



The Chamber

A Publication of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS)

January 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2008. I am pleased to provide a brief introductory message to this, the first newsletter of 2008.

Let me begin by saying that these last few months have been quite hectic. With the recent hiring of our new Executive Director, Michelle Landreville, we have moved our strategic plan forward rapidly. Meetings with politicians and bureaucrats have been numerous; we have issued a number of media releases and have worked hard at building relationships with quite a number of individuals and groups, including environmental groups.

We are at a critical juncture in our history and all of us need to be engaged in ensuring that our industry is heard on issues of concern to mining in the province of Nova Scotia.

Much work lies ahead in 2008 as we continue to implement our strategic plan and forge critical new relationships. I know that we are all up to the challenge and I ask that you join me as we move ahead.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Let me add my best wishes for 2008 to those of our President. I hope that you enjoyed a restful holiday season and are

ready for the activities that this New Year will bring.

Before proceeding, I want to take a minute to say thanks to each of you for the support that I have received during these first few months of my tenure at MANS. As many of you know, "rocks" are not my area of expertise so I have had to rely on many of you for technical guidance as I find my way through the myriad of issues that affect our industry. Your patience and insight has proven invaluable to me and I would be remiss if I didn't mention it.

You will see from this newsletter, your Board of Directors, Executive Committee and I have been very busy over these last few months on many fronts. We have had to deal with contentious issues such as the governments' decision on the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal. We have worked to forge relationships with environmental NGOs like the Ecology Action Centre. We are building links with senior bureaucrats and politicians to ensure that our message gets out. This work will continue and indeed intensify through this next year and I look forward to working with you to ensure that we become the voice of the mining industry for the province of Nova Scotia.

I hope that you enjoy this issue and I encourage you to contact me directly if you would like to further discuss a

matter or just want to have a coffee and be acquainted.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Happy New Year and I hope everybody enjoyed, what I'm sure was a well deserved break over the Holiday Season. It's a new year, and I hope a renewed focus on the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia.

Our *MISSION*, as laid out in our Strategic Plan, is "*to build a sustainable and professional organization*". A key component of our Mission is to deliver an effective communication program. I hope that this, the first newsletter of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia is a step in that direction. I hope that this newsletter will provide all our members with concise, timely and pertinent information on a monthly basis.

The first step in the creation of a new organization is the development of a Strategic Plan that defines the Core Values, Core Purpose, Mission, Vision and Goals of that organization. The key to success of the organization is the implementation of the Strategic Plan. Sometimes, I think we lose sight of the Strategic Plan and become caught up in the crisis of the day. Yes, we have to act and be proactive, but if we don't follow and implement our strategic plan, we will never have the infrastructure or the mechanisms in place to effectively deal with the constantly emerging issues within our industry. Over the next few issues, I think it prudent to review various different components of our Strategic Plan.

Our Strategic Plan has laid out five specific goals. Our second goal is to

"*create a new look and feel*" for our organization. Our objectives are:

1. Create an office, store front and hire a staff.
2. Create a new organizational structure
3. Broaden membership base
4. Create proactive political linkages

We are well on the way to achieving this goal. We have been successful in hiring an executive director who has been extremely proactive establishing political linkages and promoting our new organization. But, there are many challenges ahead and we need your help and participation. We have to broaden our membership base, create an office front and reorganize our structure, in particular our working committees. We must continue to be engaged in our organization's working committees. We must continue to communicate with elected officials and finally, we must continue to promote our organization. I know that we have the people, both on the Board and within our organization, that are up to the challenge.

In closing, I encourage everybody to submit items of interest or emerging issues within our mining community to the executive director so they may be shared with all our members. We hope to publish this newsletter on a monthly basis, probably after the monthly Board Meetings so that we can include a brief summary of the month's events and business. Your participation and submissions will be greatly appreciated.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITY REPORT for three months ending December, 2007 Administration

- ✓ Started web site development

- ✓ Wrote op ed piece re Bilcon issue (Whites Point Quarry)
- ✓ Media interviews
- ✓ Worked with Board members re letters to the editors
- ✓ Joined Chamber of Commerce

