

President's Message

By Peter Oram



Change – it seems to be in the wind these days. You have all been part of the changes within the Mining Association of Nova Scotia over this past year and I thank you for your input and efforts as we have grown. The changes within our organization positioned us well to deal with the recent provincial election campaign and its results. We were able to formulate a questionnaire on issues of importance to our industry for the political parties to consider before the election. The three main parties thanked us for the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas on mining with our membership.

Change – we have a new government to deal with at the provincial level. Our proactive political strategy will serve us well as we all become acclimatized to the new reality in Nova Scotia. Our frequent meetings with the NDP Caucus, the former NDP Natural Resources Critic and their Leader have ensured that we are known to many members of the current government. Our regular meetings with Deputy Ministers will also help us in getting our message to this new group of Cabinet Ministers.

Change – be part of it. Call us to get involved and make sure that we ride the wave to success

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Calling all Volunteers!

Preliminary planning is already underway for the 2010 MANS Annual General Meeting and volunteers are needed to help coordinate a successful event. We are looking for two main volunteers; an Event Chair and a Program Chair. Both of these positions will have logistical and administrative support.

As the **Event Chair**, you will be responsible for the overall conference including approval of the event theme, securing sponsorship, determining goals, development of strategic guest list and guiding the overall activities of the conference support team.

As the **Program Chair**, you will be responsible for securing speakers, designing program materials, collecting speaker biographies and session descriptions, and working with the support staff on speaker requirements including registration forms, audio visual equipment and special requests.

A more detailed description of both roles is available on request. To volunteer for either of these roles, please email Michelle Landreville at michelle@tmans.ca

Executive Director's Message

By Michelle Landreville

Welcome to our May/June issue of our newsletter. A couple of quick things to mention to you from an operations stand point.

We continue to monitor the transition of the provincial government with interest. MANS has sent out congratulatory notices to the new Cabinet and has already requested meetings with those Ministers that have a direct influence on our industry. We are hoping that these first meetings will take place in July allowing us the opportunity to present some of our key matters of interest for them to digest during the stage where they are considering the future direction of their government. Of course, we will continue to request our quarterly meetings with government and political officials on a go forward basis to continue building on the dialogue that we start with these initial sessions.

The other major priority for me through this summer and into the fall is to get out and meet you. I have been extremely lucky to have had the chance to meet many of you at various meetings including our AGM but now I want to see where you spend your day to day. So, here I come. I have already had a chance to start this process with a visit to John Chisholm at Nova Construction and Steven Weeks at S.W. Weeks and I thank both of them for their time, their insight and the tour. I look forward to seeing many others through these next few months. If you want on the list, let me know.

I hope that you enjoy the interesting pieces that we put together for you. As always, I would urge you to call us if you need any further information on anything you see in this issue.



Conference Announcement - IMWA

The International Mine Water Association will hold its annual meeting in Sydney, Nova Scotia in 2010. The location is Cape Breton University and the dates are September 5th to 12th, 2010. For more information, please visit their website at: <http://www.imwa.info/>

Are you using the MANS website for all its worth?

As many of you know, we launched our new website in the fall. What you may not know is that our website, www.tmans.ca, is updated weekly. In an effort to keep you informed of key activities and emerging issues, we have added news and upcoming events features to our homepage. These features ensure that you are always up to date on important matters to our industry. You will find recent media clippings, submissions from MANS to government, industry related links and links to provincial and national government departments.

Don't forget to also check out our presentations and newsletters. Again, we hope that you find this information helpful in your daily dealings with the mining industry in Nova Scotia.

First DNR Open House set for September 18 and 19

Submitted by Diane Webber

On September 18 and 19, 2009, the Department of Natural Resources will host its first Open House. The event will provide an opportunity to increase awareness of crown land activities, the importance of the resources sector and natural resource stewardship, sustainable development of natural resources, messages coming from the Natural Resources Strategy and career opportunities in natural resources. Youth and the general public can learn more about the various divisions of DNR and the ways they provide services that help manage our natural resources for today and tomorrow.

The two day event is being held at the DNR Shubenacadie location and will showcase a mix of staffed exhibits, active demonstrations, presentations and self-guided touring. Exhibits will be set up in the Training Room, Greenwing Legacy Centre and two event tents. Several 10-minute presentations will take place during each day at the Creighton Environmental Centre. Active displays will be scheduled periodically at various locations on the site. There will be live entertainment and food services on general public day.

