

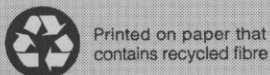
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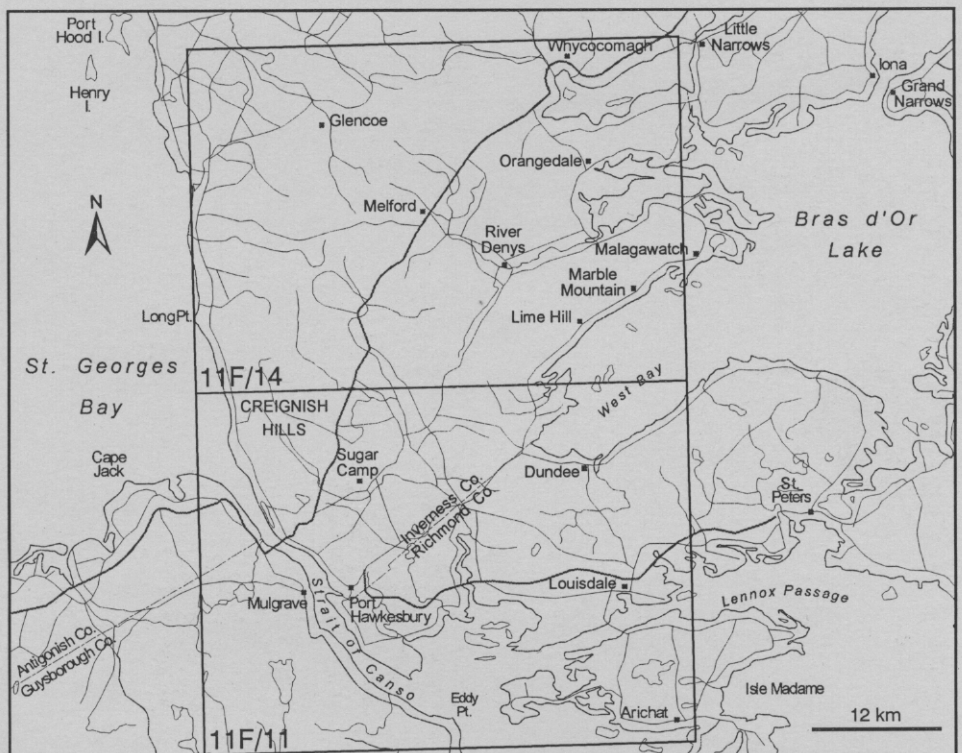
New Federal-Provincial Geoscience Project for Cape Breton Island

A new collaborative geoscience project by the Mineral and Energy Resources Division and the Geological Survey of Canada is about to get underway in south-central Cape Breton Island. The objective of the project is to stimulate mineral exploration in this area, which is known to contain a variety of industrial mineral and base metal resources.

Major funding for the project is being provided by the federal Targeted Geoscience Initiative. This initiative was announced in the federal government's budget for 2000. It will provide \$5 million per year for the next three

years to support geoscience projects across Canada, in areas of known mineral potential that have not been extensively explored, and in mining camps where known mineral reserves are being depleted. Projects will be managed by the Geological Survey of Canada, and will operate as partnerships among the GSC, provincial and territorial geological surveys, and private sector companies. Some 26 projects have been approved to begin operation in the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

The Cape Breton Island project will receive \$780,000 from the Targeted Geoscience Initiative over its three-year lifetime. Contributions from DNR and GSC,



Location of the project area in south-central Cape Breton Island (NTS 11F/11 & 11F/14).

(Continued from page 1)

as both salaries and some operating expenses, bring the total three-year project budget to \$1.775 million.

This project will make a significant advance in our understanding of the geological evolution of Nova Scotia's Carboniferous basins and their Mesozoic - Cenozoic successors. Basin development included formation of a rich storehouse of mineral deposits, particularly in rocks of the Windsor Group and equivalents, which continue to make a major contribution to the natural resource economy of the Maritimes. The overlying, unconsolidated Mesozoic and Cenozoic sediments record an extensive exhumation of the underlying Paleozoic rocks, including the Carboniferous, and contain deposits of industrial minerals that contribute significantly to the province's mineral economy and are the subject of extensive exploration in mainland Nova Scotia. These sediments also record deformation, including Carboniferous reactivation of faults that have been the foci of base metal mineralization.

