

EDITORIAL

Science in the Maritime Provinces and the Role of the Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science

The three Maritime Provinces of Canada are blessed with a wealth of universities, research institutes, government departments (provincial and federal), industries and consulting firms dedicated to basic and applied research in many fields. This mass of talented people and state of the art facilities is building upon its international recognition in fields such as marine science, biotechnology, the environmental and health professions, and computer and information sciences, and underpins the region's economic and environmental security. It puts the Maritime Region into a strong position to address looming new challenges requiring a strong knowledge base – climate change, management of living resources, health issues such as cancer and obesity, coastal protection and conservation, pollution control, quality living in urban regions, quality of life balance, and others. A dynamic scientific enterprise, especially one encouraging and employing young scientists in all fields, offers promise of a bright future.

The Nova Scotian Institute of Science (NSIS) is almost 150 years old. It helps to support this enterprise of science serving society through its annual program of seminars, support for young scientists, and the Journal. As you read the pages of the current issue, and access the website of the Society (www.chebucto.ns.ca/Science/NSIS/), please reflect on the role of science in Maritime society, and its latest developments. We would like to hear from you, have you participate in the Society's program, and especially have you contribute to these pages.

The Journal has a new and committed Editorial Board. Its members will help direct the new PNSIS ship on the journey of addressing the scientific and societal challenges of the new century, and reporting our best science. We are building on a proud foundation for the Journal, thanks most recently to the dedicated work of the past Editor, Dr. James (Jim) Stewart.

The NSIS would like to see a diversity of articles in the Proceedings, ranging from papers of original research from across the disciplines, to viewpoint articles, reviews of work in current fields of research, book reviews, and letters to the Editor. An Editorial may even appear from time to time! With your help and input, the Proceedings can continue to be a dynamic outlet for new and

important information in Maritime science. Articles are especially encouraged from the natural and engineering sciences, as well as from the health professions, but papers in any of the natural and related social sciences (e.g. history of science, environmental economics, information science and management) of Nova Scotian or Maritime interest will be considered.

The NSIS looks forward to celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2012, with special issues of the Proceedings planned for that year. Please read the journal, become a contributor, and join in this exciting journey of documenting scientific discovery and progress in Nova Scotia and the Maritimes.

Peter G. Wells, Ph.D., Editor

David H.S. Richardson, Ph.D., Associate Editor and President, NSIS