

## **NSIS COUNCIL**

**(Reports from the Annual General Meeting, May 2013)**

### **AGENDA**

#### **152<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**5 pm - 6 May 2013**

**The Great Hall, University Club  
Dalhousie University, Halifax, Ns**

1. Minutes of 151st AGM, 2012 meeting
2. President's Annual Report (Michelle Paon)
3. Treasurer's Annual Report (Angelica Silva)
4. Editor's Annual Report (Peter Wells)
5. Librarian's Annual Report (Michelle Paon)
6. Student Science Writing Competition (Hank Bird)
7. Hall of Fame Review (Richard Singer and John Rutherford)
8. Nominations for Positions on NSIS Council
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

## REPORTS FROM THE NSIS COUNCIL NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 2012 TO 2013

The Nova Scotian Institute of Science is a long-standing organization that promotes science in Nova Scotia and supports the dissemination of peer-reviewed scientific research. When issues arise that affect the conduct and quality of science in the province, the Institute takes as its responsibility that it should express its views. Over the past year, NSIS Council has witnessed with trepidation a number of major changes which have occurred with regard to federally-funded science in Canada. Significant cuts have been applied to scientific research programs, and modifications have been made to the Fisheries Act and environmental assessment legislation via the successful passage of Bill C-38. In addition, federal scientists have been restricted in speaking to the media about their research results. At the time of this writing, plans are also underway to consolidate the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans libraries, decreasing their number from eleven sites to two primary locations and two specialized collections.

On June 14, 2012, acting on a motion passed at its 2012 Annual General Meeting, NSIS Council sent a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper objecting to portions of Bill C-38. The letter expressed concerns about the proposed changes to the federal Fisheries Act and to environmental assessment legislation. In addition, NSIS noted its concerns about the limits being placed on federally employed scientists to communicate the results of their research. Copies of the letter were sent to the federal Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the leaders of the Opposition, Liberal and Green Parties, Opposition critics for the Environment and Fisheries, Speaker of the Senate Noel Kinsella, all Nova Scotia Members of Parliament, and all NSIS members. Copies were also sent to *The Globe and Mail* and *The Chronicle-Herald*, the latter of which printed the letter on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

NSIS received email responses from Opposition Leader Thomas Mulcair, and three Nova Scotia Members of Parliament. Among the latter was Mr. Robert Chisholm (Opposition Fisheries Critic), who met with the NSIS President and Past President on July 25th. The discussion centred around the responses of NSIS members to the coming changes set out in Bill C-38.

In early September, we received a letter from the Prime Minister's Office, assuring NSIS that its concerns had been noted and thanking the Institute for its letter. Subsequently, in January 2013, we received a letter from federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Keith Ashfield, again thanking us for our communications and assuring the Institute that the new legislation would adequately protect the commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries. However, he did not address the issue of federal scientists being prevented from speaking with the media about their research. NSIS Council agreed that the response had left a number of questions unanswered, and at the time of this writing, Council is preparing a letter to Minister Ashfield.

NSIS has a long history of engaging scientists to speak to the public about their research within the context of the NSIS monthly lecture series. The 2012-2013 lecture programme was organized by Michelle Paon, John Rutherford, and Angelica Silva. A variety of engaging topics were presented, attracting on average about 65 attendees per event. In fact, the January lecture drew a capacity crowd of 114!

The 2012-2013 lecture programme consisted of the following speakers and topics:

**Monday, 1 October 2012 7:30**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Tamara Franz-Oudendaal: Department of Biology,  
Mount Saint Vincent University  
NSERC Atlantic Chair, Women in Science & Engineering**  
*GIRLS and Science: Why it's Important and How You Can  
Support Them*

**Monday, 5 November 2012 7:30**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Arunika Gunawardena: Department of Biology,  
Dalhousie University**  
*Dying to Live: The Role of Programmed Cell Death in  
Plant Development*