The project presents a rare opportunity to bring together an experienced and expert scientific team to examine and reassess the large amounts of existing information, and to acquire new data that are critical to the next stage in interpreting and understanding this geology.

Work will be done in both the Carboniferous bedrock and the overlying Mesozoic and Cenozoic sediments. The Carboniferous component will focus on improving understanding of the Windsor Group, and will include studies of existing drill core, compilation of existing maps, and new 1:10 000 and 1:50 000 scale mapping in areas of good exposure. Work in the Mesozoic and Cenozoic will acquire fundamental data about compositional variations and three-dimensional distribution of the sediments. Studies to document known and newly discovered mineral deposits will be done in conjunction with these mapping components to ensure that the products of the project include a comprehensive, up-to-date database of mineral deposits. Maps and reports will be released

annually, and planning for final products is underway.

The Cape Breton Island project will be led by Peter Giles of the Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic). DNR's participation will be managed by Bob Boehner. Peter and Bob will be active participants in the Carboniferous component of the project, along with Rob Naylor of DNR. The Mesozoic - Cenozoic component of the project will be operated by Ralph Stea (DNR) and Susan Pullan (GSC Ottawa). Ralph and Susan collaborated on a similar effort in the Musquodoboit Valley in the mid-1990s which led to the discovery of previously unknown kaolin and silica deposits. Other DNR participants will include Chris White, Phil Finck, Garth DeMont, George O'Reilly, Dan Kontak, Brian Fisher and Jeff Poole.

Additional information about the project and the Targeted Geoscience Initiative can be obtained from Mike Cherry (phone 902-424-8135, or e-mail cherryyme@gov.ns.ca).

Mike Cherry

Remembering Paul Lombard (1960-2000)

For those of us in the Minerals and Energy Branch, Paul Lombard was an original member of the Brewery Crew (working in the Keith's Brewery building from 1985 to 1994) and most of all a cherished friend. Paul died on May 31, 2000, after a five-year fight with cancer. He is survived by his wife Norrine and daughter Natalie, as well as his parents and sister.

When Paul Lombard graduated from St. Mary's University in 1983 he had never missed a single day of elementary school, junior high, high school or university. His vigour in the field is legendary; he moved through the woods of Nova Scotia like a deer, seeming never to touch the limbs and twigs of trees as he passed through them. Paul was fit, fast, light and agile. He excelled in all sports but particularly enjoyed outdoor activities such as kayaking, fishing, skiing, hiking, scuba diving and golf.



Paul Lombard (L) and George O'Reilly enjoy a spring field trip in 1998.

Paul was born to run. In 1988 he traveled to Alberta so that he could carry the Olympic torch on a leg of its journey to the Calgary Winter Games. Later that year, having never trained for distances greater than 10 km, he entered the Halifax Marathon and finished in the top 20. We could smell the Ben Gay for days after.

Paul loved his work as a geologist, and many colleagues became a strong source of support for him in recent years. For us he was an inspiration. Even after numerous setbacks Paul came to our field trips and Christmas parties, where he was always the best dancer. He also loved the Boston Bruins and greatly enjoyed a trip to see them play at the new Fleet Center in Boston this past winter.

Paul Lombard was an extraordinary man. For most of his life he was an athlete who enjoyed exceptionally good health, but he died before his fortieth birthday. Such contradictions are very sad.

Doug MacDonald

Black Bull Continues Quartz-Kaolin Exploration

Black Bull Resources Inc., under an option agreement with CAG Enterprises Ltd., has completed an initial exploration program for its Flintstone Rock kaolin-quartz project in southwestern Nova Scotia. The property is situated along the Tobeatic Fault Zone, at the southern margin of the South Mountain Batholith. Work to date has included trenching, geophysical surveys (IP), diamond-drilling and sample testing. Two large trenches were recently excavated and the company has collected small bulk samples (<100 tonnes) for preliminary testing. Test results should be received this July.

The company has completed 29 drillholes to date and reports that the target alteration zone varies from 100 to 200 m in width, exceeds 100 m in depth and extends along strike for 1200 m. The large hydrothermal zone, as defined by Black Bull, crosses granitic rocks approximately 10 km southeast of the former East Kemptville tin mine and extends into the adjacent Meguma Group metasedimentary rocks. The alteration zone consists primarily of a core of brecciated quartz flanked by kaolinized granite. The quartz-kaolin deposits closely resemble kaolin deposits in the Cornwall region of the U. K., where tin deposits in peraluminous granites, similar to the East Kemptville tin deposit, have been mined for their metal content since Roman times.

