



PICK, PAN AND SHOVEL

Official Publication of the **Nova Scotia Prospectors Association**

Web Site: www.prospectors.ns.ca

The Nova Scotia Prospectors Association is dedicated to promoting, educating and representing the interests of Nova Scotia Prospectors.

*The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the official views of the Nova Scotia Prospectors Association

The Pick, Pan and Shovel is published two times each year and will be made available free of charge to the membership.
Editor Milton Fraser/Chris Findley

Spring 2014
On-Line Edition

Events Calendar

Sat. April 5 Tour the DAL Mineral Engineering Centre
10 am - 12 pm followed by lunch (12 pm-2 pm) @ local Restaurant

Sat. Apr 12 NSPA Annual General Meeting
12noon-1: 45 Directors Meeting
2-3:30 Annual General Meeting
3:30-4:00 Chat. Clean up

Sat. May 3,2014 NSPA Panning Clinic Sat. 10 am - 3 pm at Moose River -
Details/ directions to follow. Stay tuned to the web page

Fri.-Sun, Aug. 15.16.17 Parrsboro Gem and Mineral And Show

Wed. Sept. 17 Regular NSPA Meeting

Wed. Oct. 15 Regular NSPA Meeting

November 12-13 Geology Matters Conference Westin

Nov. 19 Regular NSPA Meeting

Dec 17 To be determined

Note: Possible trips to McNab's Island and a Port Dufferin field trip may take place this spring. More information will be available at the AGM.

Presidents Message Spring 2014

Welcome to all new members of the NSPA. Prospecting can be a stimulating and sometimes rewarding calling or pastime for those who enjoy the outdoors and a good puzzle to solve.

According to the calendar, Spring has sprung, but definitely not in the still frozen ground... Spring is a great time for prospecting once the snow cover has disappeared. No bugs, no leaves to hinder your view and the snow has packed down last year's Fall leaves. Get out there and look for some mineralized float or outcrop in the sweet spot before the bugs and leaves appear.

I would like to bring to your attention that the NSPA now has an Executive Director, John Wightman. John is a long time Nova Scotia Prospector and Geologist and is very well respected by both the mineral industry in general and also in government circles. He is a great addition to the NSPA team and his knowledge and commitment will help greatly to move the Association forward as we work collectively to improve the lot of the Prospector, and also in our representations to government.

The recent unprecedented 75% hike in claims staking and renewal fees has been very damaging to our cause. In regards to these draconian increases, your President and Executive Director have made representations to government to have these increases reviewed as this has put Nova Scotia at a distinct disadvantage to other Maritime Provinces when fees are compared over a 5 year period.

The Mineral Exploration Industry, both here at home and worldwide, has many challenges at this point in time. A positive step from government is the Mineral Incentive Program, from which many companies and individuals have benefited in these troubling times. Worldwide, the industry suffers from lack of investor funds, although there are signs of hope as more advanced projects are beginning to find some traction and financing, and more advanced projects are sought in takeover bids by larger companies.

The Prospector is at the very bottom of this food chain and has many challenges to overcome, particularly as we deal mostly in 'greenfields', or undeveloped, projects. It is hoped that the new government will continue with the Mineral Incentive Program.

Another great resource for Prospectors developed under the auspices of the Mineral Incentive Program, is the soon to be launched Prospectors Education Program (it may be online by the time you read this, so check the DNR webpage www.novascotia.ca/natr/meb/). It is a series of video modules that should be of great assistance to the Prospector in general and the new Prospector in particular. There is no exam! Just watch, listen and learn!

Many Prospectors are staunch individualists and tend to operate alone, but should realize that representations to government are much more effective when coming from a group rather than an individual. To government, numbers count. A representation from the Association is much more effective than you banging your fist on the counter at the Registry! So, please, tell us your concerns so that we may try to help to address them.

I also remind you that, as an Exploration Licence holder, you may be approached by either the Department of Natural Resources or the Department of the Environment if you hold claims in one of the Proposed Protected Areas. You may receive significant pressure to surrender your claims, or be offered some 'benefit' to drop your claims in these Proposed areas. Do not let it happen. You will lose. Hold onto those claims in any manner possible. I want to know if any Exploration Licence holder is approached in this manner (email ljallen@eastlink.ca or phone [902-430-8449](tel:902-430-8449)).