**Monday, 3 December 2012 7:30**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Eric Mills: Professor Emeritus of History of Science,  
Department of Oceanography, Dalhousie University, and  
Inglis Professor, University of King's College**  
*Canadian Marine Science from Titanic to BIO*

**Monday, 7 January 2013 7:30**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Doug Wallace: Department of Biology, Dalhousie University  
Canada Excellence Research Chair in Ocean Science and  
Technology**

*Sea Change in the Ocean: What do We Know? and  
How do We Know It?*

**Monday, 4 February 2013 7:30**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Luigi Gallo: Department of Astronomy and Physics, Saint  
Mary's University**

*Seeing the Universe in X-rays*

**Monday, 4 March 2013 7:30**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Jeff Dahn, FRSC: Department of Physics and  
Atmospheric Science, Dalhousie University  
NSERC/3M Canada Industrial Research Chair / Canada  
Research Chair**

*How Good Can a Battery Be?*

**Monday, 1 April 2013 7:30**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Danny Silver: Director of the Jodrey School of  
Computer Science, Acadia University**

*Getting a Machine to Fly Learn: Extending Man's Reach  
Beyond his Grasp*

**Monday, 6 May, 2013 7:30**

Great Hall, University Club, Dalhousie University

**Dr. Sean Myles: Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University**  
*Sex-Deprived Fruit: How a Lack of Breeding Threatens our Food's  
Future and How Genomics Can Help Fix the Problem*

In addition to the Institute's regular lectures, a special joint lecture was organized to celebrate the NSIS 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On November 21<sup>st</sup>, **Dr. Suzanne Zeller** delivered a very engaging presentation entitled:

“The Natural History of a Sustainable Institution: The Nova Scotian Institute of (Natural) Science since 1862”. To prepare for the lecture, Dr. Zeller had conducted research at the Nova Scotia Archives and had read the content of all volumes of the *Proceedings of the NSIS* – no small feat! This lecture was co-sponsored by NSIS, the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society, the Dalhousie University School of Information Management, the History of Science and Technology Programme at the University of King’s College, and the Situating Science Strategic Knowledge Cluster - Atlantic Node.

The Institute was also one of several co-sponsors of a public lecture presented by **Dr. Evelyn Fox Keller**, Professor Emerita of History and Philosophy of Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Organized by Situating Science, the lecture was entitled “Paradigm Shifts and Revolutions in Contemporary Biology”. It took place on October 30<sup>th</sup> at Alumni Hall, University of King’s College and was attended by over 250 people, including many scientists, philosophy professors, students, and members of the public.

This year, the Institute also connected with fans of classical music. On October 6 and 7, 2012, to celebrate the NSIS 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to explore the links between science and music, Symphony Nova Scotia performed Haydn’s *Creation* oratorio. About 600 attendees enjoyed the Saturday evening concert, while in the range of 300 attended the Sunday afternoon performance. We were privileged to have the opportunity to work with the symphony on some of the plans for these events. NSIS recruited six scientists as speakers for the pre-concert panel discussions, facilitated by Adrian Hoffman. Panel speakers included: Helen Lau, Michael Steinitz and Cameron Ells; and Jordan Kyriakidis, Sageev Oore and Brad Peters. These events provided NSIS with increased exposure to the public and an opportunity to work closely with an established community partner.

In addition to participating in its own anniversary activities, NSIS was invited to take part in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Bedford Institute of Oceanography. On behalf of the NSIS, I attended the *Symposium on Oceans and Climate Change* held in Dartmouth on October 24, 2012. During this enlightening day-long event, highly-regarded marine scientists from Germany, Denmark and Canada spoke on topics such as: changes in fisheries species, ocean water chemistry, coastal impacts, and marine policy issues.

In the fall, as NSIS 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary events drew to a close, Council decided to address in a more formal way the preservation of its archival records. In November 2012, Dalhousie University Archivist Michael Moosberger was invited to Council to speak in general about the importance of preserving institutional records. Then in December, the president and past president met with Provincial Archivist Lois Yorke to talk about the NSIS records held by the Nova Scotia Archives. They were acquired at some time in the past, but it has been many decades since new material has been added. These meetings have proven very useful to Council, which continues to deliberate on this matter.