The company has applied for the necessary permits to collect a 10 000 tonne bulk sample of kaolin and quartz. Black Bull will use the bulk sample to further evaluate the use of both quartz and kaolin in various industrial applications, including the use of quartz in the manufacture of silicon metals.

Discovery of these Cornish-style quartz-kaolin deposits along a major structure in southwestern Nova Scotia may provide an excellent exploration opportunity for the remainder of the South Mountain Batholith, and other peraluminous granites in the Meguma Zone.

Mike MacDonald



Recent trenching of quartz- and kaolin-rich zones at Black Bull Resources Inc.'s Flintstone Rock property in southwestern Nova Scotia.

Summary of Mineral Industry Activity in Nova Scotia, 1999

In 1999, the estimated value of Nova Scotia's mineral production, including secondary mineral processing but excluding crude petroleum, totalled \$340 million, a 3% decrease from 1998. Coal sales dropped by 25% as production problems continued to plague the province's largest coal mine, the Cape Breton Development Corporation's Phalen Colliery. On September 13, 1999, the federal Crown Corporation announced it was closing Phalen. The colliery produced just under seventeen million tonnes of coal over its fifteen year life. The province's only gold mine, Tangier Limited Partnership's Blueberry Hill Mine in Tangier, Halifax County, closed after only a few months of operation, citing poor recoveries. On a positive note, 1999 was a record year for Nova Scotia gypsum production with 7.9 million tonnes shipped, mainly to wallboard plants along the US Eastern Seaboard (see *Nova Scotia Minerals Update* vol. 17, no. 2). Shipments of cement, barite and clay products also increased in 1999

while salt production remained virtually unchanged at 842,000 tonnes. Production of construction aggregates (crushed stone, sand and gravel) in 1999 totalled 10.6 million tonnes, down slightly from the year before. Employment in Nova Scotia's mineral industry totalled roughly 2500 persons, a decline of 24% from 1998 levels. This was primarily due to closure of the Phalen Colliery.

Preliminary figures indicate exploration expenditures (field plus overhead) totalled \$3.4 million in 1999, down moderately from the year before. If engineering, economic and feasibility studies as well as environmental and land access costs are added, the total is \$4.2 million. The majority of these expenditures were made by junior mining companies searching for industrial mineral commodities (kaolin, silica, titanium, barite). The total area under exploration licence, including special licences, at the end of 1999 was approximately 230 660 hectares, up roughly 50% over 1998's figure of 151 000 hectares.

Ian MacLellan

Impacts of Government Restructuring on the Mineral and Energy Resources Division

In March 2000, the Government of Nova Scotia released "The Course Ahead", a document which describes a restructuring plan for all provincial government departments, boards and agencies. The re-organization includes an overall reduction in the size of government in Nova Scotia, and has already had a significant impact on the Mineral and Energy Resources Division. Additional changes to the Division are anticipated as the government proceeds to implement the vision described in "The Course Ahead."

To assist in addressing issues related to deficit budgets and a growing provincial debt, the government directed departments to provide options to reduce their budgets by 25 percent over two years. The Mineral and Energy Resources Division contributed options for reductions to its program as part of a larger submission by the Department of Natural Resources. Departmental options were reviewed by the government, which developed budgets that reflect the options it accepted or rejected. The Division's budget for the 2000-2001 fiscal year was cut by approximately 20 percent from the previous year and contained the following changes that affect the geoscience programs and services delivered by the Division:

- The Drill Core Library in Stellarton will become a turn-key operation, providing access to clients on demand.
- There will be a general reduction in public education and activities that promote awareness of the province's natural resources.
- There will be a reduction in funding for geology and mineral technology programs.

The budget eliminated four positions at the Drill Core Library (two

staffed positions and two vacant positions), and challenged the Division to develop a plan by which a reduced level of service can be provided in a "turn-key" operation. We are now working on this plan, which will be implemented next year. As an initial step, we have canvassed provincial geological surveys across Canada that have "turn-key" drill core libraries for advice on how we can best continue to operate this valuable facility. In the interim, John McMullin and Don Weir, who remain on staff at Stellarton, will do their best to maintain the high quality of service to which our clients are accustomed.

