

# “NSPA Newsletter Spring 2018” c

## PICK PAN AND SHOVEL



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Official Publication of the Nova Scotia Prospectors Association

- Web Site • [www.prospectors.ns.ca](http://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. Pick Pan and Shovel is published two times each year and will be made available free of charge to the membership.
- Editor Milton Fraser                      Spring 2018

Note: This is the e-mail edition. Most pictures have been eliminated to reduce the size of the newsletter. They will appear on the on line edition

### Possible Events Calendar 2018-19

Regular meetings will take place on the third Wednesday of each month

April 21 AGM Waverley Legion

May 12 MMI In Service

Aug. 17-19 Gem /Mineral Show

Sept 19 Regular General Meeting

Oct 17 Regular General Meeting

Nov.21 Regular General Meeting  
Dec Xmas party  
Jan 16 Regular General Meeting  
Feb. 20 Regular General Meeting  
Mar.20 Regular General  
April AGM

**NSPA AGM** will take place April 21 at the Waverley Legion 2234 Rocky Lake Drive between 1:00 and 4:00 PM. As usual all offices are open for election. President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Program, Refreshment, Membership and News Letter Editor plus various Board members will be elected.

**MMI (Mobile Metal Ion Geochemistry) In-service May 12 at 2234 Rocky Lake Drive. Waverley NS**

The theory is a buried or through physical and electrochemical processes frees mobile metal ions which are migrating to the surface, where they are weakly attracted to soil particles. The minerals in the soil may then be useful in finding and defining ore bodies. The training session will be a full day affair and take place May 12 at the Waverley Legion 2234 Rocky Lake Drive.

**XRF training session** will take place, time and place to be determined. The use of the machine is open to NSPA members, but only those who have attended a course in its use. In order to treat all members fairly, courses must be sufficiently available to allow members who wish can obtain certification.

**Panning Clinic** the time and place of the annual panning clinic has yet to be determined.

# Presidents Message Spring 2018

Dear Fellow Prospectors

I would like to start this year by saying thank our CEO and all of our directors who work hard, commit their personal time, keep all members informed and make all of this happen for us. It has been great to see the continued interest in our long-term members as well as seeing all of the new faces around the table at our monthly meetings. I would like to welcome all new members to the group and look forward to getting to know you, while sharing news of prospecting practices and what is happening in our province. I encourage all members to share your prospecting experiences and voice any new ideas on what you would like to get from the group.

I am happy to say that one of our newest members, George Johnson was voted in as a Director in our November 2017 meeting. He has agreed to take on the position of NSPA's Webmaster. This was a tough position to fill and had been vacant for quite some time. We really appreciate George taking on this task for us.

Our annual Christmas party was again held at Swiss Chalet, in early December was attended by 26 of us. As always, we enjoyed the food, comradery, and giveaways. We would like to thank all that attended, with special thanks to our members that organized the event, picked up and or donated the prizes to make this a fun day for all.

In the past year John Wightman (NSPA CEO) and I have been busy attending meetings with various DNR members, including our new Minister of Natural Resources, Margaret Miller. Our current government is very interested in our ideas and is supportive of our group and prospecting in the province. We are hopeful the new Mineral Resources Act is to be brought out in the first half of 2018, with cabinet approval. The new Mineral Resource Fund, will be administered by the DNR.