With regard to our publications, a new issue of the *Proceedings* was published in December 2012 (volume 47, issue 1). In keeping with the new format, this issue's cover sported a full-colour aerial view of Lake Rossignol, the setting for a 2006 BioBlitz, whose results are described in the issue. Editor Peter Wells, Associate Editor David Richardson and their editorial review board are to be commended for their tireless work in producing the journal and for their efforts in networking with the scientific community to solicit new manuscripts as potential journal content. In addition, Gail LeBlanc is warmly thanked for her production and layout work on each issue. NSIS acknowledges the financial support of the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, which funds part of the publishing costs of the journal.

During the spring, the Institute made progress towards its plans to transition to an electronic format for the *Proceedings*. After discussions with the Dalhousie University Libraries, NSIS has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the university to publish the online version of the *Proceedings* on the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform. The Libraries will host the journal, providing the server space and the electronic platform, while NSIS will load the journal content on the platform. It is hoped that the online *Proceedings* will provide greater exposure for the research published in the journal. With the assistance of the Dalhousie Libraries, the online platform will be prepared for use during the summer of 2013.

The Student Science Writing Competition was organized and overseen by Henry (Hank) Bird, whom we thank for his capable work in coordinating this initiative. NSIS also acknowledges the Situating Science Strategic Knowledge Cluster – Atlantic Node, which provided financial support for the competition. Our congratulations to the winners, two of whom were present at the April meeting of the NSIS. Prizes and/or certificates were awarded to the following:

In the undergraduate category, the winner was **Jonathan Oore** (Dalhousie University) for a paper entitled, “Age-related Changes in Motor Ability and Motor Learning in Triple Transgenic (3xTg-AD) and Control (B6129SFii/J) Mice on the Accelerating Rotarod”.

An undergraduate Honourable Mention was awarded to **Laura Perry** (Cape Breton University) for a paper entitled, “The Effects of Climate Change on Several Seabird Species on the Coastal Regions of North America”.

In the graduate category, Honourable Mentions were awarded to:

**Lynn Cornish** (St. Francis Xavier University) for a paper entitled “Managing Molecules in Health and Nutrition - A Literature Review”.

**Jordi Segers** (Saint Mary’s University) for a paper entitled “Summer Distribution and Movement Patterns of Short Distance Migratory Bats in Relation to a Wind Farm in Nova Scotia”.

In addition to sponsoring the writing competition, NSIS continued to provide financial support to the ten Nova Scotia regional science fairs in the form of a donation of \$150.00 in prize money to each. A number of the science fair coordinators have already sent letters to Council, expressing their thanks for this year’s contribution. Also to be noted, NSIS support of one fair, that of the Conseil Scolaire Acadien Provincial (CSAP), was mentioned in an April 19<sup>th</sup> news article in *Le Courrier*, Nova Scotia’s French language weekly newspaper.

NSIS also funded several other initiatives, including the graduate student poster competition at the annual conference of the Fishermen & Scientists Research Society held in Truro in February 2013, and the RobotsEast Atlantic Championship for school children held in Halifax in May 2013.

News of the NSIS initiatives is regularly posted to the NSIS website, an important means of communication, which is now being transferred to the open source WordPress software platform. The adoption of this software is expected to make it easier for the NSIS webmaster to update the site with text, photos, and news items. Thanks to webmaster Suzuette Soomai for her diligence in pursuing this initiative. The work is being completed by Mike Reid, the creator of the *Environmental Information: Use and Influence* website and a graduate of the Dalhousie Marine Affairs program. As of this writing, work is progressing on the site and is expected to be complete by the summer of 2013, with a projected fall launch.