The Division's Minerals Outreach Program has been eliminated. This program provided information about mineral resources and the earth sciences to the public and government, assisted in training earth science teachers, and provided liaison between the Department and minerals-related professional associations and agencies. Examples of activities that will no longer be done are co-ordination of Mining Week activities, and support of teacher training. Eliminated with the Minerals Outreach Program was the staff position so capably filled by Howard Donohoe. Howard has accepted a posting in the Minerals Management Division headed by Don Jones, and will continue to co-ordinate the Prospector Assistance Program in his new position.

It is important to note that the loss of the Minerals Outreach Program will not affect the Division's Mineral Promotion activities, which are led by Mike MacDonald. Mineral promotion, which ranges from casual conversations with prospectors and explorationists to provision of information to national and international companies about Nova Scotia's mineral resources to representation in national and international conferences and

publications, will continue as an important part of the activities of every staff member. Our annual conference - Mining Matters for Nova Scotia - will be held as usual, this year on October 30 and 31 at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax (see article page 6). We will continue to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. We will also continue to aggressively promote the mineral industry to other provincial and municipal departments and agencies, with the objective of ensuring that mining is not overlooked in planning for Nova Scotia's future.

Impacts of the budget reductions beyond the change to the Drill Core Library and the elimination of the Minerals Outreach Program will also be evident. Two administrative support positions in the Division's Halifax office were eliminated, with a concomitant impact on our ability to respond to clients. Cuts to general operating budgets have necessitated reductions in field activities and supporting laboratory and office investigations. Fortunately, some of these cuts will be offset by a new collaborative project in south-central Cape Breton Island with the Geological Survey of Canada (see article page 1). However, cuts to the Division's operating budget will result in greatly reduced funding for professional services, student salaries and travel.

Change is often difficult, especially when it means loss of a valued service to which we are accustomed. It will be important for us to know what services our clients value most as we plan to meet the challenges presented to us in "The Course Ahead." I welcome your comments and suggestions about how we can best meet these challenges.

Mike Cherry
Director, Mineral and Energy Resources Division
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cherryme@gov.ns.ca

From the Mineral Inventory Files

Fault-controlled Zinc Mineralization at Kirkmount and Georgeville

There are several zinc prospects in the Antigonish Highlands which quite possibly owe their genesis to movements on the regional Hollow Fault. Among these are the Kirkmount Zn-Ag prospect, located a few kilometres southeast of Stellarton, and several sites in the Georgeville area near Cape George (see map). These prospects share some important similarities in host rock and mineralization style.

Veins and veinlets of the Zn-silicate willemite (Zn_2SiO_4) were discovered in the Kirkmount area by St. Joseph Explorations Ltd. in 1980. This exploration was a follow up to stream sediment Zn anomalies reported in that area during a 1977 Department of Mines regional survey. A follow-up soil sediment survey by St. Joseph indicated a large Zn anomaly and one of its two diamond-drill holes intersected calcite and calcite-willemite stringer zones in a sheared and faulted sequence of late Precambrian metawacke and argillite. St. Joseph also recognized the local presence of native Ag in outcrops and boulders containing calcite veins.

Willemite is a relatively rare mineral and only a few places in the world host bodies of mineable size. Most notable are the Sterling Hill and Franklin deposits of New Jersey. Mining ceased there in the mid-1980s, but they remain world-class mineral collecting sites for willemite, which is noted for its characteristic brilliant green fluorescence in ultraviolet light.

Falconbridge Ltd. explored Kirkmount from 1985-1987 and its seven diamond-drill holes re-affirmed the St. Joseph findings and defined a fault-controlled, vertically dipping, mineralized zone 32 m wide and at least 151 m deep. Falconbridge also made a firm connection between the Zn and Ag and recognized fine-grained sphalerite and minor barite. With the data presently available, the Kirkmount mineral occurrence would be summarized as low grade but extensive. Grades are com-

monly 1-2% Zn over many tens of feet (e.g. 1.66% Zn over 68 ft.).

