

Nova Scotia

Minerals Update

Department of Natural Resources, Minerals and Energy Branch

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Comments or questions? Please contact:Doug MacDonald
Editor, *Nova Scotia Minerals Update*

Minerals and Energy Branch
P.O. Box 698, Halifax
Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2T9
Phone 902-424-2510
E-mail drmacdon@gov.ns.ca
Minerals Update Web Site:
<http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb>



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25th Year for Fall Conference

For 25 years, the Mines and Minerals group of the Department of Natural Resources has hosted a Fall conference to showcase geoscience research and promote mineral development opportunities in Nova Scotia. The first 'Open House' was held in the Fall of 1977 at the Nova Scotia Technical College (now called DalTech) on Barrington Street. Since then, the event has been held at the Lord Nelson Hotel, the Sheraton Hotel, and the World Trade and Convention Centre. This year, the conference is slated for Thursday and Friday, November 8 and 9, in the newly refurbished Commonwealth Ballrooms of the Westin Nova Scotian Hotel in Halifax.

In the early days the conference was called an 'Open House'. Later, the name was changed to 'Review of Activities'. In 1998, DNR re-organized the Review of Activities to include stronger links with a variety of eco-

conomic development agencies in Nova Scotia. The focus of the annual conference has evolved to raise awareness of the mining industry, as well as geoscience research. The conference is now known as 'Mining Matters for Nova Scotia: Opportunities for Economic Development'. This is the fourth year for 'Mining Matters' and it appears that the new approach is working. Contacts and partnerships with non-traditional groups are becoming more commonplace and DNR staff are frequently being called on to make presentations regarding mineral-related economic development opportunities throughout Nova Scotia.

As in the past several years, the conference is being jointly organized by the departments of Natural Resources (DNR) and Economic Development, the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, the Chamber of Mineral Resources of Nova Scotia, and the Nova Scotia Prospectors Association. A complete program for the conference is given on pages 4 and 5.



In 1992 the 'Open House' was held at the Lord Nelson Hotel, and was obviously enjoyed by this group of people (from L: an unidentified client and DNR staff members Rob Turner, Paul Lombard, John Fowler, Valerie Brisco and Yvonne Brown).

(Continued from page 1)

The conference will feature a wide range of posters and technical sessions highlighting the many facets of Nova Scotia's mining industry. Specifically, topics will include: prospecting and advanced mineral exploration for industrial minerals such as kaolin, silica and titanium, as well as base metals and gold; overviews of several current mining operations; and results from current geoscience projects involving researchers from the Department of Natural Resources, the Geological Survey of Canada and local universities.

On Thursday afternoon, November 8, a special technical session will be held entitled Minerals and Economic Development in Nova Scotia. Presentations will focus on the new gold mining operation near Port Dufferin, exploration activities for titanium-bearing heavy mineral sands in the Shubenacadie River, development work for quartz and kaolin near Yarmouth, and the role of minerals in the development plan for the Guysborough area, to name a few.

Following the technical session, a reception hosted by the Honourable Ernest Fage, Minister of Natural Resources, will be held in Commonwealth Ballroom A. This reception will present an excellent opportunity for delegates to interact, and also to view the many poster displays, in a relaxed atmosphere. GSC (Atlantic) geophysicist Gordon Fader and his band will provide the musical entertainment. Special events related to the 25th anniversary of the conference are being planned for the reception.

At 11:15 a.m. on Friday, November 9, a keynote address will be given by Tony Andrews, Executive Director of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC). Dr. Andrews' presentation, entitled Public Image of the Mining Industry: Some Myths and Realities, will present a review of information and experience accumulated in Canada over the past 15 years and show how the underlying assumptions about the public image of the mining industry, as originally under-

stood, are fundamentally wrong. Mr. Andrews will present evidence to indicate that strategies focused primarily on the general public will not be effective in altering the way in which the mining industry is perceived. The PDAC proposes that efforts should focus on special publics as opposed to the general public. The ultimate objective of these efforts by the mining industry should be to improve public trust rather than public image, and to accomplish this based on what the industry does, as opposed to what it says.

All readers of the *Nova Scotia Minerals Update* are cordially invited to participate in the conference. A special invitation is extended to past employees of DNR, and former associates and clients of the department who have taken part in the annual conference over the years. If you have any questions, please contact me (902-424-2523) or call our library (902-424-8633). You can also register on-line at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb/oh/oh-regis.htm>. See you there!

