

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1993-94

In the 1993/94 season the Institute presented the following lectures and a panel discussion:

- October: Halifax Harbour Cleanup: Where to now?
 Alan Ruffman, Geomarine Associates
- November: Science Education: Is it doing the right job and is it doing it well?
 A Panel Discussion with Elinor Nicoll, Howard Dickson, John
 Haysom and Hector Jacques
- December: The Million Dollar Fish and the Bionic Tomato.
 Robert Fournier, Dalhousie University
- January: Tragedy of Quota Management for Groundfish Fisheries: The
 Scotia-Fundy Example.
 Michael Sinclair, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans
- February: Observations from the COBE Satellite: Implications for the Theory
 of the Big Bang and the Question of Missing Matter. K.A. Dunn,
 Mathematics Dept., Dalhousie Univ.
- March: The Lobster Fishery: from boom to bust to....?
 John Pringle, Halifax Fisheries Research Laboratory
- April: Advanced Reproductive Technology and the Royal Commission.
 Gillian Graves, Endocrine & Fertility Clinic, Grace Maternity Hos-
 pital and Dalhousie University

Attendance at the various lectures was up for the year drawing around 50 or more people for most meetings. The panel discussion on Science Education was also well attended and the lively discussion on this important topic was a further step in the examination of science in general eg., strategies, research quality, funding and education.

The drive made over the last two years to bolster membership has resulted in a substantial number of new members. Contacts have been maintained and, in fact, increased with the Science teachers through the efforts of their Observer, Ed Kelly and Council Member, John Pringle. In addition links with the Discovery Centre have been developed; the Executive Director, Dr. Sally Walker attends Council meetings to provide liaison between the Nova Scotian Institute of Science and the Discovery Centre.

The Institute invited members of the Public Relations course at Mount St. Vincent University to assist us in developing a heightened profile in the community. Two students, Charles Crosby and Paul Moore, undertook this task as a course assignment. They prepared an analysis of the Institute's current activities and then produced a paper

entitled "Media Plan: The Nova Scotian Institute of Science". Their various and wide ranging recommendations included establishing as one of the Council will be moving to put this and other recommendations into effect in the coming year.

The Institute continued its publication series and has added to materials made available by providing diskettes (for sale) on a microbiological culture collection. The Editor stated that this last activity has netted the Institute significant additional income. Consideration is being given to other ventures of a similar nature to expand income for publication and library needs.

Financially the Treasurer reported the Institute is in reasonable shape although its publication costs always match and frequently exceed, the annual membership fees. Because of this and the need to have funds to expand activities the Council is proposing, at the 1994 Annual General Meeting, an increase in annual membership fees.

The Librarian informed the Council that the number of institutional and exchange partners remained relatively constant. A problem has arisen, however, concerning the housing of the Institute's library. Currently this is held in the Dalhousie University library system through an agreement arranged between Dalhousie University and the Institute. Unfortunately cuts in the university budget have resulted in a restructuring there and a request for us to review and revise our holdings with a view to reducing costs. The Council has appointed the Editor, Alan Taylor to chair a committee to review the situation and to make recommendations for implementation during the coming Institute season. At this time we wish to offer our thanks to Dalhousie University for their cooperation and support in housing the Institute's collection and making it available for community use.

On behalf of the Institute I wish to acknowledge the financial support given by the Nova Scotian Museum for publication of the Proceedings and to thank the Museum for this and for the provision of space and facilities for the monthly meetings of the Institute.

In conclusion I thank the members of the Council of the Institute for their time and effort over the past year. I have enjoyed the association and am grateful for their support which has made the past season a very positive one and resulted in considerable progress in Institute affairs.

Submitted by:

James E. Stewart

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1994-95

The Nova Scotian Institute of Science has three main activities—regular lectures, publication of *The Proceedings*, and its library—and one additional role—as a collective voice for scientists in Nova Scotia. The Institute has been active this year on all fronts.

We had an outstanding series of lectures this year: "Ten Equations that Changed the World" (Professor S. Swaminathan, Dalhousie University), "Origins and Diversity of the Protists: the Other 95% of the Eukaryotes" (Dr. Mark Ragan, National Research Council), "Computer Vision and Image Processing" (Professor Peter Gregson, Technical University of Nova Scotia), "A Century of X-Ray: Medical or Scientific Uses" (Professor Stan Cameron, Dalhousie University), "DNA: The Ultimate Determinant of Identity" (Professor Jonathan Wright, Dalhousie University), "Creativity and the Two Cultures Revisited" (Professor Paul Patterson, University College of Cape Breton). In addition, we had a spirited panel discussion "Science Curriculum in Schools" with Professor Mary Anne White (Dalhousie University) and Adriane Dorrington and Bob LeBlanc (both from Department of Education and Culture) as panellists and Tom Nickerson as moderator. We are grateful to all who took the time to contribute to our program.

Although no issues of *The Proceedings* were published this year, plans have been launched to publish an issue in memory of the late Professor Walter J. Chute (NSIS President 1952-54). In addition, we have reached an agreement with the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History concerning commission sales of selected back issues of *The Proceedings*.

Through exchange of *The Proceedings* with other learned societies, the Institute has built up a remarkable Library. For several years the Library has been located in (and maintained by) the Killam Library at Dalhousie University. Dr. Fred Kennedy has kindly put together a very nice display in the Killam Library concerning the Institute's collection, and I commend it to you. The Institute has agreed to contribute towards hiring a student this summer, in order assess our holdings.

