

## **NSIS COUNCIL**

### **Reports from the Annual General Meeting, May 2014**

1. Minutes of 152<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting
2. President's Annual Report (Tom Rand)
3. Treasurer's Annual Report (Angelica Silva)
4. Editor's Annual Report (Peter Wells and David Richardson)
5. Librarian's Annual Report (Michelle Paon)
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## MINUTES OF 152<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**5 pm - 6 pm May 2013**  
**The Great Hall, University Club**  
**Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS**

Council Members present: Michelle Paon (President and Librarian), Tom Rand (Vice-President), John Rutherford (Past President), Angelica Silva (Treasurer), Linda Marks (Secretary), Peter Wells (Editor), Henry Bird (Writing Contest Coordinator), Suzuette Soomai (Webmaster), Ron MacKay, Leigh Ann Bishop, John Young

Members present: Stuart Grossert, Jim Stewart, Michael Falk, David Richardson, Chris Corkett, Patrick Ryall, Timothy Lambert, Eric Mills, Ann Mills, Judy Bird, Carol Morrison, Sonia Gaul, David Richey, Matthew Richey

Regrets (Council Members): Allison Chua (Student Representative), Robert Boudreau (Mentorship Coordinator), Kevin Hewitt

The President welcomed members and called to order the 152<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting. It was noted that the reports will be briefly summarized as all the reports have been made available to members with email prior to the meeting.

### **1. Approval of the Minutes of the 151<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting of 8th May, 2012**

Motion to accept the minutes:

MOVED: John Rutherford

Seconded: Eric Mills

No discussion. All in favour. Carried

### **2. President's Annual Report (Michelle Paon):**

Michelle Paon highlighted aspects of the President's Report.

A motion was passed at the 2012 Annual General Meeting requesting that the NSIS Council send a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper objecting to portions of Bill C-38. The motion was as follows:

“Council recommends that the Nova Scotian Institute of Science express to the federal government its concern regarding the degradation of environmental regulatory mechanisms, the proposed changes to the Fisheries Act, and the limits being placed on federally employed scientists to communicate the results of their research to the public.”

A letter expressing the Institute's concerns was sent to the Prime Minister with copies 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, all Nova Scotia Members of Parliament, all NSIS members, and newspapers: The Globe and Mail and The Chronicle-Herald. Council felt that responses received from the Prime Minister's Office and from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Keith Ashfield left a number of questions unanswered and is therefore preparing a letter to Minister Ashfield.

The Institute had a very successful 2012-2013 lecture series with an average of 65 attending each presentation. In addition to the Institute's regular lectures the Institute co-sponsored two special lectures, one of which was organized to celebrate the NSIS 150th anniversary. Dr. Suzanne Zeller conducted research at the Nova Scotia Archives and reviewed the entire collection of the Proceedings of the NSIS to present a lecture entitled: "The Natural History of a Sustainable Institution: The Nova Scotian Institute of (Natural) Science since 1862".

In addition to collaborating with a variety of scholarly organizations and societies the Institute explored the links between science and music with Symphony Nova Scotia by working with the symphony to recruit scientists for pre-concert panel discussions which were held prior to the Symphony's performance of Haydn's Creation oratorio. The event celebrated the NSIS 150th anniversary.

Volume 47(1) of the Proceedings of the NSIS was published in December 2012. Michelle Paon thanked Editor Peter Wells, Associate Editor David Richardson, the editorial review board and Gail LeBlanc for their work and acknowledged the financial support of the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

Plans to transition to an electronic journal format are proceeding. The Institute has signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" with the Dalhousie University Libraries to publish the online version of the Proceedings. The Dalhousie University Libraries will host the journal by providing the server space and the electronic platform. The move to an electronic format will reduce the considerable costs involved in producing and distributing the Proceedings.

Michelle Paon thanked Henry Bird for coordinating a successful Student Science Writing Competition and acknowledged the financial support of Situating Science Strategic Knowledge Cluster. Awards

were presented in April prior to the monthly lecture. The Science Writing Competition is open to university students.

The NSIS also provided financial support to ten Science Fairs; the RobotsEast Atlantic Championship and to a graduate student poster competition at the annual conference of the Fishermen & Scientists Research Society.

Michelle Paon thanked webmaster Suzuette Soomai for her work maintaining the Institute's website and her present efforts coordinating a move of the site's contents to a new software platform. The redesigned website should be available in the fall of 2013.

Michelle Paon reported the passing of three long-standing NSIS members: Dr. Alan C. Grant; Past President Dr. Donald D. Betts; and Past President, Past Editor and Life Member Dr. Alan Taylor. On behalf of the Institute Michelle Paon extended condolences to the families and acknowledged the contributions made to the Institute by each scientist.

Michelle Paon thanked Council for its work and especially John Rutherford for his three years of leadership; Elaine McCulloch for staying on Council this past year to assist the new Treasurer; and retiring Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History observer David Christianson for all his contributions to the Institute.

