

President's Message - Peter Oram



Hello everyone – hope that you had a good summer and that each of you had a chance to enjoy some of the good weather we had. As many of you noted, we did not produce a newsletter in August but that doesn't mean we weren't still quite busy. Discussions on the boundary for Ship Harbour Long Lake continue and we have also had the opportunity to meet with the Provincial Oceans Network to discuss Nova Scotia's Coastal Zone Management. Board Committees are up and running and for the most part, they are active in developing our position on the various policies for our industry. I would encourage you to contact us if you are interested in participating and making your voice part of the process.

We are back in full swing at MANS and our calendar is very full for this fall session. Meetings with community stakeholders will be the focus of these next few months and we are hoping to form as many alliances as possible with these organizations. Again, I would ask that if you know of any group or organization that we should meet, please forward that information to our office at 406 7625.

Have a great October and see you again in a month.

P.S. a quick reminder that Mining Matters is coming up on November 9 and 10, 2008, so mark it on your calendar and I look forward to seeing you there.

Executive Director's Message - Michelle Landreville



Hard to believe we are now into fall – where exactly did the summer go? I laugh because a number of you told me that the summer months would be a bit slower – truly not the case! Anyway, Peter gave you a hint of what has been keeping us busy but I thought I would take a minute to tell you about some of the issues that we are dealing with on a Board level. We are truly fortunate to have terrific volunteers who are leading the charge on a number of fronts.

In particular, land access and uranium have had quite a bit of play in the last month. Both of these Committees have been working diligently on education and issue management. As well, the Workers Compensation Board is engaged in a consultation process for their multi year plan and we will be participating in that. Candidate wilderness areas continue to be an issue for us. We are engaged in discussions at this point on Ship Harbour Long Lake but more importantly, we will be working with a number of environmental

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NGOs to discuss other prospective areas. This should allow us the opportunity to ensure that the right 12% of our province is protected – without having a significant negative impact on our industry.

Our newly created Surface Operations Committee is up and running and is tackling all kinds of topics such as on site portable crushing in HRM, magazine licensing and storage standards for explosives to name a few. The Membership Committee continues to work toward increasing our numbers and the Public Relations Committee is anxiously awaiting the first draft of our strategic communications strategy from Bristol Communications (expected some time this fall). Not forgotten, the Underground Mining Regulations Committee is working closely with NS Environment on issues that affect those stakeholders. So, there you have it in a nutshell. Feel free to contact me if you want more information on any of this. I would be happy to answer any of your questions or, alternatively, put you in touch with the Chair of the appropriate Committee.

That's if for now – stay tuned for our October newsletter where I will be giving a report on my recent trip to the uranium and potash mines in Saskatoon. Enjoy the colours!

Windsor firm, Ducks Unlimited protect wetlands

(source: Valley Bureau, August 17, 2008)

WINDSOR — A 30-year agreement between Ducks Unlimited Canada and a Windsor company will protect more than 80 hectares of wetland and associated habitat, the two organizations announced Friday.

Ducks Unlimited will provide technical assistance to the CGC Inc. Windsor plant, formerly Fundy Gypsum Co., to maintain four sites known locally as Meadow Pond, Belmont Beaver Pond, Upper Beaver Ponds and Miller's Creek Duck Pond.

"We see this as a long-term partnership with common goals," said Deanne Meadus, Atlantic manager of conservation programs for Ducks Unlimited. "Therefore, we look forward to assisting CGC with their plan to conserve and improve wetland habitat on their properties."

The partnership began in 2006, when Fundy Gypsum contacted Ducks Unlimited to invite conservation staff on a tour of the wetlands on the firm's quarry sites near Windsor. Fundy Gypsum recognized the quality of waterfowl habitat on the property and wanted some advice on how to manage the wetlands, company officials said.

On the tour, Ducks Unlimited confirmed that the wetlands were good wildlife habitat, being used by a variety of ducks, great blue herons, bald eagles and other birds.

"Realistically, Fundy Gypsum had managed their habitat well by not impacting the existing wetlands and by conserving the restored wetlands," Ms. Meadus said.