Mike MacDonald

The Last Billion Years: A New Publication and Series of Public Talks

The Atlantic Geoscience Society (AGS) has published an exciting new book entitled *The Last Billion Years - A Geological History of the Maritime Provinces of Atlantic Canada*. It is the first modern book written for the general reader on the geological history of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. It is beautifully illustrated in full colour with paintings of ancient vistas, over 150 photographs, and crisp explanatory diagrams and sketches. The book is published by AGS and Nimbus Publishing Limited.

A website (<http://agc.bio.ns.ca/lby/>) containing excerpts from the book, a listing of the benefactors, a view of the book jacket and a mail-in order form has been created to provide an introduction to the book. As testament to the truly fascinating nature of this book, all of the copies printed by Nimbus in the first print run are sold

out! Some copies are available through bookstores in Halifax; Nimbus is also taking back-orders and planning a second printing, possibly in the Spring.

A series of talks by the AGS, in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, promoting the book will be held at the Museum on Summer Street, Halifax, this Fall and Winter. The series runs until May 2002 and talks cover continental drift, changing climates, fossils, rocks and minerals. All talks will be prepared for a general audience; titles and dates of the talks follow. Please see a copy of the *Nova Scotia Museum News* for additional descriptions.

The Last Billion Years: Talk Series

All talks will be held in the N. S. Museum of Natural History Auditorium. Admission is free. A Food Bank donation is encouraged.

- The Making of *The Last Billion Years*, Wed., Oct. 17, 7:30 pm, Rob Fensome and Graham Williams, Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic)
- The Maritimes Mosaic, Wed., Nov. 21, 7:30 pm, Sandra Barr, Acadia University
- Tropical Times, Wed., Jan. 16, 7:30 pm, John Calder, DNR
- The Birth of an Ocean, Wed., Feb. 20, 7:30 pm, Hans Wielens, Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic)
- The Big Chill: The Story of Glaciers in the Maritimes, Wed., March 20, 7:30 pm, Ralph Stea, DNR
- Rocks and Minerals of the Maritimes, Wed., April 17, 7:30 pm, Howard Donohoe, DNR
- Fossils of the Maritimes, Wed., May 15, 7:30 pm, Andrew MacRae, Geological Survey of Canada (Atlantic).

Jennifer Bates, Martha Grantham and Linda Ham

From the Mineral Inventory Files

Does the Mt. Thom Cu-Co-Au Prospect Have an Igneous Parent?

In recent years I have spent a lot of time examining mineral occurrences related to the Cobequid-Chedabucto Fault Zone. I'm struck with how many of these deposits show affinities to the economically important Fe-oxide-Cu-Au association. Deposits of this association are commonly called Olympic Dam-type deposits, although that massive Australian example is just one sub-type of a much larger class. Fe-oxide-Cu-Au deposits share many common features, the most important being the presence of large amounts of Fe-oxides in the ore.

Among the many mineral occurrences related to the Cobequid-Chedabucto Fault Zone, one of the better candidates to fall into this deposit class is the Mount Thom Cu-Co-Au prospect. This deposit, also known as Steele Run, is found at Mt. Thom in eastern Colchester County, a couple of kilometres north of the Trans Canada Highway (Fig. 1). Copper minerals were discovered there by Imperial Oil Enterprises Limited in 1970 in a follow-up to soil and stream sediment geochemical anomalies outlined the previous year. Between 1971 and 1974, trenching and a total of 49 diamond-drill holes (3 185 m) revealed the presence of fracture- and breccia-controlled pyrite, chalcopyrite, hematite and specularite concentrated in an intensely faulted area immediately north of Steele Run (Fig. 1).

The area is underlain by dark- and medium-grey, fine-grained siltstone and sandstone of the Carboniferous Mabou Group. Immediately downstream of the prospect are found grey to maroon medium- to coarse-grained sandstone and well rounded conglomerate of the Cumberland Group. Hydrothermal alteration is pervasive in the area, dominated by carbonate (ankerite, siderite, dolomite) and lesser, but locally intense, silica alteration. Where best developed along faults, the alteration totally overprints

and bleaches the sedimentary country rocks. A strong structural control to the mineralization and alteration was recognized from the outset. Mapping, diamond-drilling and geophysical surveys all indicated the presence of pronounced northwest-trending faults, many of which dip at shallow angles to the west. These are believed to be splay faults related to the major east-west Cobequid Fault to the north and the North River Fault to the south. These two faults are major sutures of the Cobequid-Chedabucto Fault Zone.