Motion to accept the President's Report:

MOVED: Michelle Paon

Seconded: Ron MacKay

All in favour. Carried

### **3. Treasurer's Annual Report (Angelica Silva)**

Angelica Silva presented the Treasurer's report which stated that as of the 31st March 2013 the Institute has a "net worth" of \$54749.14. Expenses included publication of the Proceedings, promotion of the lectures, and prizes to the Writing Contest and the province-wide Science Fairs. The Treasurer noted that as of 31 March 2013 cheques issued to four of the Science Fairs had not been cashed. Revenue included the sale of the Proceedings, a payment from Access Copyright, and the 2011-2012 contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia in addition to the Province's 2012-2013 contribution. In May 2012 there was a transfer of \$10,046.71 from savings to cover expenses.

The Institute currently has 98 individual members, including 8 life members and 2 student members. There are currently 20 institutional members.

John Young noted that Institute expenses have become higher in recent years.

David Richardson suggested that the term “Net Worth” be used instead of “Total Liabilities and Net Worth” on the first page of the Treasurer’s Report and also noted that the Institute has fewer individual and institutional members than last year.

Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report:

MOVED: Angelica Silva

Seconded: Henry Bird

All in favour. Carried

Michelle Paon thanked Angelica Silva for taking on the challenging task as Treasurer. The Treasurer thanked Michelle Paon for all the “behind the scenes” work she performs on behalf of the Institute.

#### **4. Editor’s Annual Report**

**(Peter Wells /Associate Editor, D. Richardson)**

Peter Wells presented the Editor’s report: Volume 47 (Part1) of the Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science (PNSIS) was published in December 2012. This issue continued with the new journal “look” which includes a colored cover and a new typeface.

The Editorial Board includes members from across the Province and has worked hard to attract papers and move them through the review process. The Editor thanked the Board for its work and enthusiasm.

To date several contributed papers are ready, or in the review process, for PNSIS Volume 47(2).

Progress has been made to make issues of the Proceedings available in both print and electronic formats (access through the NSIS website). Costs for producing and mailing print editions of the Proceedings are rising and, with the concurrence of members, the Proceedings will eventually become a digital issue.

Special issue, The Birds of Brier Island (PNSIS Vol. 46, Part 1, 2011), continues to sell and it is hoped that members will advertise this issue and help with its sales.

Peter Wells reported that ideas are being sought for future issues of the Proceedings. The Editor stressed that Institute members are welcomed to submit original papers, review papers, commentaries and editorials to the journal and noted that the Proceedings are a visible, written voice of the Institute.

Motion to accept the Editor's Report:

MOVED: Eric Mills

Seconded: John Young

All in favour. Carried

The President thanked Editor Peter Wells, Associate Editor David Richardson and production/layout editor Gail LeBlanc for all their work.

### **5. Librarian's Annual Report (Michelle Paon)**

Michelle Paon reported highlights of the Librarian's report

Two additional volumes (Vol. 35, 1985 and Vol. 36, 1986) of the Proceedings have been digitized and deposited into DalSpace.

There are currently 20 Institutional Members (four less than last year). Renewal notices were sent to Institutional Members in January 2013 informing them of the increase in membership fees to \$30.00. As of the 31 March 2013 renewals have been received for a total of \$346.25. The NRC Institute for Marine Biosciences in Halifax cancelled its membership due to the closure of its library.

There are currently 89 Exchange Partners. As reported by Past Librarian Sharon Longard at the 2012 AGM a number of exchange partners (75 reported in May 2012 but due to a typographical error the number should be 85) were removed from the list because they had not sent publications to NSIS for two or more years.

Volume 47 (1) of the Proceedings was published in December 2012 and was mailed to all Institutional Members. To save on postage costs volume 47 (1) will be sent to the Exchange Partners following the publication of volume 47(2).

Sales of the Proceedings generated \$1982.00 in revenue. The Flora of Nova Scotia continues to sell well. The Librarian thanked Eric Mills for helping to distribute and sell copies the Birds of Brier Island, which he authored.

The Institute received a 2012 repertoire payment to publishers from Access Copyright of \$1870.13. This payment was much larger than normally received as it included a one-time payment (K-12 Tariff Special Dividend for Publishers) of \$906.96.

Due to budget constraints the Killam Library will no longer bind print journal issues, including journals from the Institute's Exchange Partners. If journals show signs of wear selective binding will be carried out.

The Librarian acknowledged and thanked Carol Richardson and the staff of the Killam Library Serials Department who process the Institute's exchange journals and make them available at the Library.

Motion to accept the Librarian's Report:

MOVED: Michelle Paon

Seconded: Peter Wells

All in favour. Carried

## **6. Nominating Committee for 2013-2014 Report**

**(John Rutherford)**

Committee Chair John Rutherford presented the nominations for the 2013-2014 Council on behalf of the Committee which included Michelle Paon and John Young.

The Institute's by-laws states that "The officers, except the Librarian, shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting of the Institute and shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting or until their successors are elected. The tenure of officers except the Librarian and the Editor, should not exceed five (5) years."

