save approximately \$2.6 million during the next fiscal year and, when fully implemented, about \$4.9 million annually.

"The new structure will make better use of the department's financial and human resources", says Natural Resources Minister, Don Downe. "For example, it will consolidate some services, provide a more coordinated and integrated approach to resource management, and create a team approach to management and program delivery". Although a staff reduction is part of the re-organization, Mr. Downe says the impact will be minimal. "Most of the reduction will occur through early retirements, attrition and a few re-assignments". Only 13 layoff notices were issued. Laid off staff received a minimum of 40 working days notice with pay and were provided with counselling and other assistance to help them find employment, possibly with other government departments.

The plan will effect a staff reduction from 760 to 627 by the fiscal year 1997-98, a total reduction of 133 or 18%. The number of management positions will be reduced by 23%. This will be achieved largely by the elimination of positions that become vacant through early retirements. In

all, some 90 positions will not be refilled after incumbents retire.

Under the new structure, the Department will consolidate the previous seven branches into four new branches. The new branches are: **Renewable Resources**, which will be responsible for development, management, conservation, sustainability, and protection of forests, parks and protected areas, and wildlife resources; **Minerals and Energy**, with responsibility for development, management, conservation and protection of mineral and energy resources; **Regional Services**, which will provide programs and services through the department's network of field offices, reduced from the former six operational regions to three - Western, Central and Eastern; and **Corporate Services**, which will provide administrative and support services to the entire Department. The restructured Department will also have a small **Planning Secretariat** to coordinate policy, planning and evaluation activities. Responsibility for the province's petroleum resources will be assigned to a **Petroleum Development Agency**, which will serve as the focal point for government activities related to development of onshore and offshore oil and gas.

Mr. Downe says the new structure will enable the Department to do a better job of marketing. "The new arrangement will strengthen our mineral and forest products marketing initiatives, which will contribute to sustainable development and help create jobs for Nova Scotians".

Promotional Activities Deemed Successful

The Minerals Marketing Team of the Mines and Minerals Branch has been actively promoting the mineral potential of Nova Scotia. First they attended the Cordilleran Roundup, held in Vancouver between February 7 and 10, 1995. The Honourable Don Downe along with Mike MacDonald and Paul Smith visited ten company offices to spread the message that when it comes to mining Nova Scotia is "Open for Business". In addition, a "Taste of Nova Scotia" reception featuring

Toronto. Mr. Downe was once again accompanied by Mike MacDonald and Paul Smith for seven meetings with Ontario- and Quebec-based mining companies. Once again the companies were very receptive to the proactive marketing approach and several companies indicated they would further pursue some of the exploration and development opportunities conveyed by the team. A "Taste of Nova Scotia" breakfast was served to industry representatives, featuring some unique Nova Scotian recipes. A contingent of 14 local prospectors and industry representatives presented the results of their work in a series of panels in the Atlantic Canada Rock Room. A reception held in this room on Sunday evening attracted a noisy and enthusiastic crowd of nearly 700.

Based on the early response from companies, these promotional activities have been deemed a success. Revitalization of mineral exploration in Nova Scotia will have a beneficial effect and will hopefully lead to the development of new metallic and industrial mineral deposits.



The Honourable Don Downe greets Rod Thomas (BHP Minerals) at the "Taste of Nova Scotia" Breakfast at this year's PDAC meeting in Toronto.

seafood hors d'oeuvres attracted approximately 75 industry representatives. A display that featured recent developments in Nova Scotia was well received by the delegates and generated much interest and discussion. The response from companies was unanimously positive. In fact, several companies have already made initial inquiries about exploration and development opportunities in Nova Scotia.

From March 5 to 8 the Minerals Marketing Team and Minister Downe took their message to the Annual Meeting of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada in

From March 27 to 30 Mike MacDonald attended the 'Investing in the Americas '95' Conference in Miami as part of a "Team Canada Delegation" that included representatives from 8 provinces, 2 territories and the Federal Department of Natural Resources. Nearly 1200 delegates at the conferences were able to discuss the investment opportunities in Canada. The Honourable A. Anne McLellan, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, spoke to the delegates on Wednesday, March 29. She stressed that mining has been a key factor in Canada's economic development and continues to be a cornerstone in the government's strategy for an

innovative economy and job creation. Many of the participants were pleased and encouraged by Minister McLellan's presentation.

Stellarton Open House 1995

A second Stellarton Open House will be held this year, May 2nd and 3rd, at the Nova Scotia Museum of Industry, 147 North Foord Street, Stellarton, Nova Scotia. This event was initiated in April 1993 as a follow-up to the very successful 16th Annual Mines and Minerals Branch Review of Activities held in Halifax during November 1992 where guided tours were offered to area school children. Due to the overwhelming success of the Halifax event, it was thought that a similar event should be staged in Pictou County to offer the area's school children the same opportunity as their city cousins. It was also viewed as an opportunity to educate our youth on the positive contributions that mining makes to our society, which could go a long way to ensuring the future growth and stability of the mining industry in Nova Scotia during the challenging times ahead.