Originally, the mineral occurrence was thought of as being essentially a copper prospect with mild enrichment in gold. It wasn't until K. E. Northcote of the Nova Scotia Department of Mines and Energy examined the site in 1989 that the presence of high cobalt concentrations was recognized. Mineralized intersections encountered in the drill core are abundant but low grade. Typical intersections over several metres range in the order of 0.5 to 2% Cu.

Levels of up to 5 740 ppm Co and up to 296 ppb Au have also been reported.

The Mount Thom prospect has the characteristics of a classic Fe-oxide-Cu-Au deposit. I am particularly interested in what role granite and/or mafic rocks that outcrop to the south of Steele Run may have played in the genesis of the deposit (Fig. 1). Granite intrusions radiometrically dated as early Carboniferous are known within the Cobequid Mountains, but nowhere have these rocks actually been seen to intrude the Carboniferous Mabou and Cumberland groups. The role of igneous intrusions along the same northwest-trending fault system that hosts the sulphides warrants further examination, including more definitive dating of the granitic rocks. The area underlain by granite (Fig. 1) has only undergone cursory exploration and the presence there of very intense faulting and widespread alteration of the Carboniferous sediments suggests that it is an obvious exploration target.

G. A. O'Reilly

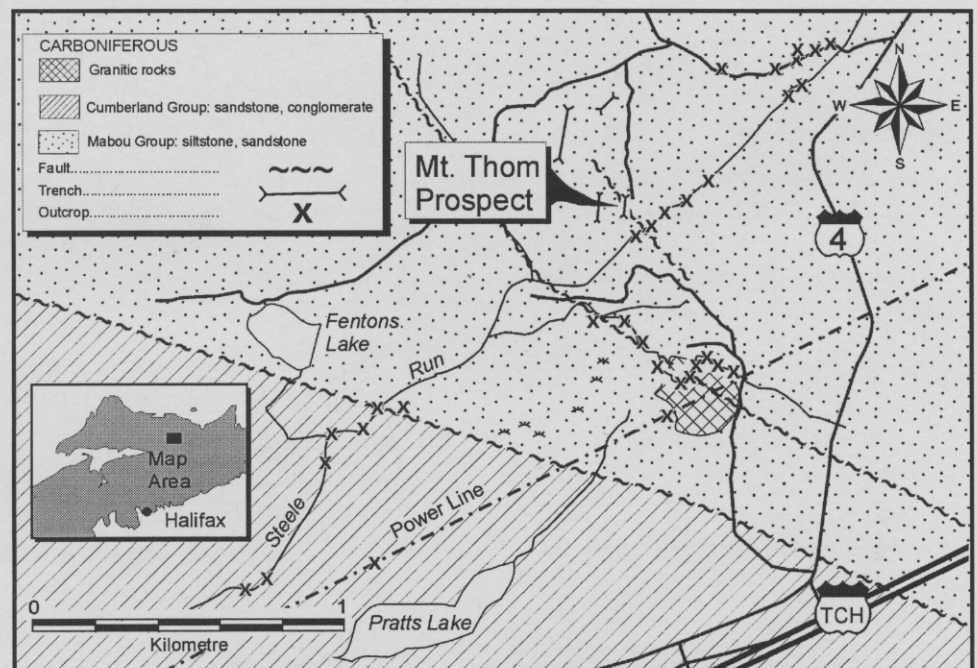


Figure 1. Geological map of the Mount Thom area, Colchester County.