New Prospectors take note: the fallout from the fees increases sees many companies and individuals dropping ground to mitigate the fee increases. Use this as an opportunity to look for some ground that may have merit. Use the Minerals Occurrence Database (www.novascotia.ca/natr/meb/links/modblinks.asp) and Novascan, (www.novascotia.ca/natr/meb/pubs/pi_nvscn.asp) both of which can be searched online to research a mapsheet or area for different commodities that may have value. Use NovaROC online (www.novascotia.ca/natr/meb/one/novaroc.asp) to check the staking maps to see if your chosen area is currently under claim or is 'open' (open or available to stake). Don't forget that once you have staked a claim you need landowner permission to access lands for mineral exploration.

When you are in the field always carry a basic First Aid kit in your backpack and carry a good map, a handheld GPS with spare batteries, and backup compass (at the very least, a good map and compass) for your location to be prospected.

Wear safety glasses when cracking rock, and don't forget to leave your Remote Location Plan with someone (a map or description, with coordinates, of your designated area and expected return date and time) just in case you don't return. Map any of your findings with a GPS waypoint and/or write down the coordinates in your field note book. It is amazing how the memory fades or how the look of an area changes between winter/leaf out, or if it is clear cut by forestry operations. I suggest using UTM, NAD83 datum for coordinates data rather than Degrees and Minutes, as UTM data mesh nicely with DNR data and maps, and UTM is also is very user friendly when plotting things to a 1:10,000 scale topographic map, which is an excellent scale for plotting most field work (1mm=10M).

One last thing, be sure to attend our NSPA Annual General Meeting on Saturday, April 12, 2014, at the Prospect Rd Community Centre, 2141 Prospect Rd, Hatchet Lake, HRM.

NSPA Directors Only meeting 12:00-1:45pm

NSPA All Members AGM 2:00-4:00pm

For details and location map please see www.prospectors.ns.ca

Rock on,
Your President, Lindsay Allen

I asked DNR Minister, Hon. Zach Churchill for a contribution to our newsletter. The following is his response. Milton Fraser Editor.

Minister's Message

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, it's my honor to address the Nova Scotia prospecting industry in this issue of the Pick, Pan and Shovel. Over the past several months, it's been a pleasure to meet prospectors in my office and at industry events like the Geology Matters Conference last November. I've come to recognize that prospectors are a hardworking, passionate and optimistic group. I appreciate that prospectors are essential to finding new mineral occurrences, and in promoting those new discoveries to the junior exploration industry so that discoveries are advanced closer to production. New mines in Nova Scotia and the related investment, employment and economic development opportunities of the future are largely related to the work that prospectors do today.

I've heard from many of you about the challenges facing prospectors in Nova Scotia. As I understand it, those challenges are largely related to: 1) the transition to the NovaROC on-line rights management system and the new fee structure, 2), access to private-land to carry out exploration, 3) the Parks and Protected Areas (12%) process, and 4) financing and the scarcity of funding in the junior exploration industry. Let me tell you about how we're working to address each of those challenges.

1. NovaROC and the new fee structure. I appreciate that the change from the old, paper-based Registry, when you needed to come into Halifax to do your business, to the new internet-based NovaROC system represents a big change in the way you do your business. It's also been a big change for our staff in the Registry. NovaROC, like any new application, will have a few bugs that need to be worked out and we're working through them. I'm confident that the application continues to improve and to provide better service. NovaROC processes the vast majority of our routine transactions in the Registry. Complex regrouping processes and renewing of some licenses remain a challenge, and we're working on those issues. We're working to improve our service in the Registry and we have new staff in place to work through the assessment files and outstanding applications. And, when necessary, we've issued letters to prospectors providing them with certainty about the status of their tenure.

No one likes to see fees increase and we're committed to reviewing the fee structure. Led by Finance Minister Whalen, our government has initiated an examination of Nova Scotia's tax system and regulations. We are moving ahead with our promise to take a close look at all taxes, fees and regulations based on the principles of fairness, sustainability, simplicity and competitiveness. Our commitment is to have a tax and regulatory system that supports private sector growth and economic development, including success and growth in the prospecting industry.

This review of taxes and regulations will include a plan for change to Nova Scotia taxes, fees and regulations. Over the next several months, we will consider best practices and examine tax arrangements and success stories in other jurisdictions. We will consult with business and sectorial groups, government departments, and other organizations. The review is anticipated to be delivered in the fall of 2014. There will be opportunities for your participation in the review and

we invite you to learn more, and to offer your ideas at www.novascotia.ca/finance and e-mail your submissions to taxreview@gov.ns.ca.

The tax review process notwithstanding, the fee increases made last August were intended to support the added costs related to implementation of the NovaROC application. The new fee structure is competitive with the fees required to acquire, renew and maintain claims in other provinces.