John Rutherford reported that the incumbent Secretary, Linda Marks, has been nominated for 2013-2014 although she has held the position for more than five years. The Nominating Committee felt that the by-laws did not preclude the opportunity to continue in the position as it did not state "must not exceed five years".

There were three calls for additional nominations from the floor. As there was "no contest" to the proposed slate of officers it was declared that the nominations be elected by acclamation.

New members to Council are Patrick Ryall, Vice-President and Jeff Gray, observer representing the Nova Scotia Museum.

Michelle Paon congratulated all members of Council and welcomed the Institute's new President, Tom Rand.

## **7. Lecture Programme for 2013-2014 (Tom Rand)**

Lecture Committee Chair Tom Rand presented the lectures for 2013-2014 and thanked committee members Michelle Paon, Angelica Silva, Kevin Hewitt and John Young for their work.

The theme of the 2013-2014 lecture series will be energy. Ten speakers have been confirmed and two of the evening lectures will host dual-speaker events. Topics cover energy resources; the transformation of energy; and cosmic energy.

Michelle Paon thanked Tom Rand for his efforts.

### **8. Hall of Fame review (John Rutherford and Richard Singer)**

John Rutherford reported that a suggestion was received in October 2012 that nominations to the 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 referred the matter to a committee to present recommendations.

The committee's report summarized the Institute's current criteria used to evaluate a nominee for membership in the Hall of Fame. The criteria used by other organizations to recognize individuals were also reviewed.

Recommendations were made as follows:

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.

It was noted that members could contact members of Council with their comments and recommendations.

Following questions, John Rutherford briefly described the NSIS virtual Hall of Fame and the four major criteria currently used when evaluating an individual for inclusion:



- The nominee has made “significant” lifetime contributions to some field of science
- The nominee is Nova Scotian
- The nominee is deceased
- The nominee need not have pursued his or her scientific career in Nova Scotia.

Tim Lambert pointed out that not all recent Hall of Fame inductees are Nova Scotian born but were residents of the province, having spent a “substantial amount of their career in Nova Scotia”.

John Rutherford stressed that every 2 – 3 years the policy could be reviewed. David Richardson noted that all nominations are discussed by Council prior to approval.

**9. Other Business:**

There was no other business.

John Rutherford expressed his gratitude to Council and outgoing President, Michelle Paon. Michelle Paon noted that she enjoyed her time as President.

**10. Adjournment:**

Moved: at 6:02 pm by David Richardson

*Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Marks  
Secretary*

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

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT: 2013 TO 2014

First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to thank all Council members for their support during my tenure as President of the NSIS. It has been a fantastic year and I believe we have achieved many things. Secondly, I want to thank all of them for putting their faith in me as President. I have been honoured to serve the NSIS in this capacity and look forward to continuing work with the Institute in fulfilling its goals, especially in fostering and promoting Science in Nova Scotia and supporting the dissemination of peer-reviewed scientific research.

**Public lectures:** As all of you are aware, the NSIS has had a long history of inviting scientists to speak to the public about their research within the context of the NSIS monthly lecture series. The 2013 -2014 lecture year was organized by Michelle Paon, Kevin Hewitt, John Young and Tom Rand. The lectures were designed to focus on the general theme of ENERGY and were presented in three broad areas: energy sources, energy transformation, and finally world energy supply and the future of solar power. These lectures covered topics that ranged from the elegance of intracellular motors to the riddles of dark cosmic energy, from the diets of marine mammals to the detection of art forgeries. The lectures were attended by between some 30 people to 2 standing room only situations. The least number of attendees at the lectures was likely due to inclement winter weather. Based on my observations, all the lectures were well received and stimulated good questions and discussion at their conclusion.

The 2013-2014 lecture series comprised the following speakers and topics:

**October 7, 2013 7:30 pm**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Mary Ann White: Department of Chemistry,  
Dalhousie University**

*Sustainable Approaches to Energy Harvesting and Storage*

**November 4, 2013 7:30 pm**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. David Burton: Department of Environmental Sciences,  
Dalhousie University**

*The Nitrogen Problem*

**Dr. Jim Fawcett: Departments of Pharmacology and Surgery,  
Dalhousie University**

*Biological Nanomotors*

**December 2, 2013 7:30 pm**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Doug Staple: Department of Physics, Dalhousie University**

*World Energy Supply and the Future of Solar Power*

**January 6, 2014 7:30 pm**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Sara Iverson: Department of Biology, Dalhousie University**

*Energy Budgets in Marine Mammals: Tactics and Tricks*

**February 3, 2014 7:30 pm**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Christa Brosseau: Department of Chemistry,  
Saint Mary's University**

*Harvesting the Power of Light Energy – A New Tool for  
Art Conservation Science*

**March 3, 2014 7:30 pm**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Randall Martin: Department of Physics,  
Dalhousie University**

*Global Air Quality*

**Dr. Jason Clyburne: Department of Chemistry,  
Saint Mary's University**

*Carbon Dioxide: Capture, Uses, and Challenges*

**April 7, 2014 7:30 pm**

NS Museum of Natural History

**Dr. Rob Thacker: Department of Astronomy and Physics,  
Saint Mary's University**

*Dark Energy in the Cosmos*

**May 5, 2014 7:30 pm**

Great hall, University Club, Dalhousie University

**Dr. Louise Edwards: Department of Astronomy, Yale University**

*The Formation and Evolution of Galaxies*

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of the speakers for their time, energy and commitment to helping support the NSIS lecture year with excellent presentations on their work. I also would like to thank members of the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, especially Jeff Gray and Robin Gilliam, for their help in enabling the NSIS to use their conference room and auditorium for hosting our monthly Council meetings and public lecture series.