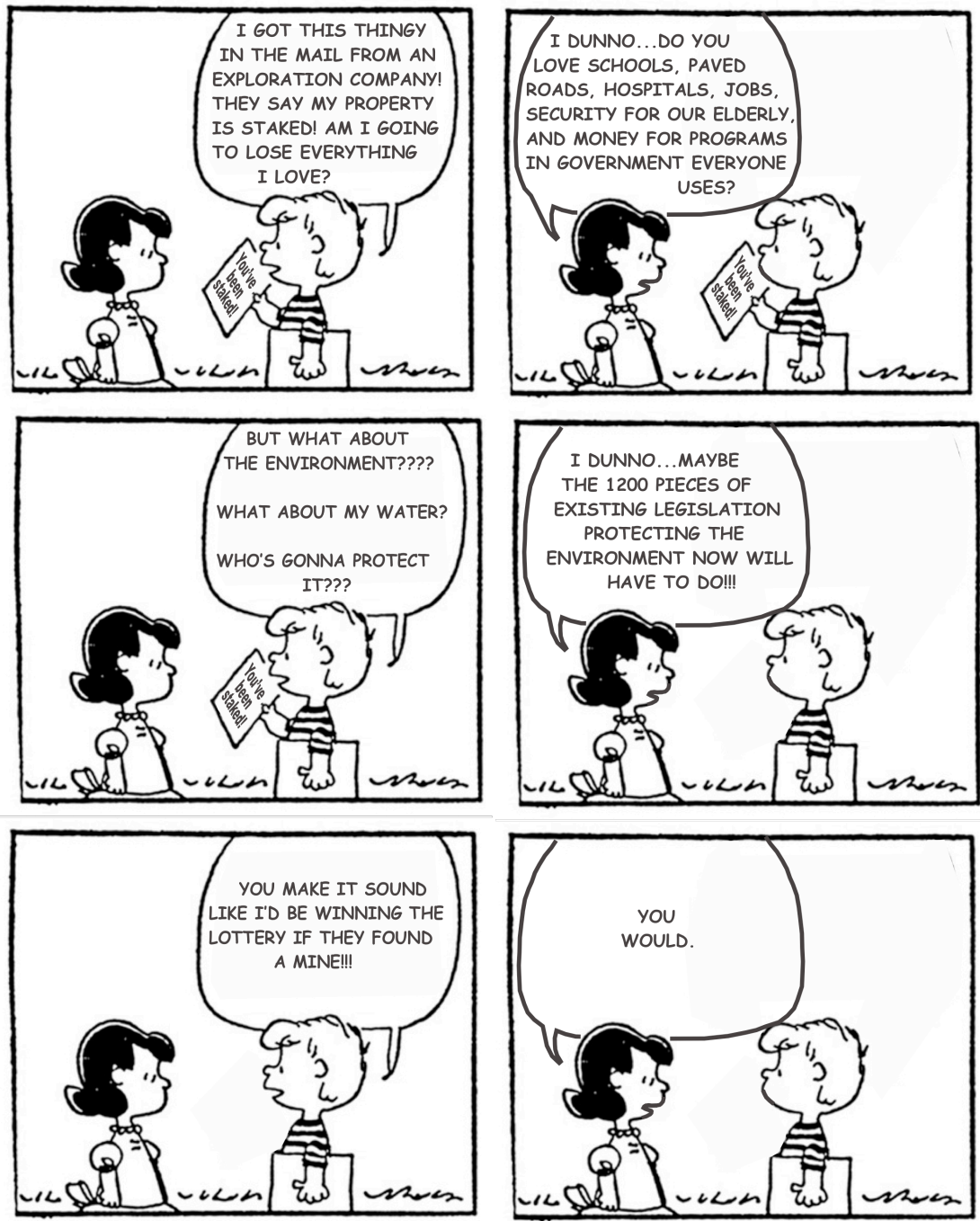
Don't forget to check the website for upcoming meetings and events. We will be posting the annual general meeting date in the near future. Hope to see everyone there.

Your President,

Matt Abel

# The Payoff of Early Public Engagement

## Ron Mills





We've heard it all before: prospecting is changing. Some say for the better, some say for the worse. Whatever your perspective, the time of the social justice warriors is upon us.

I was asked years ago to take part in a public engagement initiative planned for prospectors and I flatly refused. My arguments were as valid then as they are today. Statistically, one in 10,000 mineral exploration properties turns into a mine. Why should prospectors, at the bottom end of the exploration and mining hierarchy, be given the responsibility of public engagement and stirring people up when the "hit by lightning" odds of eventual development really didn't matter? Prospectors don't really have the outreach skills, temperament or resources to engage, and it's a huge risk for them and their projects. And with the staking, permitting, landowner permissions, report writing, DNR contact for Crown access, data compilation of past work, and base map making exercises prior to the first visits taking away from actual prospecting, how much time is left for the real work?

I thought I was proven right when some prospectors recently involved in drilling made the effort to engage the few locals in the quiet neighborhood close to their target as part of the process. A couple of locals emerged that were outraged such activity could take place near their home. They did their best to cause a stink, calling politicians, pressuring other locals to take their side, in any attempt to stop the drill spinning. I had argued this would happen as part of the "too early" engagement process. The drilling was done and the results were relatively inconclusive, as is almost always the case in the exploration industry. One down, 9,999 to go. Neighborhood back to sleep. People running around with hair on fire for nothing.

DNR recently initiated a request for proposals over a piece of closed ground in the Cobequid Highlands. This elicited a response from a few anti-resource development activists, some local, others from farther afoot. Some organized and claims were made that DNR withheld public information, misled the public, and prepared for proposals in secret, since some felt they caught wind of the initiative very late in the process.