At the conclusion of such a successful year, it is with regret that I report the passing of several long-standing NSIS members during this

period. They include member Dr. Alan C. Grant; Past President Dr. Donald D. Betts; and Past President, Past Editor and Life Member Dr. Alan Taylor. The Institute recognizes with gratitude their contributions to NSIS and extends condolences to the family of each scientist.

In closing, I would like to thank all members of Council for their commitment to the Institute, their support for its initiatives and the time which they so generously give to the Institute in order to help it to achieve its goals. Several councillors will be retiring from Council this spring: First, let me acknowledge the contributions of John Rutherford, who will be leaving Council after having served on the Executive for the past three years. John led the Institute as its President during the very successful 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and served on numerous planning committees in the lead-up to these events. We thank John for his conscientious leadership and sound advice. Another experienced member, past treasurer Elaine McCulloch, will also be leaving Council. Our thanks to Elaine for having provided an additional year's service, assisting our new treasurer to learn the ropes.

I also thank David Christianson, who since 2007, represented the Nova Scotia Museum on Council and who has recently retired as Manager of Collections from the Museum of Natural History. As the liaison with the museum, David provided a calm and dependable presence on Council and facilitated our use of the lecture venue. As you know, most NSIS talks are presented at the museum's auditorium on Summer Street, which we are fortunate to be able to use for a very reasonable rate due to our longstanding relationship with the museum. This relationship continues as we welcome Mr. Jeff Gray, the Museum's new representative on Council, who has already attended several of our meetings.

This year, it has been my great pleasure to serve as President and work with Council on numerous projects and initiatives, as well as to respond to member queries and to discuss suggestions via email and in person. I look forward to our continued engagement with NSIS members and the public in the coming years. Interest in science is certainly alive and well in our province!

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Michelle Paon*

*May 6, 2013*



**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE**

**March 31, 2013**

**ASSETS:**

Bank Account (BMO, March 30, 2013)	10,642.53
Investments	44,106.61

**TOTAL ASSETS 54,749.14**

**LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH**

Accounts Payable

**NET WORTH**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH 54,749.14**

**INVESTMENTS:**

Renaissance High Interest Savings Account	2,806.61
Manulife Bank Investment Certificate @2.45 % due Jan 31, 2018	21,000.00
National Bank of Canada Certificate @2.9% due <b>May 13, 2013</b>	10,300.00
Montreal Trust Co. Cert @3.25% due July 15, 2014	10,000.00

**TOTAL INVESTMENTS \$ 44,106.61**  
**(AS OF MARCH 28, 2013)**

**Finances**

The net worth of NSIS is **\$54,749.14** as of March 31, 2013. For this 2012-2013 period, NSIS received a total of \$ 1,870.13 from ACCESS copyright for publication royalties. The province of Nova Scotia contributed \$1,000 for each 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 (2,000.00), and both contributions were received during 2012-2013. The Situation in Science group contributed \$250 to the NSIS Writing Competition.

Total Expenditures for contributions to special lectures, writing competition contest and others were \$ 3,450.00. These included \$750.00 for undergraduate and graduate students winners of 2012 writing competition, nine Regional Science Fairs for a total of \$ 1,050 (1 -2012; 6-2013; 4 did not cashed cheques before March 31, 2013), one best graduate poster at the 20<sup>th</sup> Fishermen and Scientist Research Society for \$150.00 and contribution to Robots East in the amount of \$500. Special lectures contributions were made to Sable Island Round Table; School of Information Management and Situation Cluster for a total of \$ 1,000.00.

**Membership**

The NSIS has 98 individual members and include 2 students, 8 Life members and 20 Institutional Members. Dues from Individual members amounted to \$ 2,890.00. The NSIS also received \$ 346.25 from 20 institutional members, and \$1,982 from sales of NSIS proceedings and other Flora, Birds special publications.