### **Sponsorships:**

1) *Lectures:* In addition to supporting the lecture year, the NSIS co-sponsored several conferences and meetings. On October 3, 2013, the NSIS, together with Situating Science National Strategic Knowledge Cluster, the Evolution Studies Group and Dalhousie University's College of Sustainability, amongst others, supported a public lecture by Dr. Philip Kitcher, the John Dewey Professor of Philosophy, at Columbia University entitled "CAN WE SUSTAIN DEMOCRACY, AND THE PLANET TOO?" The lecture was held in the Ondaatje Hall, McCain Building, Dalhousie University and attended at capacity by over 500 people.

*Sable Island Group:* The Ninth Annual Public Sable Island workshop was held on November 26 and supported in part by the NSIS. It was held at Saint Mary's University, attended by some 200 people, and chaired by myself.

*Huntsman Award Lecture:* On November 27, the NSIS supported the public lecture, "A Changing Sea" by Dr. Scott Doney, from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and this year's Huntsman Award winner. The lecture was held in the Ondaatje Hall, McCain Building, Dalhousie University and attended by over 130 people.

*Maury Conference on the History of Oceanography:* The NSIS has provided both financial and organizational support for this Conference, which is scheduled for June 2014. In part, it is to honour the life and work of the eminent oceanographer, Dr. Eric Mills.

2) *Student Science Writing Competition*: The NSIS sponsored the Student Science Writing Competition, which was organized and overseen by Hank Bird whom we thank for his diligence in coordinating this wonderful initiative. The NSIS also acknowledges the Situating Science Strategic Knowledge Cluster-Atlantic Node, which also provided financial support for the competition. The writing contest is open to all Nova Scotian University science students.

Our congratulations go to the winners, two of whom were present at the April meeting of the NSIS. Prizes and certificates were awarded to the following:

In the undergraduate category, Honourable Mentions were awarded to Kaitlin Baur, Mount Saint Vincent University, for her paper on “Aesthetic Experience” and to Kerry McInnes, Dalhousie University, for her paper on “Mild Traumatic Brain Injury”. In the graduate category the winner was Michael Butler, Dalhousie University, for his paper on “Post-Intubation Hypotension”. An Honourable Mention was given to Penelope Kuhn, Saint Mary’s University, for her paper on “Urban Agriculture”.

3) *Nova Scotia Regional Science Fairs*: In addition to sponsoring the writing competition, NSIS continued to financially support 10 Nova Scotia Regional Science fairs in the form of \$150.00 in prize money to each. NSIS also funded several other initiatives, including the graduate student poster competition at the annual conference of the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society in February 2014, and the RobotsEast Atlantic Championship for school children held in Halifax in May 2014.

On a sad note, a NSIS member, Dr. Robert G. Ackman passed away this year. Dr. Ackman was a long-time NSIS member, and President of the NSIS from 1973 to 1974. He also served as a member of the Editorial Board for the Proceedings of the NSIS.

### **The Future: In my estimation, the future for the NSIS is bright**

The NSIS is financially secure. NSIS bank assets are some \$70K, as of April 2014. In part these are supported by a bequest of \$15,000 made by the late Dr. Alan Taylor to the “Library of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science, Halifax, Nova Scotia to be used for maintenance and expansion”. The cheque was received in August and remitted to the NSIS treasurer. Over the past year, Council members have discussed meaningful ways in which to use the funds and have sought and found approved legal opinion on its use: Suggested uses include:

Putting the funds towards covering costs associated with electronically posting the Institute's journal, the *Proceedings of the NSIS* to its membership; Dividing the funds into two parts: one half would be used for supporting the PNSIS; the remainder would be used to generate interest which would be used to buy some books of interest to NSIS members; and providing a small amount of the money to the Halifax Public Library (and in future, possibly libraries including schools throughout the province) for the purchase of books on science aimed at mature readers.

On April 8, 2014, NSIS was provided with \$1000 by the Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage, the Honourable Tony Ince, to support the continued publication of the Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science.

