

NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE SESSION 2007-2008

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This has been another busy and active year for the Institute promoting science in Nova Scotia. The highlights of the year are:

Our monthly lecture program attracted a good number of people especially the "*Climate Change Forum/Discussion*" in January at King's College. Many thanks to Sandra Nowlan and Brad Tucker for helping me develop the lecture program and to members who sent us their ideas. Also many thanks to Sandra for publicizing the talks widely to the news media which increased our attendances. Our Fall lectures were presented by Herschel Specter (RBR Consultants, New York), "*Nuclear Energy and the Post-Petroleum Future*", Rebecca Jamieson (Department of Earth Sciences, Dalhousie University), "*Baking the bedrock- why the Halifax Slates have 'the Pits'*", and Daniel O'Halloran (O'Halloran Campbell Consultants), "*In-Stream Tidal Power in the Bay of Fundy*". We also co-sponsored with Dalhousie's Department of Oceanography the 2007 Huntsman Award Public lecture on November 22 at Dalhousie University. Dr. Thomas Kiorboe from the Danish Institute for Fisheries Research, Charlottenlund, Denmark gave an interesting talk on "Sex and Death in the Ocean".

The winter/spring program started off in January with the "*Climate Change Forum/ Discussion*" organized and chaired effectively by Brad Tucker from the Discovery Centre. This was well attended and four panelists from universities and government spoke on different topics which sparked a lot of lively discussion. The February lecture was well presented by Dr. Christine Chambers (Departments of Pediatrics and Psychology, Dalhousie University and the IWK Health Centre) on the important topic of "*Childhood Pain*". In March Dr. Tanya Peckmann, Department of Anthropology, St. Mary's University, spoke about "*Identifying Human remains with Forensics*", and Dr. Jon Sweeney, Canadian Forestry Service, Fredericton spoke in April about "*The Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle problem*", a very topical issue for local residents.

The *Proceedings* have been published under the very able editorship of Dr. James. E. Stewart for the past several years with the assistance of an editorial board. He informed us last year that he would like to step down and we are pleased to inform you that Dr. Peter Wells has been working with him as Associate Editor and will take over the Editorship later this year. We are very grateful to Jim for all the hard work he has done ensuring the *Proceedings* are published and to exacting standards. We entered into an exciting project with the Dalhousie University library to scan digitally the first 2 volumes of our *Proceedings* (1863 to 1870) into their recently launched digital repository. In December Michelle Paon and Sharon Longard gave

us a presentation and Online Web demonstration of these scanned early volumes and we were impressed with the clarity and the hard work that had been put into this project. A proposal is being prepared for funding to continue with the digitization of Volumes 3 to 8 this summer. If this is successful we will be able to view these early volumes, and hopefully more in the future, on the web with a link to our website. This project will not only make these early works more accessible, but will also help minimize their slow physical deterioration.

Ken Adams kindly organized the annual Science Writing Competition again this year. Seven essays were received. The essay by Joseph Poissant (St. Mary's University Biology Graduate student) won the Graduate Student Award and the essay by Shane Journeay (Dalhousie Medical Student) won the Science Writing Category; certificates and cheques were presented at our April meeting.

We provided financial support again this year to the ten Regional Science Fairs in Nova Scotia and Sean Tibbets has continued to run the Mentorship program which matches students with working scientists. We also gave a small donation for a prize on a Nova Scotia Chemistry problem to the APICS/CIC Student Chemistry Conference to be held at St. Mary's University in May. Council approved revised By-Laws which are being submitted for approval by the general membership at the 2008 AGM. A copy of the original 1890 statute, when our Institute was incorporated by the Nova Scotia legislature, has been scanned into our website. The first two female scientists, Margaret S. Brown and Constance MacFarland, were appointed to our Nova Scotia Hall of Fame. The Institute celebrates its 150th Anniversary in 2012 and we are in the process of establishing a Planning Committee to develop ideas for celebrating this important event. If any general member would like to serve on this committee or has any ideas please contact our secretary, Linda Marks at marks1@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca. The Bedford Institute of Oceanography will also be celebrating its 50th Anniversary that year and we may be able to combine on some events.

Finally I would like to thank the Museum of Natural History for its continued support of our programmes, and all members of Council for their hard work during the year. Special thanks to Dr. Stuart Grossert for assisting me as Co-President this year during my absences and for his past and continuing dedication to the work of the Institute.

Respectfully submitted
Mary-Jane O'Halloran
Co-President
April 22, 2008