

NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE SESSION 2004-2005

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again the Institute has had a very good year, with a varied program of activities. Our mainstay program, the regular monthly lecture series (Appendix), covered a range of topics and was generally well attended, sometimes drawing capacity audiences to our regular venue in the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History. This was due not only to the efforts of our Publicity Officer (Susan Bjornson) and Secretary (Linda Marks), but also to some much-appreciated advertising by other organizations: the Nova Scotia Museum, in its "Events" newsletter and announcements over CBC radio, the Discovery Centre in its brochure, and the Halifax Field Naturalists. We are grateful for their interest and support.

The Institute was also pleased to co-sponsor two special events in October: a special lecture at Dalhousie University by Nobel Laureate (Physiology/Medicine 1981) Dr. David Hubel, and a workshop at St. Mary's University to consider ways of maintaining the research station on Sable Island. The latter event was instrumental in resolving the problems of financial support of the station, and it is good to be able to report that the future of this important facility now seems assured.

After having several ad hoc caretakers of the Institute's website, we were pleased to welcome John Cordes to the Council as continuing webmaster. John brings considerable expertise to this job and has updated and revamped the site. Thanks are extended to student member Andrew Hamilton, who maintained the site for over a year until his departure from the province last August.

During the year, we updated the membership list and organized a campaign, spearheaded by Treasurer Steve Ewart and Membership Chair Georgia Pe-Piper, to collect dues in arrears. We also reinstated the annual autumn dues levy (albeit in winter), since soliciting dues via the AGM notice alone was not very successful, as response seemed to be linked to attendance at the AGM dinner and few members knew their dues status. Despite the perennial difficulties with dues collection and recruitment of new members, our finances are in good shape under Steve's care, as detailed in his Treasurer's report.

Thanks to this financial good health, we were able to continue our sponsorship of science education via Science Fairs and the Student Writing Competition. This year the Institute sponsored awards in all eight Regional Science Fairs in the province, donating \$100 to each region. Thanks go here to Surjit Verma for again acting as liaison to the fair organizers.

Our third annual student writing competition attracted a number of excellent papers, from nearly all Nova Scotian universities that have a science curriculum. Five awards totaling \$1500 were made, to: David Conrad (Dal-

housie University, graduate award), Jackie Glister (St. Mary's University, undergraduate award), Mark Wall (University College of Cape Breton, undergraduate award), Jennifer Paterson (University of King's College, scientific journalism), and Jane Tougas (Dalhousie University, special award for high merit in the graduate category). The competition was again very capably and efficiently coordinated by Jonathan Blay, assisted on the judging committee by Stuart Grossert and myself, and by additional readers S. Bjornson, J. Cordes, E. Curry, P. Keast, A. McCulloch, B. Pohajdak, K. Rouvinen-Watt and D. Tindall. The participation of all these people is greatly appreciated.

The Mentorship Program initiated last year is now in operation, with about 20 mentors registered and several students requesting and being referred to mentors. Thanks for continuing this initiative go to Sean Tibbetts (Chair).

It has been an active year in the editorial office and library, as set forth in the respective reports of Jim Stewart (Editor) and Sharon Longard (Librarian). I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge with thanks the work of these officers. Mention should also be made of our two enthusiastic student representatives Derek Schnare (St. Mary's) and Alexis Paton (Dalhousie). Students bring a fresh perspective and Derek has noted that he enjoyed his two years with us so much he was willing to continue even while at law school! Alexis will be returning next year. I also wish to thank our observers, Alex Wilson (Nova Scotia Museum) and Dena Simon (Discovery Centre), who have been helpful far beyond the call of duty.

Finally, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to all members of the Council for their support and active participation in the Institute's programs, toward a successful year. In particular, I want to recognize our Secretary, Linda Marks, our Past-President, Archie McCulloch, and Vice-President, Stuart Grossert. Their unfailing good humour and spirit of cooperation have made my job a pleasure. It has been an honour to serve the Institute in this capacity.

Presented to the AGM

May 2, 2005

Carolyn Bird

President NSIS

APPENDIX:

Regular Lectures

- October 4: *The life work of Donald O. Hebb, Canada's most famous psychologist.*
Richard Brown, Dept. of Psychology,
 Dalhousie University
- November 1: *The LIDAR in Laser Atmospheric Studies at Dalhousie University.*
Tom Duck, Department of Physics, Dalhousie University.
- December 6: *Fates of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in marine organisms.*
Jocelyne Hellou, Marine Chemistry, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- January 3: *How to protect your computer from hackers.*
Peter Steeper, Xerox Canada
- February 7: *Antibiotic use on the farm. Implications for human health?*
Kevin Forward, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University
- March 7: *Filling the void-discovering life beneath the seas.*
Ellen Kenchington, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- April 4: *Hurricanes and their impact on the forests of Nova Scotia.*
Peter Neily, NS Department of Natural Resources
- May 2: *The role of materials research in your daily lives.*
Mary Ann White, Department of Chemistry,
 Dalhousie University
 Annual Dinner Speaker

Special Events

- October 5: *Sable Island: uncertain future?*
 Workshop with special presentation by **Zoe Lucas**,
 biologist and long-time resident of Sable Island
 [co-sponsored by St. Mary's University, the Ecology
 Action Centre, and the Sable Island Green Horse Society]
- October 18: *Vision and brain: the results of a half century of research*
Dr. David Hubel, Department of Neurobiology,
 Harvard University
 [co-sponsored by the Dalhousie Institute of Neuroscience]

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

There are currently one hundred and ninety-one NSIS exchange partners, and this number has not changed from the previous year. The number of institutional members also remains unchanged from last year and continues to be twenty-seven. Invoices were sent out in February 2005 for institutional memberships and to date we have received payment for twenty renewals.