The Open House will be reserved for school groups, VIPs and DNR staff and retirees on Friday, September 18th, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. The day will conclude with a barbeque for staff, retirees and their families. On Saturday September 19th, the event will be open to the general public from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please visit the website at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/> for more information as it becomes available.

MANS Member wins Award



MANS wishes to congratulate Paul K. Smith on his recent award from the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum for distinguished service.

Paul was on hand at a ceremony in Toronto to pick up his award which recognizes an Institute member who has contributed much to the development of the industry and the Institute at their local or Branch level.

Well done, Paul!

Share Your Legacy!

The Mining Association of Nova Scotia has been contacted about a book that is to be written on coal mining in Cape Breton. The author, Ian McNeil, is looking for your stories and pictures to add to the mix. The book will be written and edited by the former journalist and radio host and he is hoping that the stories collected from miners and their families will form the basis of the book. Creative design is being provided by ICON, an award-winning firm. Ian McNeil and many members of the ICON team are descendants of proud coal mining families.

Please visit the website <http://www.capebretoncoalminers.ca/> to get a sense of what they are looking for and to submit your stories and pictures. The deadline for submissions is **Friday July 10, 2009**.

Mining Association of Canada (MAC) Activity Alerts

Reporting “Waste Rock and Tailings” to the NPRI. As reported to the MAC Board, MAC had written to Minister Prentice to outline questions about Environment Canada’s plan to respond to the Court ruling regarding “waste rock and tailings” and reporting to the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI). On June 12th, officials from the NPRI Secretariat and the Mining and Processing group in Environment Canada outlined the Secretariat’s plan and preliminary responses to MAC’s questions to the MAC Environment Committee. Environment Canada plans to consult industry and stakeholders in June and July and publish a notice asking for data on “waste rock and tailings” for 2006, 2007, and 2008 in late August for submission by end of 2009. On June 23rd, Gordon Peeling wrote to Environment Canada requesting that the publication of the notice be deferred to October, to permit adequate time for consultation with all potentially affected sectors.

Air Pollutant Regulatory Framework. As reported to the MAC Board, Environment Canada signalled in June that it is now ready to re-engage in the tri-partite work on an air pollutant regulatory framework. Minister Prentice’s staff met with a steering committee of provinces, industry, environmental and health NGOs on June 10th, and senior officials followed with an all-day meeting on the 11th. Environment Canada indicated that it agreed with the basic elements of the tri-partite proposal, but saw the federal role to be direct regulation of large facilities under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. Minister Prentice wants to announce a regulatory framework on air pollutants and reduction targets for large industrial facilities by the end of 2009. In response to vigorous discussion with the tri-partite steering committee, and a teleconference with interested industry and NGOs on the 23rd, Environment Canada expressed some flexibility. The steering committee, now including Environment Canada, is finalizing a plan for work to be done over the summer by five working groups and the steering committee. MAC will participate in the working group on industrial requirements. For additional information, contact Justyna Laurie-Lean (jlaurie-lean@mining.ca).

Mining Association of Canada (MAC) Activity Alerts (continued)

Corporate Social Responsibility and the Extractive Industries. The Canadian Network for Corporate Accountability hosted an event on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Extractive Industries on Parliament Hill on the first of June. Gordon Peeling was a panelist with MPs Paul Dewar (NDP), Bernard Patry (Liberal), and Johanne Deschamps (Bloc) and Michael Casey representing the NGO Development and Peace. Dewar, Patry and Deschamps are members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs currently conducting hearings on Bill C-300, a private member's Bill, entitled "An Act respecting Corporate Accountability for the Activities of Mining, Oil or Gas in Developing Countries". It was an opportunity for MAC to remind the packed audience, mainly of representatives from the NGO community, that we accepted the Government's response to the CSR Round Table (RT) process and that some key aspects of the RT report recommendations were focused on policy approaches to create an enabling environment for improved performance by industry and not on extra-territorial application of Canadian law or creation of an 'ombuds' type function within a legislative construct. The Government response was directionally correct, would put Canada in a leadership position and focused on the most important issues from an industry perspective – capacity building at the developing country government level. Unfortunately, Bill C-300 was not in keeping with the spirit or intent of the RT recommendations and thus could not be supported. The remarks from MAC were reasonably well received and appreciated even though they might not have been what parts of the audience wanted to hear. For copies of Gordon's remarks, contact Monique Lafleche (mlafleche@mining.ca).



The statements and points of view expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors, and are not necessarily those of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia or its editor(s).

We welcome your letters and articles to the newsletter.

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