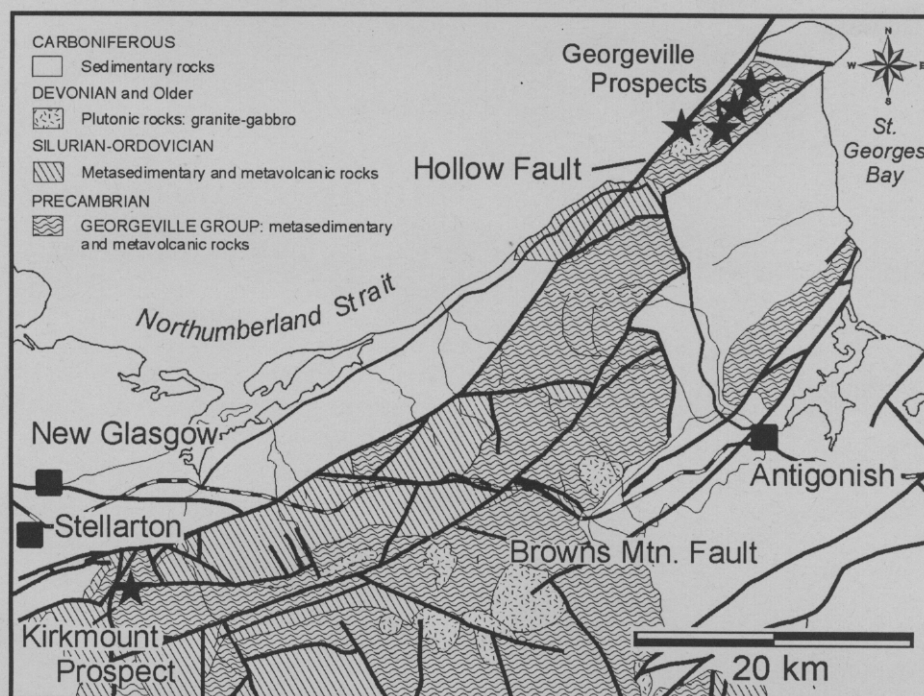
Several occurrences of Zn, Pb and Cu in the Georgeville area have been known since the early 1950s when they were first recognized along the seashore. New Jersey Zinc Exploration Co. Ltd. explored the area from 1967-1970, and its soil geochemical surveys and nine diamond-drill holes revealed zones of low grade, but extensive, fault-controlled sphalerite $\{(Zn, Fe) S\}$. Intersections were commonly in the order of 0.5 to 1% Zn over significant intervals (e.g. 0.69% Zn over an impressive 170 ft.). The sphalerite occurs predominantly in late Precambrian argillite and calcareous metasilstone, but occurrences were also noted in metavolcanic rocks of the same age and in small diorite, gabbro and syenitic plugs that intrude these rocks.

Both the Kirkmount and Georgeville areas are underlain by the same sequence of metasedimentary and metavolcanic rocks belonging to the late Precambrian Georgeville Group. Mineral occurrences in both areas are fault-controlled

and associated with development of carbonate veins. Given the similar appearance of willemite and calcite in normal light, one has to wonder if the common calcite veins at Georgeville actually contain willemite. The structural control on mineralization is further exemplified by the position of both areas adjacent to the Hollow Fault and other northeast-trending faults that traverse the Antigonish Highlands. These faults are splays related to the Cobeguid-Chedabucto Fault System and its vast spectrum of fault-controlled and Fe-carbonate dominated vein deposits.

The most notable difference between these deposits is the main Zn-bearing mineral phase: willemite at Kirkmount and sphalerite at Georgeville. Willemite is generally considered a supergene mineral (i.e. the result of secondary alteration of an existing Zn body). Regardless of whether or not the willemite is primary or supergene, its presence at Kirkmount indicates that a significant source of Zn resides in the immediate area.

George O'Reilly



Map of the Antigonish Highlands showing faults and selected mineral occurrences.

Fundy Geological Museum to Host Second Annual Conference

The Fundy Geological Museum will host its second annual conference to commemorate the development of the science of geology in Nova Scotia. This year's mini-symposium will highlight the work of one of Canada's first geologists, Dr. Abraham Gesner. Born in Cornwallis Township, Kings County, Nova Scotia, Dr. Gesner moved his family to Parrsboro (Partridge Island Settlement) in 1828, where he set up a medical practice and pursued his interest in geology. Dr. Gesner's research into a cleaner fuel for lamps led to the development of a process for refining kerosene. His work touched on a variety of subjects in addition to geology. His publications included works on mining, forestry, agriculture, water power, fisheries, emigration, industry, medicine and the aboriginal peoples of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. His work *A Practical Treatise on Coal, Petroleum and Other Distilled Oils*, published in 1861, helped lay the groundwork for today's petrochemical industry.