2. Access to privately owned land to carry out exploration. With so much of the province privately owned, and with so many exploration licenses overlapping private land, it is absolutely essential for prospectors and the exploration industry to build a productive and trusting relationship with private land owners so that you can carry out your exploration programs. Developing and constantly maintaining your social license to operate in Nova Scotia will be vital to your business. Attitudes and public expectations change, and the exploration industry must adapt to meet those changes. To guide your consultation efforts with land owners and communities, the Department of Natural Resources in collaboration with the Mining Association of Nova Scotia, the Sierra Club and Ecology Action Centre developed the document, "Community Consultation: a Guide for Prospectors and Mineral Exploration Companies Working in Nova Scotia" (go to our website: <http://novascotia.ca/natr/meb/data/pubs/ic/ic68.pdf>). The guide is a great resource to get you started with your consultation activities. Conducting community and land-owner consultation the right way the first time is always less costly and less time consuming than doing it later and after problems come up.

3. The Parks and Protected Areas (12%) process. For the benefit of all Nova Scotians, we are committed to meeting the protected areas goals defined within Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act (EGSPA) and detailed in the August 2013 Parks and Protected Areas Plan. I understand that prospectors and exploration companies made constructive contributions to the consultation process leading to the release of the final Parks and Protected Areas plan proposed last August. Consultations with Nova Scotia Environment and Natural Resources resulted in some areas that were under early review for protection being left out of the plan, and modifications to boundaries of some of the proposed protected areas to help minimize impacts to existing mineral rights holders, and to support the exploration and mining industry. As a result, more than 95% of the land with existing mineral rights in Nova Scotia is completely unaffected by the Parks and Protected Areas plan, and the majority of lands with exploration rights that are overlapped by a potential protected area will remain available for exploration, with protection only occurring if those rights are no longer present.

Individual Nova Scotians from across the province, commercial forestry and mining interests, non-government organizations, sportsmen and outdoor enthusiasts have made it clear to government that they want a plan for Crown land that balances protection of biodiversity, potential for economic development, and opportunity for recreational access. Considering the range of demands and that the Province owns just over 35% of Nova Scotia's landmass, developing a balanced plan has been a challenge. With input from stakeholders like prospectors, I'm confident that the Parks and Protected Areas Plan provides for exploration and mining opportunities in the highest potential Crown lands.

4. Financing exploration projects. As you're very aware, this is a challenging time for prospectors and the junior exploration industry to raise financing for exploration projects. This is a global-scale challenge. History has demonstrated that the exploration and mining industry is cyclical and some of the industry experts and observers are telling us that the industry should start to be in a better position in about 18 months. We hope they're right. In the meantime, the Mineral Incentive Program will continue to provide grants up to \$15,000 to prospectors for their exploration programs, 'matching funding' grants of up to \$100,000 for advanced exploration projects, funding for prospector training initiatives and funding to support prospector's travel and business development activities at major conferences like the Prospectors and Developers Association conference in Toronto. We may also consider other initiatives, such as providing 2-for-1 assessment credits, so that it will be easier for prospectors to work on their claims and keep them in good standing.

The recent Ivany Commission report, released in February 2014, has highlighted that, "in the future, as in the past, the traditional rural industries – tourism, manufacturing, mining, fisheries, forestry and agriculture – will provide the essential foundations for Nova Scotia's rural economy". As Minister of Natural Resources, I'm committed to working with prospectors and the mining industry, to better understand your needs and to provide programs and modern legislation that will ensure a vibrant exploration and mining industry.

I wish you every success on your exploration projects in 2014.

Sincerely,

Honorable Zach Churchill
Minister of Natural Resources



President Lindsay Allen leads the discussion during a monthly meeting

NSPA Annual General Meeting 2014

The meeting will take place Sat. Apr. 12th in the Conference Room at the Prospect Road Community Centre, 2141 Prospect Rd., Hatchet Lake

12noon - 1:45 Directors Meeting
2-3:30 - Annual General Meeting
3:30 - 4:00 Chat. Clean up

Executive members required:

President-
Vice President-
Programs-
Treasurer/Banking -
Secretary –
Refreshments –
Membership –
Newsletter –
Webmaster –
Emailer –
Other Directors –

Ovens field trip Sept. 28-29 2013





NSPA Display at Geology Matters 2013

The DNR, Mining Society of Nova Scotia and the Association of Professional Geoscientists co-hosted the 37th annual fall conference. This Geology Matters conference gave attendees the opportunity to hear about results of the exploration season and meet with organizations and people representing all components of the exploration and mineral sectors.

