

## **NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE**

### **SESSION 2003-2004**

#### **President's Report**

During this past year the Institute presented a varied program of public lectures. All were held at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History, except for one evening, where the staff at the Discovery Centre hosted us and demonstrated some of their programs. Topics of the seven presentations covered a range of scientific disciplines. Attendance was generally good, and several meetings attracted capacity audiences due in part to the fact that the Museum now lists our public lectures in its Events Calendar. We thank the Museum for that, as well as its continuing financial support of our activities.

The Institute also sponsored its second annual student paper competition. Thirteen entries were received, up from six in last year's inaugural competition. The papers were generally of high calibre, and four prizes were awarded. The winners were Frank MacMaster (of Dalhousie - a Graduate award), Kellie Davis (of Mount Saint Vincent - an Undergraduate award), Paul Gibbons (of Saint Mary's - an Undergraduate award) and Greg Thiemann (of Dalhousie - a Science Writing award). Our judging panel consisted of Carolyn Bird, Susan Bjornson, Jonathan Blay, Stuart Grossert, Duane Guernsey (Pathology) and Jana Sawynok (Pharmacology). Their efforts were greatly appreciated. Special thanks go to Jonathan Blay, who very efficiently coordinated the entire project.

Over the year we updated our membership list, and conducted a special campaign to collect membership dues. Thanks go to Membership Chair Georgia Pe-Piper and Treasurer Stephen Ewart for all their work.

Council discussed various approaches to increasing student membership. A new initiative arising from these discussions was a Mentorship Program, where Institute members were to be asked to volunteer to act as mentors to undergraduate and graduate students. A request has gone out recently to all members, and I encourage everyone to take part in this program. Special thanks for developing this initiative go to a Council sub-committee, consisting of Dena Simon, Georgia Pe-Piper, Andrew Hamilton, Jonathan Blay, and Sean Tibbetts. Sean has kindly offered to act as Chair of this program.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of Surjit Verma, the Institute has again supported a number of Regional Science Fairs. This year we supported six Fairs, as well as the BIO Showcase for Regional winners.

Details of the publication of the Proceedings, and the maintenance of the Institute's Library will be presented in the Editor's and Librarian's Reports. I do want to acknowledge with thanks the work of Jim Stewart as Editor, and Sharon Longard as Institute Librarian. I want to express my gratitude to our two student representatives on Council - Andrew Hamilton, who also served as our Webmaster this year, and Derek Schnare. My thanks go as well to Calum Ewing of the Nova Scotia Museum and Dena Simon of Discovery Centre for all their help.

In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all members of Council for their participation in ensuring another successful year. My special thanks go to our Secretary, Truman Layton, Past-President, Jonathan Blay, and Vice-President, Carolyn Bird. These three individuals have made my job as President a pleasure.

Finally, I thank the membership for the opportunity to serve as Institute President.

Presented to the AGM  
May 3, 2004  
Archie McCulloch  
President NSIS

**Appendix: Lectures and Panel Discussions**

- October 6: *Surviving extreme physiological stress: molecular chaperone function during development of Artemia embryos.*  
**Tom MacRae**, Department of Biology, Dalhousie University
- November 3: *Cancer control in Nova Scotia: The Model... The Program... The Outcome.*  
**Andrew Padmos**, Commissioner, Cancer Care Nova Scotia
- December 1: *...the coolest place to play and learn ... Discovery Centre's approach to science education.*  
**Dena Simon**, Director of Operations, Discovery Centre  
**Terry Roberts**, Program Coordinator, Discovery Centre
- January 5: *Sleep - what it can do for you*  
**Ben Rusak**, Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology, Dalhousie University
- February 2: *Composting in Halifax Regional Municipality*  
**Jeff Traver**, Miller Waste Systems
- March 1: *Mussel monitoring: the good, the bad and the safe supply*  
**Shawna MacKinnon**, Institute for Marine Biosciences, NRC.
- April 5: *Underwater observations of novel behaviour in the Greenland shark, Somniosus microcephalus*  
**Chris Harvey-Clark**, University Veterinarian, Dalhousie University
- May 3: *The evolution of electrotherapy and its introduction into Nova Scotia in the nineteenth century*  
**Allan Marble**, Dept Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dalhousie University  
Annual Dinner Speaker

### **Librarian's Report**

There are currently one hundred and ninety-one NSIS exchange partners. This number is down by one from the previous year, reflecting the cancellation of journal exchange by Iowa State University. The number of institutional members remains stable at twenty-seven. Invoices were sent out in February 2004 for institutional memberships and nineteen have renewed so far.

No issue of the Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science was published during the past year so there was no mailing to exchange partners or institutional members.

The Flora of Nova Scotia by A.E. Roland continues to sell @ \$15.00, and approximately thirty copies were sold during the past year. The Bras d'Or Lakes issue of the Proceedings (volume 42, part 1,2002) also continues to sell @ \$22.00/issue, with a recent order for twenty-five copies filled in April.

The ongoing project of adding records to Novanet for those NSIS journal titles that are no longer received but have back volumes in storage has come to a temporary standstill due to the December 2003 retirement of Alison McNair, the Special Projects librarian in Killam Library. Many thanks to Alison for all her efforts to make this material accessible.

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 3, 2004  
Sharon Longard  
NSIS Librarian

### Editor's Report

- 1) The Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science [The Oceanography of the Bras d'Or Lakes: B. Petrie, Guest Editor] distributed in 2003 continued to draw interest. As all of the extra 220 copies of the issue had been sold by the time of the 2003 AGM, a further 200 copies were printed in the summer of 2003. Approximately 80 of the additional print run have been sold.
- 2) The second half of Volume 42 is almost ready for printing. The final adjustments to the galleys are being made and it is anticipated that the issue will be printed by mid-May 2004. This issue consists of 13 papers on Environment and Biodiversity (M. Willison, Guest Editor), two NSIS Graduate Student Prize papers (T. Estabrooks, Biology Department, St. Mary's University and B. Kaur, Faculty of Engineering, Dalhousie University) plus the reporting of NSIS affairs.
- 3) Work is well advanced on the next issue which is expected to be complete and distributed in the NSIS 2004-2005 program year. It will contain among other materials a written symposium on marine sciences, student papers and a report on NSIS affairs.

It is anticipated that the issue following this will be ready by the summer of 2005 and will carry review articles concerning northern corals.

Respectfully submitted to the AGM  
May 3, 2004  
James E. Stewart  
Editor NSIS

## Treasurer's Report

### ASSETS:

Bank Account	\$12,358.98
Petty Cash	<u>0.00</u>
	12,358.98
Investments	<u>48,843.39</u>
Account Receivable	<u>61,202.37</u>
<b>61,202.37</b>	

### LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH:

Accounts Payable	0.00
Total Liabilities and Net Worth	<u>61,202.37</u>

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### INVESTMENTS:

Cash Balance	1,400.00
CIBC Premium T-Bill (short-term)	9,047.39
CIBC Investment Certificate A @4.40% (due Apr 2008)	8,396.00
Citizens Bank Certificate A @3.60% (due Feb 2006)	10,000.00
MTC GIC @5.20% (due May 2004)	10,000.00
National Trust GIC @5.20% (due May 2005)	<u>10,000.00</u>
	<b>48,843.39</b>

### **Membership**

147 Members - 131 regular, 12 student, and 4 life members

note: Net Worth 2003 (AGM) - \$58,933.56

Respectfully submitted to the AGM  
 May 3, 2004  
 H. Stephen Ewart  
 Treasurer