**Initiatives:** As already mentioned, NSIS goals include the fostering and promoting of Science in Nova Scotia and supporting the dissemination of peer-reviewed scientific research. Over the past year, Council has held several discussions on the state of Science in Canada. Amongst those discussions was the recognition that Federal scientists were being prevented from speaking with the media about their research. In response to this recognition, letters were sent to the Honourable Keith Ashfield (past minister) and to Gale Shea (current), Federal Ministers of Fisheries and Oceans, outlining our grave concerns about limits being placed on federally employed scientists to communicate the results of their research. NSIS also urged the Minister to encourage DFO scientists to speak freely about their research. In a brief response, the Minister stated that the public's concerns about the `muzzling` of government scientists were essentially unfounded.

Council also discussed and identified meaningful ways in which NSIS can support Peter Wells' editorial call for supporting basic science in the region and encouraging evidence-based public policy on issues impacting on science in Canada (Editorial PNSIS. Vol. 47(2) 2013). In November 2013, Ron MacKay and I attended a public meeting at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. The meeting comprised a moderated panel of four discussing Science in the Public Interest, with approximately 60 people in attendance. It was an interesting meeting with a topic that not only sparked much emotion but provided insight into some of various strategies that could be employed to promote science in the region. In February 2014, a committee (John Young, Kevin Hewitt, Pat Ryall, Tom Rand and Kara McPhee), was struck, met and

discussed ways to increase NSIS membership and its involvement in promoting science in the region. In brief, ways identified included, amongst others: continued representation at and sponsorship of various public science-based conferences, meetings, open houses, and lectures; continued support of Nova Scotia Science fairs, the RobotsEAST competition, Checkmate, and the Fishermen and Scientists Research Society; through a NSIS Publicity Officer; Outreach (e.g. NSIS excursions; NSIS representation at Atlantic Science Teachers retreats); holding a NSIS membership card that confers membership benefits (e.g. free or discounted admittance fees at other Halifax or Nova Scotian museums, etc.) and; membership dues collected using swipe and or visa card payments. As of this writing, not all of these items have come to fruition but work is progressing and I hope to prepare a white paper that I expect to complete by the fall 2014.

In closing, I would like to again thank all members of Council for their commitment to the Institute, their support for its initiatives and the time they so generously give to the Institute in order to help it to achieve its goals. I extend a very special thanks to Michelle Paon for her incredible leadership help over the past year and for assisting me in learning the ropes. Two councillors will be retiring from Council this spring: First let me acknowledge the contributions of Linda Marks who will be leaving Council. Linda has served on the Executive since 2003 as a sitting member and as Secretary. We thank Linda for her indefatigable and conscientious efforts in keeping accurate minutes and her assistance and sound advice. Another experienced member, Allison Chua, student representative, will be leaving Council. Our thanks go to Allison for her thoughtful discussions and help, especially with the RobotsEAST competitions. Without the help, guidance and efforts of all of our members I would have found myself like a boat without a rudder.

As final comments, I think that the NSIS is a fabulous, well-recognised scientific organization. However, I do not think that we should rest on our laurels and the status quo. While interest in Science is alive and well in our province, I believe we should strive and continue to move forward by reaching out and appealing to the younger generation through school visits, science fair judging, etc., by increasing membership, by issuing membership cards that confer advantages to the card holders, for example, in providing them with discounted entrance fees to other pay-as-you-go organizations in Halifax, and

the wider NS community. There is also so much we can do outside our lecture sponsorships and lecture series to promote science in Nova Scotia. There is a very large science community in NS which we should try to tap into it. I look forward to continued engagement with the NSIS members and the public in the coming years to meet the goals of the Institute.

Thank you all for your support.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Rand, President*



**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE**

**March 31, 2014**

**ASSETS:**

Bank Account BMO (March 31, 2014)	8,747.72
Investments	60,381.52

**TOTAL ASSETS 69,129.24**

**LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH**

Accounts Payable

**NET WORTH**

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH 69,129.24**

**INVESTMENTS:**

Renaissance High Interest Savings Account (February 28, 2014) @ 1.0%	23,867.02
Manulife Bank Investment Certificate @2.45 % due February 1, 2018	21,000.00
Equitable Trust Company GTD investment @2.15% due May 16, 2017	5,000.00
Montreal Trust Co. Cert @3.25% due July 15, 2014	10,000.00
Interest – cash and cash equivalent	514.50

**TOTAL INVESTMENTS \$ 60,381.52**  
**(AS OF MARCH 31, 2014)**

**REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**  
**for 2013-2014– Nova Scotian Institute of Science**

**REVENUE**

Membership Dues

Individuals and institutions	4,087.00
AGM (2013) (May 2013)	1,136.00
Dr. Alan Taylor bequest (September 2015)	15,000.00
Sales Proceedings, Birds	665.00

Income/Royalties

Access copyright Royalty	803.56
Bank Interest	1.10

**TOTAL REVENUE**

**\$21,692.66**

**EXPENSES**

Advertisement

(lecture posters, pamphlets)	297.87
AGM (2013)	1,286.39
Supplies office	85.51
Web site annual fee	70.00
Web site Honorarium (M. Reed)	1,000.00
Rent (Monthly lectures at MNHNS)	206.50
Postage	190.65
Donation/Prizes	2,450.00
Proceedings Costs	3,000.55
Transfer to short term investment **(Dr. A. Taylor)	15,000.00

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

**\$23,587.47**

**Expenses over income 2013-2014**

**\$ 1,894.78**

**Finances**

The net worth of NSIS is \$69,129.24 as of March 31, 2014. For this 2013-2014 period, NSIS received a total of \$803.56 from ACCESS copyright for publication royalties.