*Respectfully submitted to the NSIS AGM*

*Angelica Silva*

*Treasurer*

*May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

## EDITOR'S REPORT

### NSIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**May 6th, 2013**

Volume 47 (Part1), 2012, of the PNSIS (Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science) was published in December 2012. It continued the new journal format; this includes a colored cover with a theme-related photograph, and new typeface and spacing, giving the journal a completely new look.

Throughout 2012, the Editorial Board across the Province worked hard to attract papers and move them through the review process. The reviewing process is working well. The Journal is starting to attract more papers and ones on a wide range of scientific topics. The Board is thanked for its work and enthusiasm running the Proceedings.

To date in 2013, several contributed papers are completed or are in the review process for PNSIS Volume 47(2) 2013. An editorial is planned and a list of prospective papers and editorials is guiding future work. We are seeking ideas for a Special Issue for Volume 48(1). In discussions with Dalhousie University, progress has been made to make the Proceedings available in both print and electronic formats (on the website, one year after publication). All previous volumes will soon be available on the NSIS website. Eventually, with the concurrence of members, the Proceedings will only be available as e-copies.

Sales of the special issue on *The Birds of Brier Island* (PNSIS Vol. 46, Part 1, 2011) continue steadily. It is hoped that members will continue to advertise this outstanding volume, and help in its sales, especially during the busy tourist season. This will encourage support being given to future special issues.

Papers of original science, review papers, commentaries and editorials are requested from NSIS members and from other societies and individuals in the Province and beyond. Supported by the website, the Proceedings are the visible, written voice piece for the NSIS.

Members and others are encouraged to keep contributing to it, as it provides a scholarly outlet for science related to the Maritimes and Atlantic Region.

*Submitted by the Editors*

*Peter G. Wells, Editor PNSIS*

*(Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS)*

*David H.S. Richardson, Associate Editor, PNSIS*

*(Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS).*

## **LIBRARIAN'S REPORT 2012/2013**

**Prepared for AGM May 6, 2013**

As the new NSIS Librarian, it has been a pleasure to respond to requests related to the *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science* and to oversee the exchange journal collection during the past year.

### **Digitization of the *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science***

During the summer of 2012, the Killam Library's graduate student interns continued to digitize the *Proceedings*, depositing volume 35 (1985) and volume 36 (1986) into DalSpace. We expect subsequent volumes of the *Proceedings* to be processed and deposited into DalSpace during the summer of 2013.

### **Institutional Members and Exchange Partners**

There are currently 20 institutional members (four less than last year). Renewal notices were sent to institutional members on January 23, 2013 alerting them to the increase in membership fees to \$30.00 per year. By the end of March, we had received 13 institutional membership renewals for a total of \$346.25. One library cancelled its institutional membership: the NRC Institute for Marine Biosciences in Halifax is closing its library collection.

There are 89 NSIS exchange partners. During the 2012-13 year, we identified another partner from which we had received no publications since 1998, and thus removed its name from the list. An additional three partners cancelled their own exchanges. The Library of Congress also cancelled, but we moved this partner to complimentary status. The number of exchange partners has diminished by five since last year. [Note: You may recall that last year, a number of exchange partners were removed from the list because they had not sent publications to NSIS for two or more years. Through a typographical error, that number was reported as 75, but in fact, it was 85.]

Volume 47, part 1 of the *Proceedings* was published in December 2012. The issue was mailed to all institutional members in February 2013. So as to save on overseas postage, volume 47 (parts 1 and 2) will be sent to exchange partner institutions upon publication of volume 47(2).

### **Sales of the *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science***

During 2012/2013, sales of volumes of the *Proceedings*, including the new issue (volume 47, part 1), generated \$1982.00 in revenue. Please see Appendix A (attached) for details. Of note, during the summer, 19 copies of the *Flora of Nova Scotia* were sold, and during the year, 40 copies of the *Birds of Brier Island* were sold, many by author Eric Mills, who has distributed copies to a retail outlet in the Westport area of Nova Scotia.