"The best option for improving wildlife habitat was to ensure their long-term conservation." The groups entered a wetland stewardship agreement covering all four wetlands, protecting the 20 hectares of wetland and 75 hectares of upland buffer land.

"We recognize the importance of wildlife habitat and see this as an excellent opportunity to partner with a group that specializes in habitat development and conservation," said



Mike Bishop, Fundy Gypsum plant manager.

“These sites have formed as a result of past mining activities and recent reclamation practices, and this agreement ensures that they will remain in place for future generations to enjoy.”

Ducks Unlimited, now in its 70th year, is a non-profit organization committed to wetland conservation. (gdelaney@herald.ca)

Congratulations to Byron MacMillan and his team from all of us at MANS.

New Environmental Assessment Rules Announced

(source: allnovascotia.com, August 8, 2008)

The province has announced changes to the rules for environment assessment – loosening some regulations while tightening others.

The regulatory reins will be relaxed for roads, power transmission lines and paper mills that process pulp but don't manufacture it.

These projects will be shifted from Class 2 undertakings – the more rigorous assessment process where public hearings are necessary – to Class 1.

“The effects of those projects are fairly predictable”, says Peter Geddes, spokesperson for the **Environment Department**. “When the effects of a project are fairly well-known we tend to keep them in a Class 1 category”.

Also new is the requirement that two lane highways that are longer than 10 kilometres will trigger a Class 1 assessment. However, all other larger highway projects are moved down from Class 2 to Class 1 category.

MLA **Graham Steele**, the **NDP** environment critic, says he likes extending the public consultation time line, but that positive change in process does not outweigh the negative implications of looser requirements.

He said moving projects down to Class 1 is a backward step in developing a rigorous environmental evaluation process.

“When you think of major road projects like the twinning of highways over extended periods, they can have pretty substantial environmental impacts”, said Steele. “But apparently those are now being subject to lighter requirements. That can be a positive thing for environment”. He also said the department should have put the changes out as a proposal and invited comment and **Michelle Landreville**, spokesperson for the **Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS)**, says MANS approves of the extended public consultation period, thought they were pushing for 45 days.

“It really allows for a thorough public consultation process, which eliminates a lot of the questions about whether it was rushed through”, said Landreville. “We suggested 45 days. They were way higher than that, so we are very happy with the 50”.



She said to date; the association had no concerns with the changes. However, MANS has butted heads with the department over recent projects. In November, MANS attacked the EA process when the **Bilcon** basalt quarry project in **Digby** was rejected (see **allnovascotia** 2007-11-21).

Facing tighter controls will be energy projects that eat up dirty fossil fuels. Geddes also said the department has shifted from looking at the energy output of the new energy generation facilities to looking at the fuel input.

He said natural gas projects will have a shorter process than coal or oil projects. Essentially, under the new rules, less or cleaner fuel input means less assessment paper work.

“We’ve tried to arrange it to encourage the efficient use of fuel and also encourage use of natural gas over other types of fossil fuels”, said Geddes. “This is about our objectives for improving air quality”.

There is no change for wind power producers – which are lining up for EA approval – because there is no fuel input. Public consultations for the new regulations were held in 2003-04 and the amendments took effect Wednesday.

We need your help!

Now that we have spectacular space, it is time to make it our home. You can help by sending us some of your company literature including your annual reports. We would be happy to display and distribute them as appropriate.

The Mining Industry Human Resources (MiHR) Council

The Mining Industry Human Resources (MiHR) Council is populating a new tool for recruiting students to mining. The “Student-on-the-Job Board” is a web platform for employers to post jobs, receive applications, and connect with applicants. It will target students looking for summer jobs, apprenticeships, engineer-in-training opportunities or co-ops. The Student-on-the Job Board will go live in September 2008. Make use of this free recruitment tool by sending you Fall/Winter postings to Pascale Larouche at plarouche@mihrc.ca. (source: Mining Association of Canada Activity Report, August 22, 2008)