In December, the Institute sponsored a meeting of materials scientists in the region. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together scientists and engineers with common interest, in order to foster exchange of information. A Report, to be published in *The Proceedings*, will list areas of materials science research in the region, equipment for materials science research, and the names and addresses of those who attended the meeting.

Inspired by the materials science meeting, one of our members, Professor J.S. Grossert, suggested that the Institute prepare a directory of scientific research facilities in Nova Scotia. Dr. H. Stan Heaps has kindly agreed to undertake this venture, which

should be complete in a few months. The directory will be published in *The Proceedings*, and also made available electronically.

Much attention is currently paid to the state of scientific research activity and funding. On behalf of the members of the Institute, I have corresponded with appropriate government officials, expressing our support for science, especially as an investment in the future of this country.

As this year draws to a close, it remains to express my thanks: to the members of Council, especially the retiring members, Dr. A. Taylor (Editor), S. Fullerton (Librarian) and Dr. J. Stewart (Past President); to the Museum for support of our activities; and especially to Anne Seller who worked hard, combatting virtual indifference in the media, to increase the publicity of the Institute's activities.

Finally, a word to the members: The Council has many times discussed the role and purpose of the Institute, especially in light of declining membership. It is *your* Institute; if you have an idea will benefit science and scientists in Nova Scotia, please bring it forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne White, BSc, PhD

May 1, 1995

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1995-96

During the year 1995-96, the Nova Scotian Institute of Science presented six lectures and two panel discussions. The quality of all lectures was very high. The panel discussions were very exciting and stimulating. Both the panel discussions brought awareness of the issues of the day to the members. We are grateful to all those who took the time to contribute to our programs. The lectures and panel discussions are listed below:

- October 1996: Panel Discussion on Science Policy Issues (Panelists Professor William Tatton, Dalhousie Univ., Dr. Michael Winther, Efamol, Dr. Roger Foxal, NRC, and Dr. Ted Rhodes, TUNS)
- November 1995: Supernova Scotia: (David Lane and Paul Gray, SMU).
- December 1995: Piping Plover Guardian Program: (Ms. Cathy Fulton Strugnell)
- January 1996: Panel Discussion "Reproduction Technology & Its Ethics" (Panelists: Dr. William Wrixon, Dr. Barbara Parish and Dr. Susan Sherwin, Dalhousie University.)
- February 1996: "Medicine and Disease - 100 years ago" (John Farley, DAL Univ.)
- March 1996: "Production of Phycotoxins" (Dr. James E. Stewart, BIO.)
- April 1996: "The Statistics of Counting Birds and other Things : Poisson Model" (Professor C.A. Field, DAL Univ.)

All the lectures and panel discussions in 1996 were taped and broadcast on local television. We received several good comments. We hope that NSIS will be able to have its own TV show on the local cable television station.

Professor Stan Heaps created a Home Page for the Nova Scotian Institute of Science on the Chebucto Community Net. It contains links to a history of NSIS, the list of Council members, the times of meetings, the periodical titles in the NSIS library, and the directory of research facilities in Nova Scotia.

Professor Stan Heaps also completed a NSIS Sciences Research Facilities survey. He prepared a database in a form that can be accessed on WorldWideWeb through Internet. The database contains: Facility Directory that contains link to an Equipment list, a key word list and a company list.

The Institute formed a development committee consisting of R.P. Gupta, M. A. White, John Pringle and G. Stroink (chair). The committee identified many issues: to assess the weakness and strength of NSIS; to tackle topics relevant to decisions in Nova Scotia; to obtain more publicity for the Institute; to help develop a science policy in Nova Scotia, and to broaden the scope of our journal, the Proceedings of the Institute.

The Chute Volume of the Proceedings of NSIS was published in January 1996. Another issue on material science will be mailed in July. The Editorial board of the NSIS

proceedings has been reconstituted with Dr. Derek Davis as the editor and Dr. D. Reardon (T.U.N.S), Dr. Donald D. Betts (Dalhousie) and Dr. Stan Heaps and Dr. John Tremblay (Fisheries and Ocean) as the members of the Editorial Board.

The Nova Scotian Institute of Science has a very valuable collection of scientific material, based in the Killam library of Dalhousie University. Some of the collection was not catalogued. In May, 1995, a student was hired to review the Institute's collection. Decisions were made on a title by title basis whether to retain or withdraw some of the material. The withdrawn material will be sent to the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information. The project will continue during the summer of 1996. The catalogued material is available on NOVANET. Our sincere thanks to Ms. Sharon Longard for looking after the NSIS collection.

For the first time, the NSIS conducted a science workshop for grades 5 and 6 students from five schools in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Twenty students, accompanied by their parents attended the workshop at Dalhousie University on April 27, 1996. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Surjeet Varma, a retired Science Curriculum Supervisor, Halifax County Board. By all accounts, it was a great success. The students and their parents enjoyed it very much and they requested that we should organize more workshops in the future.

On behalf of the Institute, I would like to acknowledge the financial support given by the Nova Scotia Museum for publication of the proceedings and thank the Museum for providing the space and facilities for holding our meetings and lectures.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the Council of the Institute for their cooperation.

Submitted by:

R.P. Gupta
May 3, 1996