During the two-day conference delegates had the opportunity to interact with representatives from corporations, exploration and mining companies, service and supply companies, post-secondary institutions, government organizations, industry associations, investment companies, and more. The conference presented details on geosciences and municipal planning, aboriginal and community engagement, economic growth, health and safety, the Nova Scotia Mineral Incentive Program, prospector training, the new online mineral and petroleum rights registry system, NovaROC, and much more.

The Christmas Party

The party was held Sunday, December 15, 2pm at Swiss Chalet Restaurant, 3462 Kempt Road, Halifax. Seventeen people attended.

The NSPA would like to thank Elk Exploration for their sponsorship of the event.



August 17 - 19, 2013: Annual Nova Scotia Rockhound RoundUp, Parrsboro, N.S

Another Gem and Mineral Show and all goes well in Parrsboro. The show did very well and so did the booth, as we held many short panning clinics in the three days. Special thanks go out to Bill and Marion Boudreau who came from Shelburne, and Carol Blakeney from Halifax. Many thanks to all who came and helped with the show and did a lot of work and I hope had a lot of fun. There were many things to see and do and you can buy anything from minerals, rocks, gold and diamonds. From walking the beach to shopping your heart out; as far as I could see all had fun. The next show will be on August 15th, 16th and 17th so come out and join us and see for your self.

Fred Walsh

Executive Director's Reports

John F Wightman, P.Eng. became Executive director of the NSPA in the fall of 2013. Since then he has put forth great efforts on our behalf. The following are summaries of reports he has submitted at NSPA meetings. The NSPA is fortunate to have Mr. Wightman working on our behalf.

Executive Directors Report – 20 November, 2013

Activities since September Meeting

1. Drafted Letter to Party Leaders on:
 - a) Increase in staking fees by 75% on 26 August.
 - b) Proposed "Protected Areas".
2. Worked with our new member Emily Halle to produce our "placemat" posters on these issues to distribute at the "Geology Matters Conference".

3. Drafted letter for President to send to Registrar requesting a list of registered prospectors c/w contact coordinates to recruit new members for the Association.
4. Discussed request with the Registrar at "Geology Matters". He cannot provide us with the list due to privacy restrictions, however, he is prepared to forward a short e-mail to their NovaRoc contact list from NSPA requesting that these individuals contact NSPA directly to learn about the benefits of being a member.
5. Distributed "Fees" poster at "Geology Matters".
6. Met with:
 - a) Minister Zach Churchill on 13 November to request a review of fee increases.
 - b) Premier McNeil on 18 November to request a review of fee increases.
 - c) Former Liberal Natural Resources Critic, our present Minister of Health Leo Glavine, on 18 November to request a review of fee increases.

Proposed New Activities

1. Compile a list of active prospectors and produce an overview poster of where they live by Postal Code and where prospectors have claims staked.
2. Query prospectors on their positive and negative interactions with NovaRoc.
3. Lobby Government to increase funding to prospectors under the Mineral Incentive Program. This will require positive case studies from grants received in the first 2 years of the program.

(See #4, 5 & 6 below as ongoing activities)

Executive Directors Report – 15 January, 2014

Activities since November Meeting

7. Drafted letter for President to send to Registrar requesting a list of registered prospectors c/w contact coordinates to recruit new members for the Association.
8. Drafted letter for President to send to Diane Webber requesting support for prospectors attending Geology Matters.
9. Discussed request for contact information for "Registered Prospectors" with the Registrar. He cannot provide us with the full list due to privacy restrictions, however, he is prepared to attempt to get approval to forward a short e-mail to their NovaRoc contact list from NSPA requesting that these individuals contact NSPA directly to learn about the benefits of being a member.
10. Discussed the possibility of securing funding to put on a workshop for prospectors on "Digital Mapping Techniques" for Reports Submitted to NovaRoc. How many might be interested?
11. Discussions with Diane Webber to finalize details of DNR support for prospectors attending 2014 PDAC.
12. Meeting with:
 - d) Minister Zach Churchill on 22 January to make the case for a "roll back" of fee increases.
 - e) Premier McNeil on 20 January to request exclusion of high potential mineral lands from "Protected Areas".
 - f) DNR senior management on 22 January wrt Review of Mineral Resources Act.

On Going Activities

4. Compile a list of active prospectors and produce an overview poster of:
 - a) where they live by Postal Code, and
 - b) where prospectors have claims staked.
5. Query prospectors on their positive and negative interactions with NovaRoc.
6. Lobby Government to increase total funding to prospectors under the Mineral Incentive Program. This will require positive case studies from grants received in the first 2 years of the program. Please send me details of successful use of these funds so that I can pull together a funding proposal.