### **Access Copyright**

The past NSIS Librarian submitted the required forms to Access Copyright for the 2012 repertoire payment to publishers. NSIS subsequently received a payment of \$1870.13. As you may have noticed, this was a much larger sum than we normally receive; it included a one-time payment of \$906.96 designated as the K-12 Tariff Special Dividend for Publishers. Following a September 2012 decision by the Supreme Court of Canada, Access Copyright agreed to release the majority of royalties collected under the 2005-2009 K-12 Tariff. Publishers (such as NSIS) that had registered with Access Copyright prior to December 31, 2009 were eligible for this payment.

### **NSIS Exchange Journal Collection**

In December 2012, due to budget constraints, the Killam Library made the decision that it will no longer bind print journal issues. This measure will affect all journals received by the library including the journals which are sent to NSIS by exchange societies. Individual journal issues will be fitted with security tattle-tape, placed on the shelves and monitored for usage. If journal issues show signs of wear, selective binding will be conducted.

Last April, Sharon Longard initiated a project to inventory the older volumes of the NSIS exchange journals which are housed in the basement of the Killam Library. The next phase of the project is to identify freely available online copies of the journals. This is an ongoing project which will continue as staffing permits.

NSIS exchange partners continue to send their new publications to NSIS from around the world. These items are processed and added to the collection. On behalf of NSIS, I would like to thank Carol Richardson and the Serials Department staff in the Killam Library who process the exchange journals and make them shelf-ready for both NSIS members and Killam Library patrons.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Michelle Paon*

*NSIS Librarian*

*May 6, 2013*

**Appendix A**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Volume/ Issue of</b>	<b># Sold</b>	<b>Price (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Received (\$)</b>
	<i>Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science</i>			
May 16, 2012	Birds of Brier Island	10	250.00	250.00
June 7, 2012	Birds of Brier Island	1	25.00 + 9.00 S/H	US\$34.00
June 7, 2012	v. 42 pt. 1 & 2	2	22.00 + 15.00 =37.00	37.00
June 2012	Flora of Nova Scotia (v.26, pt. 2 & 4)	19	665.00	665.00
August 17, 2012	Birds of Brier Island	14	350.00	350.00
September 26, 2012	v. 19, pt. 1	2	10.00	10.00
September 26, 2012	v. 23 pt. 1	2	10.00	10.00
October 2, 2012	Birds of Brier Island	5	125.00	125.00
October 9, 2012	Birds of Brier Island	2	50.00	50.00
October 15, 2012	Birds of Brier Island	1	25.00	25.00
December 3, 2012	Birds of Brier Island	1	25.00	25.00
December 3, 2012	Birds of Brier Island	2	50.00	50.00
December 11, 2012	Birds of Brier Island	1	25.00	25.00
December 13, 2012	Birds of Brier Island	1	25.00 + 5.00 S/H	30.00
January 7, 2013	Birds of Brier Island	1	25.00	25.00
January 10, 2013	v.47, pt. 1	1	10.00	10.00
January 11, 2013	v.47 pt. 1	1	10.00	10.00
January 17, 2013	v.42, pt. 1, 2002	1	22.00 + 5.00 S/H	27.00
January 22, 2013	v.42, pt. 1, 2002	2	44.00	44.00
January 22, 2013	v.47, pt. 1, 2012	2	20.00	20.00
February 15, 2013	v.47, pt.1, 2012	9	90.00 + 45.00 S/H	135.00
March 6, 2013	Birds of Brier Island	1	25.00	25.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>81</b>	<b>\$1,982.00</b>	<b>\$1,982.00</b>

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Michelle Paon*  
*NSIS Librarian*  
*May 6, 2013*



## STUDENT SCIENCE WRITING COMPETITION 2013

### Final Report

This year's competition received the generous support of \$250 from the Situating Science Cluster of Halifax.

There were 23 students who expressed interest in submitting entries, and 10 actually did so. (That's a typical ratio.) The entries were from Acadia, Cape Breton Univ., Dalhousie, King's, Mount St. Vincent, St. F.X., and Saint Mary's. There were 6 undergraduate submissions and 4 submissions by graduate students.