The Second Annual Geological Conference will be held on the weekend of September 16th and 17th at the Fundy Geological Museum in Parrsboro. A fee of \$50.00 per person includes meals and conference registration. There will be post-conference field trips to local sites on Sunday, September 17, 2000. Anyone interested in presenting a paper at this conference is invited to contact Ken Adams (email: adamskd@gov.ns.ca) at (902) 254-3814 or Marilyn Smith (email: smithmf@gov.ns.ca). Persons wishing to attend the symposium, or those seeking accommodation, may also contact the museum.

Kenneth Adams
Director/Curator
Fundy Geological Museum
P.O. Box 640, Parrsboro, Nova Scotia B0M 1S0
Website: www.fundygeomuseum.com
E-mail: fundy@sympatico.ca

April-June Open Assessment Reports

Report Number	Claim Ref. Map	Licensee
AR ME 1978-50	11K/08B	Novaco Limited
AR ME 1998-42	021A/09B	Grantham, R E
AR ME 1998-43	021A/09B	Grantham, R E
AR ME 1998-44	011D/13A	Prud'homme, C
AR ME 1998-45	011D/13A	Fisher, E
AR ME 1998-47	021H/07B	Gold'n Crystal Minerals
AR ME 1998-48	021H/07A	Gold'n Crystal Minerals
AR ME 1998-49	021H/07A	Gold'n Crystal Minerals
AR ME 1998-50	011D/12D	Marchant, R
AR ME 1998-51	011D/13D	MacDonald, A
AR ME 1998-52	011D/15C	Corner Bay Minerals Incorporated
	011E/02B	
AR ME 1998-53	011F/09C	A J Perron Gold Corporation
	011F/16B	
AR ME 1998-54	011D/12D	Marchant, R
AR ME 1998-55	011E/07D	MacKenzie, D B
AR ME 1998-56	011K/02B	Jubilee Minerals Limited
AR ME 1998-57	011K/02C	Johnson, C G
	011K/07B	
AR ME 1998-58	011K/02C	Johnson, C G
AR ME 1998-59	021H/07A	Boddy, D
	021H/07B	
AR ME 1998-60	021H/02D	WTC Resources Limited
AR ME 1998-61	011D/12D	Marchant, R
AR ME 1998-62	011D/16C	Oicle, G
AR ME 1999-7	011D/13B	Findley, C
AR ME 1999-18	011E/04A	Poole, E
AR ME 1999-30	021A/09B	Grantham, R E
AR ME 1999-31	021A/09B	Grantham, R E
AR ME 1999-40	021A/14A	Bent, H E
	021A/14B	
AR ME 2000-39	021H/09D	Delta Coal Incorporated

Susan Saunders and Norman Lyttle

Mining Matters 2000

The prevailing attitude in many segments of society is that resource-sector industries are "sunset industries" whose time has passed. Is this true? Absolutely not! Most people are aware that Nova Scotia is undergoing an unprecedented economic growth; just take a look at metro Halifax real estate trends! Why is the provincial economy growing? Largely this is happening because of developments in offshore gas and related industries, such as pipeline construction. This economic resurgence results from investment in one of our natural resources, not the "new economy".

The oil and gas sector is booming, so what are the opportunities for economic development related to minerals? What are some of the new commodities under exploration in Nova Scotia? How can we add value to our mineral resources through secondary processing? What are geoscience organizations, such as DNR, doing to assist mineral and energy development? Find out at the **Mining Matters for Nova Scotia** conference, October 30 and 31, 2000, at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax. See you there!