Total expenditures for contributions to special lectures, writing competition contest and prizes totalled \$2,450. These included \$250.00 for undergraduate student winner of 2013 NSIS writing competition; \$1,200 for eight Regional Science Fairs (4 -2013; 4-2013, 6 did not cashed cheques before March 31, 2014); \$500 towards Situation Science lecture, \$250 towards Ecology Action Centre Sable Island lecture; \$250 to student poster winners at Fishermen and Scientists Research Society.

**Membership**

The NSIS has 108 members and include 4 students, 9 Life members and 17 Institutional Members. Dues from Individual members amounted to \$3,490 and \$597 from institutional members. Other income includes sales of proceedings and special publications (Flora of Nova Scotia, Birds of Brier Island) for \$665 and ACCESS copyright Royalty of \$803.56.

A bequest from former NSIS Life member, Dr. Alan Taylor's estate of \$15,000 was received by NSIS and will be used as a long term fund to contribute towards expansion of library and communication of Science in Nova Scotia including donations of Science books to Municipal libraries in Nova Scotia and other initiatives.

*Respectfully submitted to the NSIS AGM 2013-2014*

*Angelica Silva, Treasurer*

*Halifax, Nova Scotia*

*May 5th, 2014*

## **EDITOR'S REPORT**

### **NSIS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**May 5th, 2014**

#### **PNSIS Volume 47 (2) 2013**

The latest issue, PNSIS Volume 47(2), 2013, was published in January 2014. It has an editorial and 6 papers on a variety of topics (from NS plant ecology to new fish records), as well as the Council reports. It has been distributed to all members and participating institutions.

#### **PNSIS Volume 48 (1) 2014**

Two papers are being considered for the next issue of PNSIS (Volume 48(1), 2014). One is an invited paper by Dr. Suzanne Zeller of Wilfred Laurier University on the 150 year history of the NSIS. The winning submissions of the Writing Contest will also be considered for the Proceedings. Papers coming in are slow at this stage. For this issue, we especially need to solicit papers from our speakers, and from contacts and colleagues of the Editorial Board throughout the province.

#### **PNSIS Volume 48 (2) 2014-15**

A special issue on Bay of Fundy science is being planned, based on papers from the upcoming BoFEP (Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership) Workshop at the Coastal Zone Canada Conference in June 2014.

#### **Changes to the PNSIS**

A revised Guide to Authors is being prepared to aid the preparation of papers for the Proceedings. This will reduce the time to prepare final versions of accepted papers in a rigorous and consistent (i.e., standard) format. As well, preparations are moving ahead to have the Proceedings in an electronic format on the website. It will be available to Members only for 6 months, after which it will be open access. The Editorial Board and Members of Council have assisted greatly with these changes.

**Promotion of the Proceedings**

At the upcoming Coastal Zone Canada Conference, we will have a display table to promote the Society and our publications. We plan to do the same at the Maury History of Marine Science Conference at the same time, and likely others. Further suggestions on enhancing the PNSIS, its role in the Society, and its continued contribution to Nova Scotian and Maritime science are always welcome.

**In Appreciation**

Many thanks are due to the authors and the Editorial Board for their contributions to the Society.

*Respectfully submitted to the NSIS Council and Members,  
Peter G. Wells, Dalhousie University, Editor.  
David Richardson, Saint Mary's University, Associate Editor.  
May 3rd, 2014*

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT 2013/2014

**Prepared for AGM May 5, 2014**

During the year, it has been a pleasure to serve as the liaison between the Killam Memorial Library and the Nova Scotian Institute of Science. In this role, I oversee the receipt of journals from NSIS exchange partners around the world. I also work with staff members who will facilitate online access to the *Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science*, the society's peer-reviewed journal.

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

During the summer of 2013, the Killam Library's graduate student interns, Nicole Bloudoff, Keriann Dowling, and Samantha Fritz, completed the digitization work on volumes 37-41 of the *Proceedings*, and deposited the volumes into DalSpace. I am happy to report that the content from vol. 1 (1863) to vol. 41 (2001) is now available free online in the DalSpace repository: <http://dalspace.library.dal.ca/handle/10222/11192>

In addition, *Proceedings* layout editor Gail LeBlanc converted journal issues from the past decade (2002-present) to portable document format (pdf), and the interns proofread the final products. Library staff uploaded the pdf articles to the online software (Open Journal Systems) that will serve as the production platform for forthcoming issues of the journal. The website now provides online access to issues of the *Proceedings* from vol. 42 (2002) to vol. 47 (2013): <http://ojs.library.dal.ca/nsis>.