Robert Cook, Stuart Grossert, David Richardson, John Rutherford and Peter Wells graciously and diligently assisted with the judging. The results were as follows:

#### **Undergraduate Winner**

**Jonathan Oore**, Dal., Psychology

“Age-related Changes in Motor Ability and Motor Learning in Triple Transgenic (3xTg-AD) and Control (B6129SF1/J) Mice on the Accelerating Rotarod”

#### **Undergraduate Hon. Mention**

**Laura Perry**, CBU, Biology, “The Effects of Climate Change on Several Seabird Species on the Coastal Regions of North America”

#### **Graduate Honourable Mention**

**Lynn Cornish**, St. F.X., Biology, “Managing Molecules in Health and Nutrition; A Literature Review”

#### **Graduate Honourable Mention**

**Jordi Segers**, S.M.U., Biology, “Summer Distribution and Movement Patterns of Short Distance Migratory Bats in Relation to a Wind Farm in Nova Scotia”.

*Hank Bird*

*SSWC Coordinator*

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW  
THE CRITERIA AND PROCESS USED FOR  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE  
NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF  
SCIENCE HALL OF FAME**

Submitted by: Richard Singer and John Rutherford - May 6, 2013

**Introduction**

At present, there appear to be three major criteria employed to evaluate a nominee for membership in the Nova Scotian Institute of Science Hall of Fame:

1. The nominee has made significant lifetime contributions to some field of science;
2. The nominee is Nova Scotian;
3. The nominee is deceased.

In addition, a nominee need not have pursued his or her scientific career in Nova Scotia.

There is no formal definition of what constitutes “significant contributions,” and no limitation on the field of science to which such contributions have been made, except that “science” in this context appears to refer to the natural, rather than the social, sciences.

Nominations for inclusion in the Hall of Fame are made by members of Council, with the nominating Councillor(s) justifying the case for inclusion to Council.

Additions to the Hall of Fame appear to be made on an *ad hoc* basis.

**Discussion**

In October, 2012, a suggestion was received by NSIS that nominations to its Hall of Fame be opened to the public, and that the criterion limiting eligibility to deceased individuals be dropped. Council discussed the implications of adopting these changes, and then referred the matter to a committee to consider the issue and present recommendations. We agreed to serve as this committee.

We began by considering the criteria that other organizations use to recognize, in one fashion or another, meritorious individuals. NSIS President Michelle Paon kindly supplied us with a list of relevant groups. These institutions included the following:

- Science Atlantic Outstanding Members Hall of Fame
- The Canadian Science and Technology Museum Hall of Fame
- The Nova Scotia Forestry Hall of Fame
- The Atlantic Agricultural Hall of Fame
- The Discovery Centre's Discovery Awards for Science and Technology
- Doctors Nova Scotia Awards for Contributions to the Medical Profession

We found that the criteria used by organizations on this list, although interesting, are not directly relevant to our situation. In some cases, recognition is conferred for service to a particular group. In others, recognition is based on achievement in a narrowly defined branch of science. Finally, some organizations use awards as a way of calling attention to excellence.

Other organizations' practices did, however, provide a basis for reflection on the nature and purpose of our Hall of Fame.

- A. Since the NSIS is interesting in promoting science in general, those inducted into the Hall of Fame have come from across the scientific spectrum.
- B. While being named to the Hall of Fame does honour an individual's contributions to science, it is not construed to be an 'award' in the personal sense.
- C. The NSIS Hall of Fame does, however, serve as an archive of Nova Scotians of note who have achieved recognition for contributions to their areas of science. In this way it is a historical record, and a reminder of the achievements of scientists linked to this province.