Mining Matters for Nova Scotia 2001:

Thursday, November 8, 2001

8:30 am - 7:00 pm - Registration (Commonwealth Foyer)

8:30 am - 9:00 am - Coffee and refreshments (in Commonwealth B)

9:00 am - 9:20 am - Fall business meeting of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia (MSNS) in Commonwealth B

10:00 am - 9:00 pm - Displays open (Commonwealth A)

9:30 am - 9:40 am - Welcoming remarks (Dan Graham, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources) **Note: All talks will be presented in Commonwealth B**

Session 1 - The Many Facets of Resource Development (hosted by MSNS)

Session Chair: Kevin Beaton, President, MSNS

9:40 am - 10:00 am

George O'Reilly, DNR: Potential for rare metal deposits in southern Nova Scotia

10:00 am - 10:20 am

Steve King: Potential field interpretation and modelling: applications to onshore natural gas and salt exploration

10:20 am - 10:40 am

Don Jones, DNR: Coal in Nova Scotia: past and future

10:40 am - 11:00 am

Refreshment break

11:00 am - 11:30 am

Bakes Mitchell and Kirk MacLellan, Metals Economics Group: Global trends in non-ferrous exploration activity

11:30 am - 11:50 am

Darcy MacLeod, DalTech: The efficiency of flodrip wellhead separators

11:50 am - 12:10 pm

TBA

12:10 pm - 1:30 pm

Lunch break (no scheduled event)

Session 2 - Minerals and Economic Development in Nova Scotia

Session Chair: Mike Cherry, DNR

1:30 pm - 1:35 pm

Mike Cherry: Opening remarks

1:35 pm - 2:05 pm

Wayne Miyagashima, EnviroGold Technologies Ltd.: The Dufferin gold mine: past and present

2:05 pm - 2:35 pm

Gordon MacDonald, Petroleum Office of the Guysborough County RDA: The role of minerals in Guysborough's plan for future economic development

2:35 pm - 2:50 pm

Refreshment break (Commonwealth B)

2:50 pm - 3:20 pm

Jason Ross, Titanium Corporation Inc.: Exploration strategies for mineral sands deposits: Shubenacadie River case study

3:20 pm - 3:50 pm

John Keating, Black Bull Resources Inc.: The White Rock Mine project - from discovery to development

Opportunities for Economic Development

3:50 pm - 4:20 pm

Mike MacDonald, DNR: Future trends in the Nova Scotia mining industry

4:20 pm - 4:30 pm

Refreshment break

4:30 - 4:50 pm

Linda Ham and Paul Smith, DNR: Update on the Eastern Shore Compilation Project

4:50 pm - 5:10 pm

Dan Kontak, DNR: Geological insights into understanding industrial mineral resources in Nova Scotia: Yarmouth silica-clay and North Mountain zeolites

5:10 pm - 9:00 pm

Beer and Beef-on-a-bun Reception, hosted by the Hon. Ernest Fage, Minister of Natural Resources

Friday, November 9

8:30 am - 12:30 pm - Registration

8:30 am - 4:00 pm - Displays open (Commonwealth A)

8:30 am - 9:00 am - Coffee and refreshments

Session 3 - Current Geoscience Research in Nova Scotia

Session Chair: Mike Cherry

9:00 am - 9:20 am

Peter Giles, GSC (Atlantic), Rob Naylor, DNR, and Paul Teniere, Acadia University: Geology of the Horton Group, northeastern Guysborough County and Isle Madam

9:20 am - 9:40 am

Susan Pullan, GSC, and Ralph Stea, DNR: Mapping shallow subsurface structure using seismic reflection techniques - examples from southern Cape Breton Island

9:40 am - 10:00 am

Brendan Murphy, St. Francis Xavier University: Late Paleozoic origin and evolution of the St. Marys Basin, mainland Nova Scotia

10:00 am - 10:20 am

Refreshment break

10:20 am - 10:40 am

Pierre Jutras, St. Mary's University: New tectonostratigraphic framework in the northernmost sector of the Maritimes Basin (Chaleur Bay area) - correlation perspectives

10:40 am - 11:00 am

Andrew Rencz, GSC: Multi-disciplinary study of mercury in Kejimikujik National Park, Nova Scotia

11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Keynote address, Tony Andrews, PDAC: Public image of the mining industry: some myths and realities

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Panel discussion on the future of geoscience in Nova Scotia and beyond