Mike MacDonald

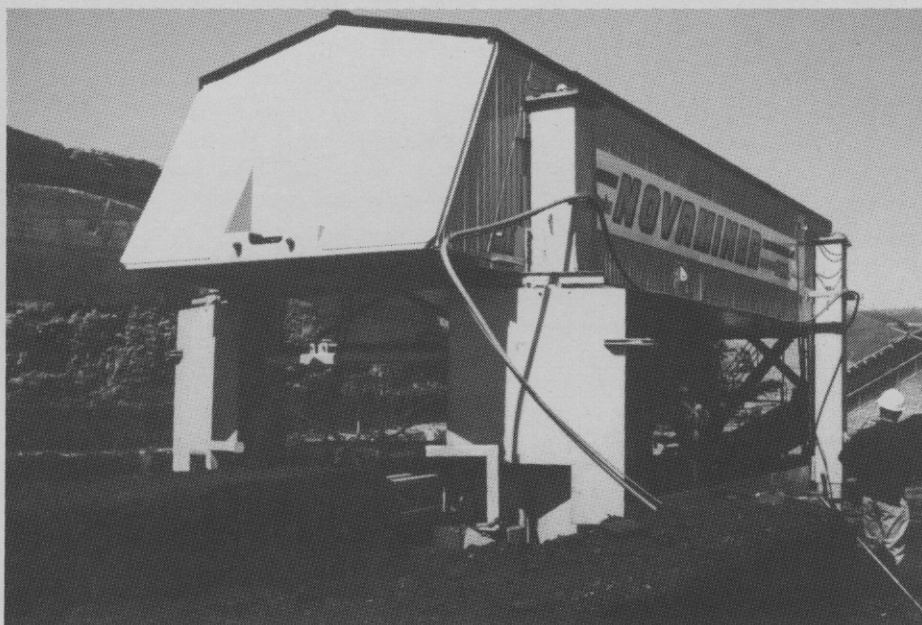
High-wall Mining Technology for Surface Coal Mines

Until now, the economic limit for depth at most surface coal operations in Nova Scotia has been approximately 50 m, although a few have achieved an economic depth of 100 m. Geological mapping and diamond-drilling in the Carboniferous basins of Nova Scotia have indicated that most surface coal deposits have potential for development below these 50-100 m limits.

Different types of high-wall coal mining technology are currently in use, primarily in the U.S. and Australia. The auger mining technique was tested at Pioneer Coal Limited's surface coal mine at Reserve Mines in the late 1980s. Another variation involves extraction of coal with a remote-controlled continuous miner which advances several hundred metres into the coal seam. Coal is removed with a modular conveyor system attached to the continuous miner. However, this technology has never been used on coal seams that exceed 15° dip. Many coal resources in Nova Scotia are in seams with dips from 15°-25°.

Pioneer Coal Limited and affiliated companies operate several surface coal mines in Nova Scotia. Pioneer has been working for many years to develop a high-wall mining system capable of operating on steeper-dipping seams. The company recently completed construction of the NOVAMINER 2000 high-wall mining system at its facilities in Antigonish and is conducting test mining at its Coalburn mine. The NOVAMINER 2000 is a unique high-wall mining system, designed and built in Nova Scotia, and represents a significant advance for mining near-surface, dipping coal seams. The system is more powerful and robust than existing types, with innovative conveyor systems designed for non-continuous operation on steep slopes. This is an exciting development for the coal industry in Nova Scotia and may extend both mine life and mineable reserves for surface coal operations in the province. The technology may also reduce the environmental impact associated with surface mining.

Mike MacDonald and John Campbell



Pioneer Coal Limited's NOVAMINER 2000 high-wall miner undergoes testing at the Coalburn mine site, Pictou County.

New Geological Map Released of the Wolfville-Windsor Area

The Minerals and Energy Branch of DNR and the Acadia University Department of Geology unveiled a new 1:50 000 scale geological map of the Wolfville-Windsor area, Hants and Kings counties, on Thursday, May 11, 2000 (Minerals and Energy Branch Open File Map ME 2000-3). The event was held in the Huggins Science Hall at Acadia University in Wolfville with the attendance of many of those associated with the project.

The Wolfville-Windsor area is unique in containing most of the major rock units that constitute southern mainland Nova Scotia, including the type and reference sections of many of these units. The geology of the area is an excellent record of continental collision and evolution of the Appalachian Mountains, and the subsequent development of two major sedimentary basins and a major rift basin heralding the opening of the Atlantic Ocean through

what is now the Bay of Fundy. The area also hosts the longest operating gypsum mines in Nova Scotia.

The new map is based on work by Dr. Reg Moore and the late Dr. Stewart Ferguson of Acadia University, begun in the 1960s and continuing to the 1990s. Drs. Moore and Ferguson have inspired many students and professors who have been part of Acadia University's geological community. The map is an example of long-term co-operation among Acadia University, Fundy Gypsum Company Limited and DNR, and provides a greater understanding of the geology and natural history of the region and its mineral, energy and water resource potential. Thanks are extended to the many friends, family and colleagues who attended to acknowledge the substantial personal and professional contributions of Drs. Moore and Ferguson.