During the two days of structured tours for school children at the first Stellarton Open House, over 600 students toured the displays and were given a comprehensive overview of the mining industry in Nova Scotia. Unfortunately, an equal number of students had to be turned away due to limited space and concerns over crowd control.

The second event promises to offer even more to the visitor: not only will the Minerals and Energy Branch be promoting their industry, but all branches of our department are being asked to participate. A move of the Open House from the Core Library facility in the Stellarton Industrial Park to the more conveniently located Museum of Industry complex should result in a much higher level of public response during the two evening sessions being planned this time.



Students at 1994 Open House view an operating diamond drill at the Stellarton Core Library.

Some of the highlights of the first Open House which will again be presented in May are:

- an operating diamond-drill, which will be set up outside the museum complex;
- a display of drill core from a drillhole completed adjacent to the museum complex showing visitors the bedrock and coal seams beneath them; and
- demonstrations on how geologists use drill core to obtain the valuable scientific information it contains through geological logging, thin section preparation, microscopic investigation, and computer applications.

Addition of the other branches of the Department of Natural Resources to this Open House offers an excellent opportunity to showcase the many services this Department provides. The importance of the industries governed by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources will also be highlighted. The Museum of Industry complex provides an excellent facility for this second Stellarton Open House and it is hoped that as many staff members as possible will participate and share in this excellent opportunity to see first-hand what the other branches of our department do.

Naming of Core Library Buildings

The core library facilities at the Stellarton Industrial Park are the largest of the four rock core facilities of the Department of Natural Resources, and also serve as operational headquarters. As buildings were completed in the Industrial Park, staff informally spoke of them as the Alger, Bell, Cameron and Dawson buildings. With the addition of a fifth building in 1994, it was decided that the buildings should be formally named. On May 3rd, during the Department's Open House in Stellarton, the most recent building will be officially opened and named the Fletcher/Faribault Building. The other four buildings will also be officially named.

ALGER - Francis Alger. Alger visited Clementsport, Annapolis County, in 1826 with his father who was to erect a furnace for the smelting of iron ores. Francis collected minerals on this trip and on his return to Boston in 1827 he

published the first reports on the mineralogy of Nova Scotia.

BELL - Walter A. Bell (1889-1969). Bell studied and reported on the Carboniferous geology of Atlantic Canada from 1912. He joined the permanent staff of the Geological Survey of Canada in 1920, was appointed Senior Geologist in 1946, and was the Director from 1949-1953. On retirement from the GSC in 1957, he moved to New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, and worked for the Nova Scotia Department of Mines.

CAMERON - Harcourt L. Cameron. Cameron was one of Canada's foremost geologists, in what is now called remote sensing, from the late 1940s to the late 1950s. He was an authority on air photo interpretation and radar photography. He did mapping for the GSC, was a professor of geology at Acadia University, was head of the photogrammetry section of the Nova Scotia Research Foundation, and did pioneering work for NASA on high altitude air photo interpretation.

DAWSON - Sir John William Dawson (1820-1899). Dawson was born in Pictou, Nova Scotia. He was an educator, churchman, and world-famous geologist, author of four editions of *Acadian Geology*, first published in 1855. John William Dawson was the father of George Mercer Dawson (1849-1901) who was



Stellarton Core Library facilities.

appointed Assistant Director of the GSC in 1883, and Director in 1895.

FLETCHER/FARIBAULT - Hugh Fletcher and Eugene Rudolph Faribault were two contemporaries at the GSC who worked on Nova Scotian geology from the latter part of the 19th century well into the 20th century. Faribault concentrated on the Meguma Group of rocks - the gold-bearing series - that occupies southern Nova Scotia from Canso to Yarmouth. He produced numerous detailed maps of the various gold districts, in addition to various regional geological maps. Fletcher mapped extensive areas of non-Meguma rocks and reported on mineral resources of coal, gypsum, limestone, marble, building stone, and others. Even today, Fletcher and Faribault maps are models of geological and topographical data, carefully gathered and usefully displayed.

Status of Mineral Development Agreements

The succession of Mineral Development Agreements ("MDAs" as they have been commonly referred to), which have run almost continuously since 1974, will be terminated on March 31, 1995. Terms of the current agreement accommodate a "clean-up year" so the MDA effectively ends March 31, 1996. Because there was no provincial expenditure in the first year we have full funding for fiscal year 95/96. No new projects may be initiated but 44 existing and approved projects will be concluded during this period.