The NSIS, as a "generalist" organization, lacks the organizational capacity to make expert judgements on any specific field of science, other than those areas represented by members of Council. This situation is both a weakness and a strength. On the one hand, we may be, or be seen to be, susceptible to considering only those individuals whose accomplishments are in fields with which Councillors are familiar. On the other, and to offset this possible bias, we tend to consider Nova Scotians who have achieved prominence in the public eye or have been recognized by other organizations of note, making their inclusion in our Hall of Fame appropriate to its function as an archive. The recent

induction of Nobel laureate Dr. Willard Boyle is an example of the latter situation.

The current criterion that only deceased individuals are eligible for the Hall of Fame ensures that in comparing the accomplishments of one individual to another we are considering the totality of their contributions to science. This limitation may “level the field” a bit, making judgements somewhat more equitable and decisions a bit easier. Moreover, if we were to begin including living scientists, two “classes” of inductee would be created, one class inducted on the basis of a lifetime’s accomplishment in science, and a second class whose careers are still in progress.

We discussed at some length the possibility of opening Hall of Fame nominations to the public. There are benefits to doing so. Wider consultation could identify meritorious individuals who might otherwise be overlooked, inasmuch as Councillors cannot be conversant with all areas of science. Broader consultation might also bring the NSIS to wider public attention, thus increasing recognition of the Institute and its activities. However, we were unable to identify reasonable means to limit the numbers of nominations that might be entertained at any one time; the administrative burden of identifying worthy inductees from a list compiled from public suggestions might soon become onerous. We considered “rotating” nominations from the various areas of science from year to year, but realized that this situation might lead to many nominations in fields of particular current interest in one year, and few (or none) in less prominent areas in a subsequent year. Moreover, there are, potentially, negative consequences to involving the public in nominating Hall of Fame candidates. Such a practice could lead to the process being viewed as a competition, which today it is not, and might result in calls that the NSIS justify its decisions to those whose nominees were not chosen. Indeed, to the extent that the process could become contentious, the outreach mission of the NSIS in promoting science and informing the public might be compromised.

### **Recommendations**

1. That the current practice of nominating only deceased Nova Scotian scientists for Hall of Fame membership be continued. Including living individuals is not consistent with the intended purpose of the Hall of Fame.
2. That nominations for induction continue to be generated by members of Council, with the following provisos:

- a. That criteria for membership in the Hall of Fame be reviewed on a regular basis (*e.g.* every two or three years) by Council, or by a committee struck by Council, with an eye to determining whether new names should be added;
  - b. That Council, or a committee struck by Council, be empowered to consult selectively with third parties (*e.g.* local historians of science, other organizations whose input is deemed to be useful and appropriate) of *its own choosing* to aid in its deliberations.
3. That, as a means of drawing public attention to scientists of note who are still actively engaged in research, the NSIS maintain on its website a list of the speakers who have contributed to the public lecture series over the past five (or ten?) years. Such a list would include the affiliations of each contributor, the title of the talk presented, and a brief description of the topic covered. Where possible, photographs of the speakers would be included.

**NOMINATIONS TO POSITIONS  
ON NSIS COUNCIL  
2013-2014**

**Officers**

<b>President:</b>	Tom Rand
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Patrick Ryall*
<b>Past President:</b>	Michelle Paon
<b>Secretary:</b>	Linda Marks§
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Angelica Silva
<b>Editor:</b>	Peter Wells
<b>Librarian:</b>	Michelle Paon
<b>Webmaster:</b>	Suzette Soomai
<b>Publicity:</b>	Vacant

**Councillors**

Henry (Hank) Bird	(Writing Competition Coordinator)
Leigh Ann Bishop	(Science Teacher's Representative)
Robert Boudreau	(Mentorship)
Kevin Hewitt	
Ron MacKay	
Rick Singer	
John Young	

**Student Representative**

Allison Chua

**Observers**

Jeff Gray <sup>1</sup>	(Nova Scotia Museum)
Vacant	(Discovery Centre)

\* New member on Council

§ Nominated to continue as Secretary

<sup>1</sup> Appointed April, 2013