Bob Boehner

The Prospector's Stake

Safety is a key to success. When prospectors think about the practice of safety, they help to ensure that they do not lose time because of preventable injuries. And, of course, without injuries and down time, more time can be spent in the field with greater possibilities of a lucky strike!

The prime season for exploration has now arrived. I would like to stress to prospectors that the practice of safety is relatively easy and employs a lot of common sense. When safe work methods are married with the traditional values of prospectors—optimism, determination and curiosity—the result is a recipe for success.

How can you learn more about safe work methods? The free publication *Safe Work Methods Handbook*, prepared by the Minerals and Energy Branch, is a great starting point. This manual provides detailed information and a common sense approach to safety in the field. You may also enroll in a prospecting course (basic or advanced). If you have a prospector assistance contribution from the Prospector Assistance Program, you will attend a "Due Diligence Seminar on Prospector Safety." Safe work methods are also reviewed during each of the Nova Scotia Prospector Association field trips. The DNR Library has several publications from elsewhere in Canada that offer advice and information on safe work methods.

Here in Nova Scotia, please review the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and its associated regulations for the details about specific work practices and first aid requirements. By the way, don't forget to prepare a Remote Location First Aid Plan prior to setting out for the field. You can find out more about this by reviewing the *Safe Work Methods Handbook* or asking Ron Mills or Howard Donohoe.

When prospectors use safe work methods they lower the risk of accidents and related time off, and increase their sense of well-being, which may translate into more discoveries.

Howard Donohoe

Professional Status Closer

Professional registration for geoscientists is closer to fruition now than ever before. In the past two months the Association of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia (APENS) and the Association of Professional Geoscientists of Nova Scotia (APGNS) have each held a plebiscite of their members to seek approval of draft changes to the revised *Engineering Act*. The existing *Engineering Act* will be amended (and renamed *The Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act*) to include geoscientists as members. The results of the formal membership poll showed that 93% of engineers and 96% of geoscientists who returned their ballot favour the changes. Both APENS and APGNS hope that the government will move quickly to pass the legislation.

Nova Scotia is the only jurisdiction without a legislated registration requirement for geoscientists. All other territories and provinces, with the exception of Yukon and Quebec, have appropriate enabling legislation. The Government of Quebec is preparing an omnibus act which will include professional registration for geoscience and a number of other professions.

Formalizing the professional status of geoscientists in Nova Scotia is timely. Very soon the Toronto Stock Exchange and the Ontario Securities Commission will invoke the use of National Instrument 101, which sets out the requirements for using the services of a "qualified person" in supervision of mineral exploration programs and preparation of written material.

Howard Donohoe

Special Note

Surficial Geology Website

Readers of the *Nova Scotia Minerals Update* are invited to take a virtual field trip to see the landscapes of Nova Scotia. The field trip was created by DNR geologist Ralph Stea and provides spectacular vistas from the air as well as close-ups from ground level. The field trip is accompanied by lots of maps and reading material on the glacial and surficial geology of Nova Scotia. Take a test flight at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb/field/start.htm>.

Report of Activities 1999

The Minerals and Energy Branch Report of Activities 1999 (Report ME 2000-1) will be available from the DNR Library in Halifax on July 24, 2000. 268 p. \$14.

Dates to Remember

August 18-20, 2000

Nova Scotia Mineral and Gem Show, Lion's Arena, Parrsboro, NS. For information contact Marylyn Goguen (902-254-3814).

September 16 and 17, 2000

Second Annual Geological Symposium, Fundy Geological Museum, Parrsboro, NS. See page 6. For more information contact Marilyn Smith (902-254-3814).

October 30 and 31, 2000

Mining Matters for Nova Scotia 2000. See page 6. For more information contact Mike MacDonald (phone 902-424-2523 or e-mail mamacdon@gov.ns.ca).

November 2-4, 2000

Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador, 24th Annual Review of Activities and CIM Newfoundland Branch 47th Annual Meeting. Delta Hotel, St. John's, NF. For more information contact Baxter Keen (phone 709-729-5946 or e-mail bfk@zeppo.geosurv.gov.nf.ca).

November 6-8, 2000

New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy, Annual Review of Activities. Sheraton Inn, Fredericton, NB. For more information contact Don Carroll (phone 506-453-6624 or e-mail dcarroll@gnb.ca).