In March 2004 volume 42, Part 2, of the *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science* was published. The Library mailed the issue to exchange partners and institutional members. In addition, we also did the mailing to personal members. Postal charges for distribution of the printed journal cost the Institute \$1,713.19 in 2004.

The *Flora of Nova Scotia* by A.E. Roland continues to sell @ \$15.00, and thirty-three copies were sold during the period May 2004-March 2005. There are only nineteen remaining copies of the *Flora* available. Once these are sold the title will be out of print.

Publications continue to be received regularly from our 191 active exchange partners and this material is added on an ongoing basis to the collection. I would like to thank Carol Richardson and the Serials Department staff in the Killam Library who ensure that the NSIS Library operations continue to function smoothly.

Respectfully submitted to the AGM

May 2, 2005

Sharon Longard

NSIS Librarian

EDITOR'S REPORT

- 1) The Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science Volume 42 Part 2 was published in the spring of 2004. This relatively large issue is comprised of 269 pages and included 13 papers on Conserving Biodiversity in Nova Scotia edited by JH Martin Willison and Christopher Miller. In addition, it included two papers from the NSIS student Science Awards program begun in 2003, three obituaries and the NSIS Sessions Proceedings for the 3 years 2000-2003.
- 2) The preparation of the first part of Volume 43 is well advanced. Currently, galleys for review by authors of most of the papers are being printed; this step should be virtually complete by the end of the month i.e. about the time of the AGM. Two papers are still being prepared, but are expected to be completed shortly. As a result, this issue should be ready for distribution by the summer of 2005. This issue, in addition to several general papers, will carry papers from the 2004 NSIS Student Science Awards program plus the report on NSIS Sessions for 2003-2004.
- 3) Material for the written Symposium on Marine Science has taken longer to prepare than was anticipated. Much of it now, however, is in hand and it is expected it will appear in Part 2 of Volume 43 before the end of 2005.

Respectfully submitted to the AGM

May 2, 2005

James E. Stewart

Editor NSIS

TREASURER'S REPORT

ASSETS:

Bank Account	\$6,177.88	
Petty Cash	<u>0.00</u>	
		6,177.88
Investments		<u>50,724.11</u>
Account Receivable		<u>56,901.99</u>
		56,901.99

LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH:

Accounts Payable (Science Fair cheques)		<u>-200.00</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Worth		56,701.99

INVESTMENTS:

Cash Balance		3,170.41
CIBC Premium T-Bill (short-term)		9,157.70
CIBC Investment Certificate A @4.40% (due Apr 2008)		8,396.00
Citizens Bank Certificate A @3.60% (due Feb 2006) Can		10,000.00
Western Bank Certificate A @ 3.30% (due April 2006)		10,000.00
National Trust GIC @5.20% (due May 2005)		<u>10,000.00</u>
		50,724.11

Revenue**Membership Dues**

Individuals	\$1,040.00
Institutions	472.10

AGM (2004) 786.75

Donations 50.00

Sales/Page charges

Proceedings	2,984.93
Other	500.50

Interest (chequing acct) 4.13

\$5,838.41 Total

Expenditures

Advertisement/promotion \$228.88

AGM (2004) 939.64

Office supplies 161.95

Rent (Museum) 175.00

Proceedings printing 8,814.04

Donations/Prizes 800.00

\$11,119.51 Total

Net: (\$5,281.10)

Treasurer's Report (continued)**Notes****Finances**

The Institute's finances are in good shape. They have been relatively stable over the last few years. The net worth, \$56,701.99, compares well with that of the previous year (\$61,602.37)¹.

As in past years, we received a grant from the NS Museum of \$1000.00. This is not reflected in this year's finances because the cheque was sent to Dalhousie University (address of former Treasurer) and deposited into an account there. I arranged with Dalhousie for a reimbursement cheque. This was deposited into our account in April.

Dr. Archie McCulloch and Dr. David Jamieson informally audited the finances of NSIS this year. Their diligent efforts are much appreciated.

Membership

Membership dues in 2004/2005 amounted to \$1040. This was lower than the total (\$2000) collected the previous year. This was, in part, the result of several members paying for two years in 2003/2004. Also, \$300 in dues were deposited in April and not reflected in 2004/2005 fiscal year (end March 31st).

Current membership is 121 members:

- ~ 88 Regular members (dues paid for 04-05)
- ~ 24 Regular members (owing for 04-05)
- ~ 5 Student members
- ~ 4 Life members

Of these 13 are new regular members

24 members who were in arrears for more than two years have been removed from the membership list. Additionally, 5 members requested to be removed from the membership list.

Respectfully submitted to the AGM
 May 2, 2005
 H Stephen Ewart
 Treasurer

¹ Reported as \$61,202.37 and corrected to \$61,602.37 following the audit.

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have examined the financial records and books of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science and have determined that the financial statement prepared by the Institute Treasurer fairly represents the financial status of the assets for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2005.

We offer three recommendations:

- 1) An annual invoicing of members who have not prepaid their dues should be conducted in September or October.
- 2) The Institute should consider changing their fiscal year to end at the last day of February. This would allow sufficient time for complete financial records to be readily available for audit.
- 3) The annual financial statement should provide a breakdown of printing and mailing costs associated with the publication and distribution of the Proceedings.

Respectfully submitted to the AGM

2 May, 2005

W. David Jamieson

Archie McCulloch