Termination of the latest MDA marks the end of an era during which the agreements provided long-term benefits to the mining industry and the general populace of Nova Scotia. The MDAs produced a commendable degree of cooperation between the Province and the Federal Government.

Conclusion of the MDAs will:

- see the loss of 75 full and part-time jobs by private consultants and government administrators;
- withdraw financial assistance from 22 local mining organizations and more than 100 resident prospectors;
- seriously reduce the availability of valuable technical input from Natural Resources Canada (GSC, CANMET and the Mineral Policy Sector); and
- generally decrease the Province's ability to compete internationally and nationally for the exploration and development funds necessary to maintain a viable mining industry.

It is important for our clients to know that there are some funds available for direct assistance to industry in this final fiscal year of the agreement. Programs still in effect are:

Mineral Investment Stimulation Program (MISP)

- 50:50 cost sharing to maximum contribution of \$50,000
- oversubscribed
- no additional projects may be considered

Prospectors Assistance Program (NSPAP)

- 100% funding, maximum \$5,000 per approved project
- 104 projects completed in past two years with encouraging results
- assured funding for approximately 40 new projects to be selected in April

Travel Assistance Program (TAP)

- 75% funding of acceptable expenses respecting travel to promote local prospects, maximum \$1,000 per individual
- 28 grants awarded in the past two years
- funding available for approximately 18 applications to be approved in this fiscal year.

Other projects of indirect benefit to industry (geological and geochemical surveys, technology transfers,

reclamation initiatives and public education activities) will be phased out over this final year.

All Department personnel involved in the delivery of projects under the MDA look forward to a busy and productive concluding year in 1995-96. We hope that we may be able to continue to fund some of the more successful MDA programs under an alternate financial arrangement.

Nineteenth Annual Review of Activities

Believe it or not, early preparations are being made for this year's Minerals and Energy Branch Review of Activities to be held at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax, November 7 and 8. Although planning for the event is still in its earliest stages, participants in the Review of Activities may appreciate some early notification of when things will happen. In early August an information package will be sent out to everyone we know or anticipate will be involved in the event. This will include a call for submission of summaries for the *Program and Summaries* as well as an inquiry regarding the need for poster space. The deadline for summaries and requests for display space will be September 12, 1995. Questions or comments about the upcoming Nineteenth Annual Review of Activities should be directed to Mike MacDonald at 902-424-2523 or fax to 902-424-7735.

Central Region IRM Pilot Project

(adapted from an article by Gary Westoll published in *Forest Times*, March/April, 1994)

The Department of Natural Resources has embarked on a new approach to resource planning on Crown lands in Nova Scotia. Integrated resource management (IRM) has been talked about for a number of years by forest

resource planners and users. It calls for the integrated planning and use of resources - forestry, wildlife, mineral and energy, preservation, and outdoor recreation - in the context of specific goals and objectives. The impact of each resource use, in relation to others, will have to be considered before designating land use and undertaking development activities. IRM has occurred on a small scale by a variety of land owners over time. All Crown lands will eventually be managed using this approach, presently being tested in a pilot project in Colchester and Cumberland Counties.

The Department has learned through its strategic plan that both the general public and specific clients identified the need for IRM. In addition, Nova Scotia and Canada have signed sustainable development agreements that claim IRM to be a sound planning strategy. A concerted effort is underway to consider all the individual resource parts as a whole when formulating plans and directing resource activities.

IRM strategies will be developed following a process outlined in a departmental procedural guide with planning at the regional level, coordinated by a local DNR project team with assistance from outside expertise as required. Public consultation will be an important element of the planning process in the Central region, which is expected to take up to 12 months to complete. Ample opportunity exists for public input to advise the Department on how Crown land should be used and what benefits they expect as a result. It is expected that IRM will result in a combination of single, concurrent and multiple uses on various Crown land blocks. For instance, the pilot project may show that certain forestry practices are compatible with recreational uses on one parcel of land but not on another. IRM is all about choosing the combination of options available to meet specified goals and objectives. The Department is confident that the IRM process with public consultation will result in better choices for the natural resources of

January - March 1995 Open Assessment Reports

REPORT	NTS	LICENSEE
93-002	011F/04D	Giant Meguma Holdings
93-003	011F/16D	Whitelaw, R M
93-004	011F/14B	Kelrock Limited
93-008	011K/10B	Tri-Explorations Limited
93-009	021A/07C	Rypinski, W
93-034	021A/07C	Gold Bank Resources Incorporated
	011E/04B	
93-060	011E/13A	Noranda Exploration Company Limited

Nova Scotia. Further information on the IRM Pilot Project will be announced soon and enquiries should be directed to:

Gary Westoll, (Acting) Chief
Regional IRM
Department of Natural Resources
626 College Road
Bible Hill, Nova Scotia
B2N 2R2

Phone: 902-893-5626

Fax: 902-893-5613

Prospecting Course Continues

The course *Prospecting and Geology in Nova Scotia*, which has been conducted across Nova Scotia since 1983, will once again be offered to interested persons this year. The course is funded through the Canada-Nova Scotia Cooperation Agreement on Mineral Development and is designed to teach the participants the basic skills necessary for prospecting and mineral exploration. If you would like additional information about the Prospecting course call Howard Donohoe @ 902-424-7199; Fax 902-424-7735.