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

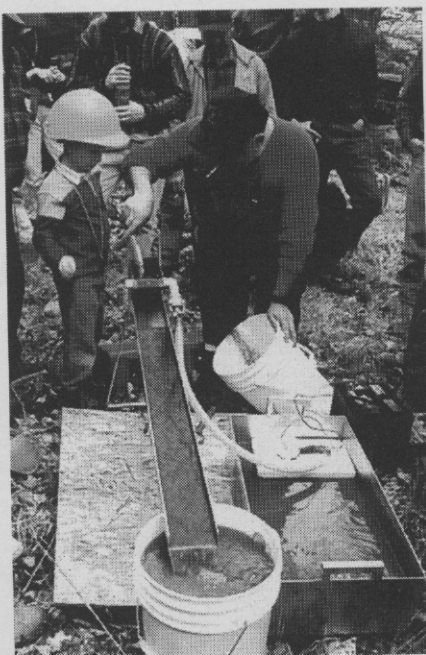
Displays Open

4:00 pm

Conference closed

Nova Scotia Prospectors Association

The Nova Scotia Prospectors Association (NSPA) was formed to foster prospecting at the professional and recreational level. The association's 140 members range from engineers and geologists to weekend gem and mineral collectors. The NSPA emphasizes education and training, and welcomes new members. Through a program of monthly seminars, field trips to significant mineral showings, and visits to laboratories and mine sites, the association strives to keep members up to date on exploration activity in Nova Scotia. The association provides a mentoring program so that new prospectors have the opportunity to team



John O'Brien demonstrates the workings of a sluice to a young prospector during a field trip to the Whiteburn Mine near Caledonia, Queens County. The Whiteburn gold district produced 10,000 ounces of gold between 1887 and 1894. A sluice is used to concentrate heavy minerals, such as gold, by washing unconsolidated material through boxes equipped with riffles to trap the heavy minerals on the floor of the box.

July-Sept. Open Assessment Reports

Report Number	Claim Ref. Map	Licensee
AR ME 1997-93	21A/16D	True Metallic Explorations Incorporated
AR ME 1999-57	11D/14C	Hoskin, D C
AR ME 1999-58	20O/16D	O'Sullivan, J R
AR ME 1999-59	21H/01D	Geosearch
AR ME 1999-60	21H/01A	Geosearch
AR ME 1999-61	21H/01D	Geosearch
AR ME 1999-62	11K/08B	Brogan Mining Company Limited
AR ME 1999-63	11K/07A	Fraser, C
	11K/07D	
AR ME 1999-64	11F/11A	Statia Terminals Canada Incorporated
	11F/11B	
AR ME 1999-65	21H/02B	C2C Mining Corporation
AR ME 1999-66	11K/02C	Johnson, C G
AR ME 1999-67	21A/08B	Anthony, R
AR ME 1999-68	11F/14B	Kelly Rock Limited
AR ME 1999-71	21H/08D	Booth, I
AR ME 1999-74	21A/16D	True Metallic Explorations Incorporated
AR ME 1999-75	11F/14B	Marchant, R L
AR ME 1999-76	21A/07C	Jensen, L R
AR ME 1999-77	11E/03B	Grant, S
AR ME 1999-79	11K/01B	Mount Cameron Minerals Incorporated
	11K/01C	
AR ME 2000-49	21H/01C	Booth, I
AR ME 2000-52	21H/01D	Geosearch
AR ME 2000-56	21A/10A	MacDougall, K L
AR ME 2000-57	11E/04A	Findley, C
AR ME 2000-58	11E/07D	Hudgins, A D
AR ME 2000-60	21H/01D	Geosearch

Susan Saunders and Norman Lyttle

up with more experienced prospectors to advance their knowledge. Members and other prospectors are eligible for financial assistance to market their properties at the PDAC meeting in Toronto. Marketing assistance is provided by the Prospector Assistance Program (see Special Note, p. 8).

Pick, Pan and Shovel is the association's quarterly newsletter. The newsletter outlines the activities of the NSPA and shows the progress being made on our members' prospects. A group of members is involved in developing a small gold mine and, as a result, a project to develop 'codes of practice' for small scale mining and dredging has

been initiated. The NSPA is working in conjunction with DNR, the Chamber of Mineral Resources of Nova Scotia, and The Mining Society of Nova Scotia on this project. The association has also been instrumental in formulating revisions to the *Mining Act and Regulations*.

In a period of general downturn in mining activity throughout Canada, the Nova Scotia Prospectors Association is growing and maintaining a strong base of skilled prospectors, who are building up a portfolio of economically prospective mineral deposits.