For the first six months after its publication, access to the most recent issue of the journal is available only to NSIS members. It can be accessed through the use of a username and password. These are issued by Carol Richardson (clrichar@dal.ca), a Killam Library staff member who works closely with the NSIS Librarian.

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

Renewal notices were sent to institutional members in February 2014. There are currently 19 institutional members (one less than last year). There are 87 NSIS exchange partners (two less than last year).

Volume 47, part 2 of the *Proceedings* was published in December 2013 and made available in January 2014. In order to save on over-

seas postage, volume 47 (parts 1 and 2) are to be sent to exchange partner institutions in a single mailing. A letter has been included in the envelopes to institutional members and exchange partners notifying them that forthcoming issues of the journal will be available online and providing information that will allow them to access the most recent issue of the journal via username and password or their internet protocol (IP) address.

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

During 2013/2014, sales of volumes of the *Proceedings*, including the new issue (volume 47, part 2), generated \$853.50 in revenue. Please see Appendix A (attached) for details. Of note, during the summer, ten copies of the *Flora of Nova Scotia* were sold, and during the year, eight copies of the *Birds of Brier Island* were sold.

### **Access Copyright**

The NSIS Librarian submitted the required forms to Access Copyright for the 2013 repertoire payment to publishers. NSIS subsequently received a payment of \$803.56.

### **NSIS Exchange Journal Collection**

NSIS continues to receive journal issues from exchange partners around the world. As an example, from October 2013 to April 2014, seventy-nine journal issues were delivered to the Killam Library from the Institute's exchange partners. Subject areas range from botany and zoology to mathematics and geology, while the languages of publication include English, Dutch, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese and Swedish. These items have been processed and added to the NSIS collection in the Killam Library. 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.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Michelle Paon*

*NSIS Librarian*

*May 5, 2014*

**Appendix A**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Volume/ Issue of <i>Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science</i></b>	<b># Sold</b>	<b>Price (\$)</b>	<b>Amount Received (\$)</b>
May 9, 2013	v.42, pt. 1, 2002	1	\$22.00 + \$5.00 S/H	\$27.00
July 10, 2013	Birds of Brier Island	1	\$25.00	\$25.00
August 13, 2013	Flora of Nova Scotia	10	\$35.00	\$350.00
September 16, 2013	Birds of Brier Island	1	25.00	\$25.00
November 4, 2013	Birds of Brier Island	4	\$25.00	\$100.00
November 12, 2013	v.42 pt.1 2002	1	\$22.00 + \$10.00 S/H	\$32.00
November 26, 2013	v.45 pt. 1, 2010	2	\$9.00	\$18.00
November 26, 2013	v.45 pt. 2, 2010	3	\$10.00	\$30.00
November 29, 2013	Flora of Nova Scotia	1	\$35.00	\$35.00
December 2, 2013	Birds of Brier Island	2	\$20.00 (Special xmas price)	\$40.00
February 21, 2014	Birds of Sable Island (v.31, pt.1)	1	\$10.00	\$10.00
April 4, 2014	v.47, pt.2	5	\$10.00	\$50.00
April 17, 2014	v.41:pt.4(2001) v.42:pt.1(2002) v.43:pt.2(2006) v.44:pt.1(2007) v.45:pt.1(2010) v.45:pt.2(2010) v.46:pt.1(2011) v.46:pt.2(2011)	8	(various prices) Total = \$111.50	\$111.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>40</b>		<b>\$853.50</b>



## **REPORT OF THE WEBMASTER**

### **Report on Work Completed in April 2014**

Routine maintenance of the website was completed in April 2014.

Council members are invited to submit photographs of science in action in Nova Scotia for posting on the website. As summer is approaching, keep in mind photographs from field trips that can be used in the image slider on the website's Homepage. Photographs should be of a high quality resolution, at least 700KB, and should be submitted as a jpg file to the webmaster.

### **Review of Work Completed between May 2013 and April 2014**

The NSIS website was redesigned by Mike Reid, Dalhousie University, and the website was monitored weekly to ensure that the pages containing the news and upcoming lectures were loading correctly. Posters for the monthly lecture were posted in advance of the upcoming lecture.

The annual subscription for the NSIS website and email account, hosted on a server run by the Chebucto Community Net (CCN) Society, is current until January 2015.

The NSIS Webmaster remained in contact with the web designer, Mike Reid, regarding advice on web statistics and general operations of the site.