Mining Society Hosts CIM Meeting

This year the Mining Society of Nova Scotia is privileged to host the Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM). CIM - Halifax '95

will be the first time that this premiere event of the Canadian mining industry has been held in Atlantic Canada. In case you are not already aware, the Mining Society of Nova Scotia is one of the original founding members of the CIM and, thus, having this year's 97th meeting of the Institute in Halifax is returning the CIM to its roots.

The convention and trade show will take over both the World Trade and Convention Centre and the Metro Centre from May 14-18 and promises to attract between two and three thousand delegates, exhibitors and other accompanying persons to the city. The theme of the convention, "Gateway to the Atlantic", will focus on the Atlantic region's proximity to major ocean trade routes and the advantages this provides. The CIM Tradex and a program of 194 technical presentations on numerous topics of interest to industry will bring to the region delegates from across Canada, the United States, and overseas as far away as the Russian Republics, South Africa and Australia. Clearly, this will be the largest mining convention ever held in Atlantic Canada and although it will, no doubt, showcase our region to the international mining community, it will also serve to educate the people of our Province on the sheer magnitude and importance of the mining industry in Canadian society.

Early planning for Halifax '95 began in 1988 and picked up in earnest in 1993 with appointment of Nick Oldale as General Chairman. Nick has assembled a team of dedicated industry and government representatives who have worked hard with the CIM Secretariat in Montreal

to plan the conference. Our Minerals and Energy Branch is well represented on the organizing committee, in line with a pledged commitment on the part of the Department to provide support to the Mining Society to ensure this significant event is a success. Branch staff on the committee are George O'Reilly, General Secretary, John Campbell, Arrangements, Bob Boehner, Sessions Services, Peter Rogers, Registration, and Gordon Adams, Technical Program. In addition, Mike Corey and Paul Smith have committed to giving technical presentations on aspects of Nova Scotia's mineral potential and Peter Rogers is organizing several pre-convention workshops. All in all, Halifax '95 promises to be the most significant mining event ever held in the region and anyone involved in the mining or mining service industries will not want to miss it.

Record Year for Gypsum Shipments

1994 was a record year for Nova Scotia gypsum shipments according to

statistics collected by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. A total of 7.04 Mt of gypsum were shipped in 1994, just surpassing the old record of 7.02 Mt set in 1988 (see figure). Five companies produce gypsum in Nova Scotia with the vast majority of gypsum being shipped to wallboard plants along the U.S. Eastern Seaboard. Lesser amounts are used as a set retarder in the manufacturing of cement. The increase in demand can be attributed largely to strong economic growth in the U.S. and to a number of relatively recent natural disasters there which resulted in extensive building repairs as well as new construction.

Nova Scotia is the most productive gypsum mining area in the world, accounting for roughly 78% of Canada's total gypsum production and approximately 7% of the world's. National Gypsum (Canada) Limited's operation at East Milford, Halifax County, is the largest gypsum quarry in the world and is also the largest bulk shipper out of the port of Halifax. Nova Scotia's gypsum industry directly employs approximately 500 persons and pays out roughly \$15M in salaries

and wages. Nova Scotia has a long history of gypsum mining dating back to the late 1700s.

Geo - Logic

By Martha Devanney.

Anaerobic - A kind of exercise that doesn't improve one's breathing.

Meander - A twisted version of "she and I".

Terra - What geologists feel when they watch a horror film.

Dates to remember

May 14 to 18, 1995 Joint annual meetings of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum, and the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax. For more information please call George O'Reilly, 902-424-2517 (Fax 902-424-7735).

May 17 to 19, 1995 Annual Meeting of the Geological Association of Canada - Mineralogical Association of Canada, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C. For further information contact Mary O'Rourke, 604-721-8465 (Fax 604-721-6200).

July 24 to 30, 1995 South Shore Exhibition, Bridgewater. For more information contact Roland O'Brien, 902-543-3341 (Fax 902-527-1890).

August 17 to 20, 1995 Rockhound Round-up, Fundy Geological Museum, Parrsboro. For more information contact Rose MacAloney, 902-254-3814 (Fax 902-254-3666).

November 7 and 8, 1995 Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, Minerals and Energy Branch, Annual Review of Activities, World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax. For additional information call Mike MacDonald, 902-424-2523 (Fax 902-424-7735).

Review of Nova Scotia's Gypsum Shipments 1982 - 1994