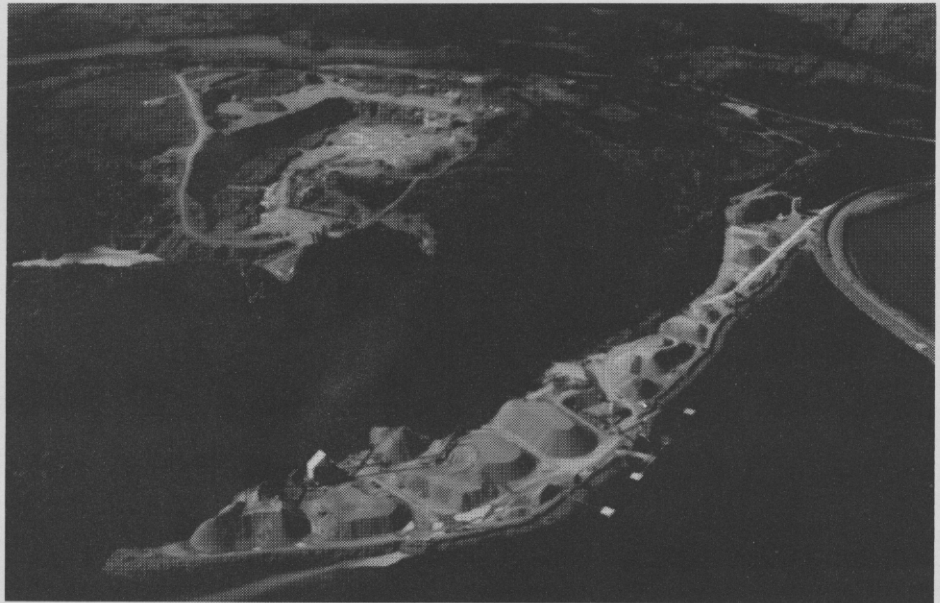
John O'Sullivan
Rainbow Resources Limited
<http://rainmining.netfirms.com/>

Three Nova Scotia Aggregate Quarries Rank Among Top 20 in Canada

Nova Scotia is a major producer of aggregate. In 1999, Nova Scotia quarries produced 10.5 million tonnes of aggregate with an approximate value of \$50 million. The majority of the material was used in domestic markets, although nearly one-third of the crushed stone was exported, principally to the United States. Exported crushed stone is used as a major ingredient in the production of road asphalt and concrete.

How do Nova Scotia's aggregate operations stack up against those of the rest of Canada? According to a recent survey published in *Aggregates & Road-building* magazine (July 2001), very well! The report noted that three Nova Scotia aggregate quarries were among the top 20 operations in Canada in 2000. Martin Marietta's Porcupine Mountain Quarry in Auld's Cove led the way with a total estimated production of 2.4 million tonnes of aggregate, enough to earn it an eighth place ranking. Most of the aggregate produced at Martin Marietta's operation is for export markets in the eastern United States and Caribbean regions. Municipal Contracting's Rocky Lake Quarry in Bedford placed 9th, with an estimated production of 2.0 million tonnes. Conrad Brothers' Dartmouth Quarry produced 1.1 million tonnes of aggregate in 2000, enough to earn the company an 18th place ranking. The bulk of the aggregate from both the Rocky Lake and Dartmouth quarries is for domestic markets. The 5.5 million tonnes of material produced by these three quarries accounted for 11.4% of the total Canadian production in 2000.

So what does the future look like for the Nova Scotia aggregate industry? Provincial government funding cuts to highway maintenance and construction have resulted in a shrinking domestic aggregate demand. However, the recent economic prosperity from the offshore oil and gas developments has had an impact on provincial construction levels. Construction of the gas pipelines and



Aerial view of the Martin Marietta Porcupine Mountain Quarry in Auld's Cove. Producing 2.4 million tonnes of aggregate in 2000, this quarry ranks as the eighth largest aggregate producer in Canada.

related infrastructure has provided new markets for aggregate. In addition, a strong provincial economy has resulted in residential and industrial construction, ensuring a continued domestic market for aggregate materials.

Export markets for aggregate in the eastern U. S. will continue to grow in the foreseeable future. The current United States administration has recently announced record levels of funding to repair and upgrade that country's transportation infrastructure. Current federal highway funding is at record levels and approximately \$32.5 billion US has been allocated for upgrading roads in 2002. When coupled with funding for expansion of airports and other transit infrastructure, a total of \$59.5 billion US will be spent on infrastructure. This work will require immense amounts of aggregate and represents a significant opportunity for Nova Scotia. The abundance of deep-water, ice-free ports situated near large deposits of suitable rock for aggregate applications

gives this province an enormous advantage over many other regions. In addition, Nova Scotia is strategically located along the eastern seaboard of North America, a short distance from the U. S. and Caribbean countries.