Executive Directors Report – 19 February, 2014

Activities since January Meeting

- 13 Met with Senior Management of Dept. of Natural Resources on 31 January to discuss the review of the Mineral Resources Act. They would welcome a formal submission from NSPA on changes to the Act.
- 14 Met with Premier on 3 February and discussed business problems for prospectors caused by poor mineral market conditions; land access restrictions to Crown Lands, Forestry Company Lands and proposed Protected Areas. He was sympathetic to our situation and wishes us to meet with Minister of DNR to request actions that would help us.
- 15 Talked to Diane Webber of DNR with respect to a training course for prospectors on digital mapping of geological data for submission to NovaRoc.
- 16 Received proposal from MapAtlantic to design a training program. Proposal submitted to DNR for funding approval.....pending.
- 17 Received link from MANS for Prospector Training Modules.....designed to help educate new prospectors. <http://novascotia.ca/natr/meb/pro prospector-videos/>
- 18 President and I met with Minister of Natural Resources on 19 February to request:
 - a) Roll back of staking fees to early August rates.
 - b) Amendments to Regulations under Mineral Resources Act to help prospectors.
 - c) Assist prospectors by adjusting claim work requirements for FY 2014 / 15

Executive Directors Report 19 March, 2014

Activities since February Meeting

- 1 Met with Senior Management of DNR on at PDAC to discuss ways to improve the Regulations and services to prospectors.
- 2 Continued discussion with Diane Weber of DNR with respect to details of a training course for prospectors on digital mapping of geological data for submission to NovaRoc.
- 3 Received proposal from MapAtlantic to design a training program. Proposal submitted to DNR for funding approval. We were told to wait until April when 2014 budget is available.

4 Discussed the opportunity to work together as an association to provide higher quality geophysical surveys to prospectors.

5 Met with other prospectors at PDAC to gage level of interest in optioning claims. Results-still slow but better than last year.

6 Talked to Don Weir, who is now reviewing assessment reports replacing Paul McCulloch. He is still learning the job and will know in about 2 months when he expects to be caught up.

Respectfully submitted,

John F, Wightman, P,Eng.

Executive Director, NSPA

Mineral Exploration and Mining Essentials

A book Worth Reading: Mineral Exploration and Mining Essentials By Robert Stevens, BC Institute of Technology 2010
“This book is aimed at nontechnical individuals and professionals who are working, or interested in. the mineral exploration and mining industry.”

The book provides an overview of the industry from exploration to mine closure. The chapter titles provide a good insight into the content of the book. 1 Industry Overview, 2 Geology, 3 Mineral Deposits, 4 Mineral Exploration, 5 Mineral Resources, 6 Mining, Mineral Processing, 8 Environmental Considerations, 9 Evaluation Exploration Companies. Most prospectors probably learn material that is most relevant to the work they are doing. This book is helpful when used in this way. The chapter titles promote this type of use. Some concepts are presented in a new or different way. This is helpful words are used in prospecting that have somewhat obvious meanings. This book examines many of these terms in such a way that a useful precision is brought to the term. This will help the reader to place a more correct faith in the use of a term. In general the book does what it sets out to do. However, the last chapter on company evaluation is slightly disappointing because it is mainly a list of questions useful for company evaluation. More detail would have been helpful. The book is available through the Sexton Library, Dalhousie University.

Prospectors Education Courses

Education is important to all prospectors. The Nova Scotia government provided introductory and more advanced prospector courses years ago. John O’Sullivan and others did much to introduce prospecting to many areas across the province. Financial conditions seemed to cause a halt to these programs.

The need for prospector education still exists. Newfoundland offers tuition based courses at some provincial community colleges. New Brunswick offers an introductory course that takes place over two weekends.

Nova Scotia has asked Fred Bonner and others to develop an on line, module based course for Nova Scotia prospectors. The course is almost complete and awaits government approval.



The Directors Deliberate



Nova Scotia Prospectors Association

Application for Membership

Date of Application: _____ For Membership year: _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY - ESPECIALLY E-MAIL ADDRESSES!!! IF YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IS NOT LEGIBLE, YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY E-MAILS FROM THE NSPA!!!!

Name: _____

Family Member: Name/s _____

Mailing Address _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Cell Phone : _____ E-Mail _____

DUES _____

(**Note: Membership year is Jan 1 - Dec 31**)

Annual Membership = \$30.00 Family Membership (age 18+) = \$35.00 Full-Time Student Membership = \$10.00

Please make your payment payable to:

Nova Scotia Prospectors Association

Mail To:

Carol Blakeney 210 Willett St., Apt 908 Halifax, Nova Scotia B3M 3C6