Canada’s Offset System for Greenhouse Gases

In April 2007, the federal government introduced its plan to reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution, entitled Turning the Corner. MAC and affected companies have been involved in numerous subsequent discussions regarding the targets and system proposed for air pollutants. Regarding greenhouse gas emissions, the stated objective of Turning the Corner is to reduce Canadian emissions by 20 percent (2006 baseline) by the year 2020. The plan includes a proposed technology fund, offset system, and early-action credit components. On August 8, the government released a discussion draft of the Guide for Protocol Developers related to Canada’s Offset System for Greenhouse Gases. The intent of the proposed offset system would be to provide regulated companies credit for GHG-reducing investments made in unregulated areas. The length of the draft document (99 pages) and the fact that it is only the first of three guides to be developed gives an indication of the



complexity of the GHG regime being developed at the federal level. There is a 60-day comment period for those who wish to provide input to Environment Canada on the draft guide. Further information can be found at:

<http://www.ec.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&xml=1DF7867D-2F1B-AE7D-0ADF133463F>

For more information, contact Paul Stothart (pstothart@mining.ca) of Justyna Laurie-Lean (jlaurie-lean@mining.ca).

(source: Mining Association of Canada Activity Report, August 22, 2008)

Prosperity Picnic 2008

Submitted by John Amirault

On Saturday August 23rd, fellow MANS Director John Wightman and I, along with Bilcon representatives Paul Buxton and John Wall attended the prosperity picnic near Little River on Digby Neck. The event drew more than 1,150 persons in support of economic activity and development for that area. It was certainly a lively occasion and we were impressed by the organization of the event. The organizers are to be commended for their very effective and productive efforts. They are a shining example to all of us who can benefit from raising public interest.

The picnic was organized in support of the Society for the Development of Prosperity along the NS # 217. This organization has recently been formed under the direction of Ms. Cindy Nesbitt, a courageous business owner who has taken a lead role as a spokesperson in support of economic development. The area has been hard hit by loss of employment in many sectors; forestry, fishery, manufacturing closures, and tourism. In addition, lack of public support for a number of proposed projects; a wind farm, a bottling plant and the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal has dampened investor enthusiasm and continues to stifle economic development for the area.

This organization and Ms. Nesbitt in particular, are an excellent example of the type of community support that we should be fostering within our mining communities. She points to very serious lack of economic activity which in the broader context may result in serious social ills with respect to social disruption, increased crime levels and the general degradation of society. Ms. Nesbitt has also taken the opportunity to correspond with the Premier Rodney MacDonald and NS Ministers with respect to the Bilcon quarry decision. She has posed very serious questions to Ministers for which she has not received any responsible answers from political leaders.

Below I've extracted segments from an article that appeared in the local press to give a flavour of the group's activities.

Selected text extracted from- novanewsnow.com/article-242999

Prosperity Picnic Participation 1150 +

"On Saturday August 23rd the Society for the Development of Prosperity along the #217 sponsored a Community Picnic in Little River, which was very well attended by young and old. Registered with NS Joint Stocks in May of 2007, the Society has officers and directors who reside in these communities year round.

In her conversation, Ms. Cindy Nesbitt, the current chair, expressed her concerns over the number of people who can't find work or have left our area to find employment. It is the



Society's contention that there has been too much negativity associated with development opportunities in Digby County. They believe that far too many realistic ventures have been stifled by this negativity. Members of the Society see a need for development and economic diversification. It is their contention that this area needs to broaden its economic base in order to survive.

As a perceived need arises, people in rural areas band together to meet what they perceive to be a grass roots need. The Society believes that they are such a group. Many times, I have observed that there are within the same community, divergent opinions, that can be very divisive. Over the last few years discussions about a seal cull, land use by-law, quarries and most recently the wind power project have brought about strong feelings.

It is important that we all remember opinions are not the person. You may support or dislike a particular initiative but it is paramount that we respect each other's perspective.

In some cases I have found myself working collaboratively on a project with individuals who have a divergent opinion on another issue. The primary goal should be the productive utilization of our respective talents. “



“People in rural areas band together to meet what they perceive to be a grass roots need.”