These opportunities have not been missed by national and international aggregate producers. The Department of Natural Resources continues to hold meetings with companies looking for aggregate export opportunities. For example, in the Spring of 2001, Lafarge Canada Inc. announced plans to lease the Rhodena Rock quarry at Porcupine Mountain, at the Strait of Canso. The company reported plans to produce 100,000 tonnes of aggregate from the quarry to test the rock's marketability. Depending on the results of this initial work, the company plans to develop a large quarry for export markets, pending environmental and other regulatory approval.

Mike MacDonald, Garth Prime and Phil Finck

8th Annual EdGEO Workshop

Each year in August, 25 to 30 Nova Scotia teachers attend the EdGEO Workshop. This workshop inspires an understanding of the earth sciences, allows teachers to develop hands-on experience, and provides useful information and resources for the classroom. This year's gathering was held at the Fundy Geological Museum in Parrsboro.

Learning modules deal with geological time, fossils and dinosaurs, minerals in our lives, an introduction to earth science resources on the internet, geological processes, rock and mineral characteristics and identification, oil and gas, and climate change. It was a revelation to most to realize how important mineral products, mineral resources, mining and geological processes are to us every day.

The workshop was extended this year to two full days, with one half-day field trip to view Parrsboro's building stones, a major fault zone where participants learned about plate tectonics, glacial deposits and processes, and a final stop to look at different rock formations on the beach. Hands-on activities included 'cookie mining' (see photo); another exercise encouraged teachers to put in chronological order the formation of the earth, evolution and the appearance of different plants, invertebrates, dinosaurs, mammals, and humans.

Workshop leaders are all volunteers, including DNR geologists Linda Ham and Howard Donohoe. Other leaders include specialists from GSC-Atlantic and Dalhousie University, and two teachers. Teacher participants come from around the province, and cover most grade levels. Resources provided to the teachers include a rock, mineral and ore kit that has been prepared by DNR with the assistance of many local mining companies and prospectors.

The challenge for the leaders is how to improve on a good thing - there is always so much information and so little time to deliver it.

Linda Ham



Nova Scotia teachers receive a lesson in mining economics through "chocolate chip mining". Teachers choose their particular type of "ore", "buy" the cookie and mining equipment, "mine" the chocolate chips, then reclaim the "mine". This exercise reveals some processes involved in mining in a way that is readily adaptable to most grade levels.

Special Note

Prospector Assistance Program

The Prospector Assistance Program will end in March 2002. The program will be able to assist 12 prospectors to attend the PDAC in 2002. On January 1, all those who would like to be considered for marketing assistance to attend the PDAC should send in an application, which can be obtained from the DNR Library, 3rd Floor, Founders Square in Halifax.

Dates to Remember

November 1-3, 2001

Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador, 25th Annual Review of Activities and CIM Newfoundland Branch 47th Annual Meeting, Delta Hotel, St. John's, Newfoundland. For more information contact Norm Mercer (phone 709-729-6193, e-mail nlm@zeppo.geosurv.gov.nf.ca) or visit the web site <http://www.geosurv.gov.nf.ca>.

November 5-7, 2001

New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy, Annual Review of Activities, Sheraton Inn, Fredericton, New Brunswick. For more information contact Don Carroll (phone 506-453-6624, e-mail don.carroll@gnb.ca) or visit the web site <http://www.gnb.ca/0078/minerals/review.htm/>.

November 8 and 9, 2001

Mining Matters for Nova Scotia 2001: Opportunities for Economic Development. For more information contact Mike MacDonald (phone 902-424-2523, e-mail mamacdon@gov.ns.ca), or visit the web site <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/meb>. Please see the article on p. 1 and Program on pages 4 and 5.

January 21-25, 2002

British Columbia and Yukon Chamber of Mines, Cordilleran Roundup, Fairmont Hotel and Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia. For more information contact Shelly Hawson (604-689-5271, ext. 104) or visit the web site <http://www.bc-mining-house.com/>.