Issues

- ✓ Bilcon matter - Whites Point Quarry
- ✓ Colin Stewart Forest Forum
- ✓ Ship Harbour Long Lake announcement
- ✓ Atlantic Gold letter of support
- ✓ Uranium submission to Energy Round Table
- ✓ Voluntary Planning appointment from mining industry

Meetings

Department of Environment and Labour

- ✓ Minister Mark Parent
- ✓ Christine Gibbons (underground mine regulations);
- ✓ Kim MacNeil, Executive Director; Gerard MacLellan, Executive Director
- ✓ Nancy Vanstone, Deputy Minister

Department of Natural Resources

- ✓ Minister David Morse
- ✓ Peter Underwood, Deputy Minister
- ✓ Scott Swinden, Executive Director
- ✓ Mike MacDonald, Director, Geological Services Division
- ✓ Paul Smith, Liaison Geologist
- ✓ Don Jones, Director, Mineral Development and Management

Department of Economic Development

- ✓ Minister Angus MacIsaac
- ✓ Neil Conrad, Executive Director

Voluntary Planning re Natural Resources Strategy Project Committee

Environment, Energy and Economy (PC Party) town hall meeting – September 2007

Mining Association of Canada – preliminary meeting with President and CEO (in Ottawa in September) then participated in Mining Day on the Hill (in Ottawa) in November 2007

Board Committee Chairs and general members re issues of interest and priorities for MANS (through fall and will continue through first quarter of 2008)

NDP Leader and Natural Resources critic – November 2007

Mining Society meeting – November 2007

Liberal Leader and Junior Theriault (Whites Point) – November 2007

Tour of Fundy Gypsum

Tour of National Gypsum with NDP MLA John MacDonnell

Conferences and Events

- ✓ Sustainable Lifestyle Show – September 2007
- ✓ Power of Green Conference – Department of Environment and Labour – September 2007
- ✓ Mining Matters November 2007 – guest speaker at luncheon – booth display – on organizing committee
- ✓ Rocks and Stocks networking opportunity – last Thursday of every month
- ✓ Chamber of Commerce dinner as guest of Kim Conrad
- ✓ NB Mining Conference – November 2007

- ✓ Call in radio show – November 2007
- ✓ Quebec mineral show – November 2007 – worked booth with DNR for the week

LEGISLATION TO WATCH

Bill No. 58

Uranium Mining Moratorium Act introduced by Graham Steele (NDP) and received first reading on December 3, 2007.

Bill No. 70

An Act to Amend Chapter 504 of the Revised Statutes, 1989, the Wildlife Act introduced by Leo Glavine (Liberal) and received first reading on December 4, 2007. This bill amends the Wildlife Act to prohibit mining, logging and other prescribed activities in a game sanctuary.

You can find the text of these Bills at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/legislature/legc/>.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS IN THE MINING SECTOR

Source: Information Bulletin – November 2007, Natural Resources Canada

A few highlights:

In 2006, employment in the Canadian mining and mineral processing industries increased for the first time since 2000.

The non-metal mining sector exhibited the largest growth with an increase of 9.1% for a total of 19 663 workers in 2006. The bulk of these new jobs came from the aggregate quarrying and potash mining industries, representing almost 50% of non-metal mining employment.

Employees in the mineral extraction and concentrating industries continue to benefit from high average weekly earnings: \$1109 per week in 2006, which is \$362 more than the national average of \$747.

Most provinces experienced increased employment in first-stage mining; however, there were slight decreases in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Manitoba.

For further information or a copy of the bulletin, please feel free to contact Michelle Landreville, Executive Director of MANS directly.

For further information on any of these matters, please contact Michelle Landreville, Executive Director at (902) 219-2111 or by email at michelle@tmans.ca

SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGES FOR EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES OPERATING GLOBALLY

Dalhousie University has cordially invited MANS members to the eight HSBC Bank Canada Business and the Environment Lecture.

Monday February 4, 7:30 P.M
Potter Auditorium Rm. 1028, Kenneth C. Rowe Management Building,
6100 University Avenue, Halifax
Keynote Speaker: Sir Mark Moody-Stuart

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Annual general Meeting: April 1st & 2nd, Truro Nova Scotia

Recognition & Appreciation Night, Terry Daniels: February 20th – Details to follow