To DNR's credit, they had reached out months earlier to politicians, including the MLA and regional councilors for the area, some of whom took some effort to win over. A few activists cried foul. They argued this had been done behind the backs of locals, but were shown a local newspaper article, also dated months earlier, produced from an interview with a DNR spokesperson describing the proposed project in relative detail. No secrecy. No backroom deals. All project data have been released publicly. Curiously, when one activist arguing public money had been spent on data that hadn't been released found out a data release from the

project was imminent, he argued the data release should be stopped. Obviously, you're never going to win over everyone. But in this case, DNR's efforts to engage early have paid off.

I can't say when, what level or how one should engage. In the first case study, engagement produced some friction that, in the end, didn't matter either way. But there is no denying that in the second case study, early engagement may have saved the project.

I originally hated the idea of prospectors doing public engagement, but I'm slowly changing my tune. Social justice warriors have many tools to use against the mineral exploration industry. Early engagement well delivered, it seems, might be one tool prospectors can use to their own benefit.

## Membership concern?

Casual observation makes me think NSPA membership is gradually getting older and fewer, much like the population of NS. Fortunately, this is not a universal truth. The NSPA does have newer and younger members as well. Fortunately, many high school students have an interest in mineral development and prospecting. I had the pleasure of touring a mine site with IB students of YCMHS and later hearing their presentations on resource development. The reports were well researched and free of bias. The popularity of the NSPA annual panning clinic and the NSPA display at the Parrsboro Gem and Mineral Show indicate strong general interest as well.

More people would be attracted to prospecting if prospecting courses could be repeated from time to time. Many of our current members took courses from John O'Sullivan and others 30 years ago. While I believe the courses are valuable both to impart knowledge and popularize prospecting cost is a major issue.

An economical way to solve the apparent decline in prospector numbers may be the distribution of a pamphlet at events where the NSPA has a presence. The pamphlet should contain information on how to obtain a Prospectors Identification Card and directions to the on line Nova Scotia Prospectors Education Program. (The Prospectors ID card may be obtained as part of the prospector registering with NovaRoc,) A suggestion to consult YouTube videos on gold panning and prospecting would be helpful as well.

The pamphlet probably should contain a list of useful DNR references and necessary literature. A list of basic prospecting equipment with suggested sources may be helpful as well.

The NSPA could also promote prospecting by the use of essay contests in the schools. Significant prizes could be offered on a province wide contest. The contest could be advertised to the schools by email. Probably not many students would respond, but the advertisement of the contest would reach many and in the long term be useful to both the students and the NSPA. MF

# Nova Scotia Gem and Mineral Show

The Gem show will take place between Friday August 17 and Sunday August 19 at the Lions Rink in Parrsboro.

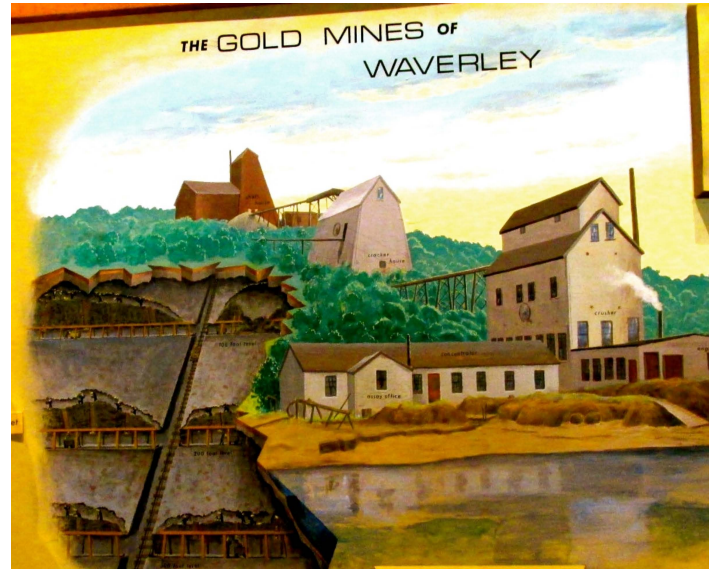
**The Christmas Party** at Swiss Chalet 3434 Kempt Road. The event was well attended. Lindsay Allen is to be thanked for his support of the event.







Pictures from a recent meeting:



# 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 : \_\_\_\_\_

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:

Sue Crooks – 65 Amaranth Crescent,  
Dartmouth NS B30 4L1

[membership@prospectors.ns.ca](mailto:membership@prospectors.ns.ca)