*Suzette Soomai*  
*NSIS Webmaster*

## PUBLIC LECTURES

### 2014-2015

#### People and the Earth

From the beginning, people have been affected by the Earth, and people have been changing the Earth. There are natural events such as earthquakes; and there are phenomena, such as sea-level rise, which are happening through a combination of natural and human causes. The gases that we emit change the climate with impacts on water, soil productivity and food. How can we change our behaviour to correct these problems which are largely caused by our increasing consumption and how we produce energy? How can we make well-informed decisions when support for the necessary research is being cut? Please join us for a new lecture season that will address these questions and more.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
<b>2014</b>		
October 6	Near-Earth Asteroids/ Earthquakes	Alan Ruffman
November 3*	Sea-level Rise in Nova Scotia	John Shaw
December 1	Geologic mapping of the Arctic Ocean	David Mosher
<b>2015</b>		
January 5	Carbon-cycles in Permafrost Regions	Rachel Chang
February 2	Impact of Global Land-Cover Change on the Water Cycle	Shannon Sterling
March 2	Advances in Nuclear Energy	AECL
April 6	Government Cutbacks in Science	Tom Duck
May 4	Crops Responses to Multiple Components of Climate Change	Mirwais Qaderi

\*To be held in The Irving Centre at Acadia University in Wolfville

## STUDENT SCIENCE WRITING COMPETITION 2014

### May 2014 - Report for AGM

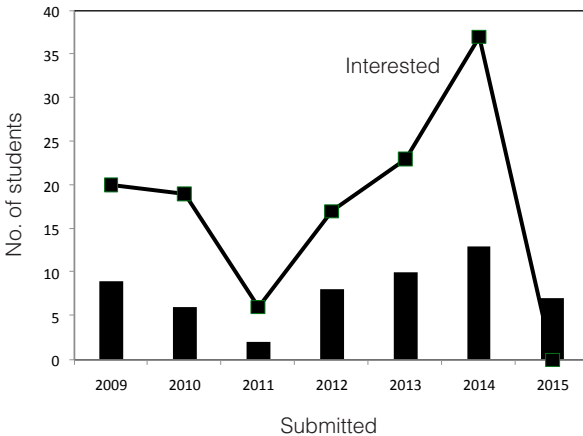
Thirty-seven students (21 undergrad., 16 grad.) expressed an intention to enter the 2014 Competition. By the deadline, thirteen of these students (4 undergrad., 9 grad.) submitted manuscripts.

This year, Hank Bird, Stuart Grossert, Tom Rand, David Richardson, John Rutherford, and Pat Ryall served as judges. Two Honourable Mentions were awarded in the undergraduate category, and in the graduate category one Hon. Ment. and one Prize were awarded.

*Hank Bird*  
*SSWC Coordinator*

Univ.	Interest	Submitted	Year	Interest	Submitted
Acadia	4	0	2009	20	9
CBU	3	1	2010	19	6
Dalhousie	7	4	2011	6	2
MSVU	0	0	2012	17	8
StFX	1	1	2013	23	10
SMU	1	1	2014	37	13
<b>Total =</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>

NSIS-SSWC - 2014



## NSIS 2015 Student Science Writing Competition

## Undergraduate:

Name	University	Degree	Discipline	Paper Short Name
Sara Balish Aquaculture	Dalhousie	B.Sc.	Marine Biology (+ History)	Marine Mammals and (No Submission)
Rebecca Lavigne	Acadia	B.Sc.	Biology	Oncolytic Reovirus
Hyun Woo (Sam) Jang	Dalhousie	B.Sc.	Medical Science	Caolfield Mine Water (Withdraw)
Kori Andrea	CBU	B.Sc.	Chemistry	(Withdraw)
Gerry Petrush	Dalhousie	B.Sc.	Engineering	(Withdraw)
Elizabeth Jessome	CBU	B.A.	Philosophy/Biology	(Withdraw)
Katelyn Mansfield	Acadia	B.Sc.	Psychology (Neuroscience)	(No Submission)
Rebecca Strachan	Acadia	B.Sc.	Biology/Chemistry	(No Submission)
Robert Lovell	CBU	B.Sc.	Biology	Haskap Berries
Chelsea Cameron	StFX	B.Sc.	Nutrition	

## Graduate:

Name	University	Degree	Discipline	Paper Short Name
Lina Koronfel	Dalhousie	M.Sc./Ph.D.?	Medical Neuroscience	(No Submission)
Takafumi Osawa	Dalhousie	M.E.S.	Resource & Environmental Studies	Isthmus Biogeography
Kerry McInnes	Dalhousie	M.Sc.	Physiotherapy (Rehabilitation Research)	Motor Imagery (No Submission)
Christine Anderson	Acadia	M.Sc.	Biology	(No Submission)
Antonio Yarga	Dalhousie	Ph.D.	Math & Statistics	(No Submission)
Fergus Tweeddale	SMU	M.Sc.	Applied Science (Geology)	Mineralized Zones

**NOMINATIONS TO POSITIONS  
ON NSIS COUNCIL  
2014-2015**

**Officers**

<b>President:</b>	Patrick Ryall
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Jason Clyburne *
<b>Past President:</b>	Tom Rand
<b>Secretary:</b>	Kelly Krashinsky *
<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)
Kevin Hewitt	
Ron MacKay	
Rick Singer	
John Young	

**Student Representative**

Zoe Kirste \*

**Observers**

Laura Bennet *	(Nova Scotia Museum)
Kara MacPhee	(Discovery Centre)

\* New member on Council

**Auditor**

Michael Falk