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NOVA SCOTIA  
ROAD BUILDERS  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER

# RoadNews

**NEW**  
online  
registration  
nsrba.ca

## AGM

63RD ANNUAL  
GENERAL  
MEETING

Wednesday, January 27  
to Thursday, January 28,  
2010.

Be sure to register early for our upcoming 63rd Annual General Meeting to be hosted once again at the Westin Hotel. **NEW This Year ONLINE REGISTRATION.** The NSRBA is pleased to be able to offer on-line registration for the upcoming AGM in January. Simply go to [www.nsrba.ca](http://www.nsrba.ca) and go to the "upcoming Events" tab, and click on "Event Registration". As in previous years, space is limited so register as soon as possible.

It is very important to include the names of the participants you are registering, as we will be providing name tags to each individual. You will not be able to register online unless you include these names and events they will be attending.

AGM Curling will be taking place once again at the CFB Curling Rink on the morning of Thursday January 28th, 2010. Be sure to register for the curling at the time of registration".



## this issue

- Charitable Events **P.2**
- Industry Labour Study **P.3**
- Strategic Planning **P.3**
- New Website **P.3**
- New Members **P.4**
- Directors & Chairpersons **P.4**

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



To say this has been an interesting year for our industry would be an obvious understatement. The economic downturn led to a response by all levels of government to provide stimulus spending to mitigate the affects of the economic challenges. This led to a strong year in public business for our members. There was a provincial election in the middle of our season, which slowed the ability of the increased public spending to move forward. This has led to a very busy fall. Thankfully the temperatures have co-operated to allow a longer than usual season.

The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal estimated capital budget for 2009 was approximately \$325 million compared to \$240 million in 2008. This figure includes contributions from the Federal Government. The increase was due in part to the stimulus spending plans of various levels of Government, in reaction to the economic downturn. It is expected that the budget for 2010 will again be significant with stimulus spending programs still having major impact.

The NSRBA met with all caucuses last year and intends to do the same in the spring of 2010. Last years meetings were well received and felt to be very worthwhile. We always emphasize the need for adequate long term, sustainable funding as well as the need for early tendering. The latter having a direct correlation with industry capacity. We will again emphasize the very significant economic

impact our industry has upon this province. A couple of major initiatives are underway: the Board of Directors just met to complete the first ever, formal strategic plan for the Association. It will be approved and available to the membership in the near future. It will give us direction and focus for the foreseeable future. We are also nearing the end of a study aimed at identifying our labour needs going forward. The industry believes we have a major challenge looming in this area. We have been concentrating on topics such as retention, recruitment and training. The provincial Department of Labour and Workforce Development is our partner in this effort. We expect the results of this effort to lead to new initiatives that will help the industry best deal with the challenges ahead.

Planning for our next Annual General Meeting is well underway. We had a large number of attendees last year. The Premier was the guest speaker at the AGM banquet, which had not occurred for several years. Details of the AGM will be available to you on-line at our new website [www.nsrba.ca](http://www.nsrba.ca) in the near future detailing the schedule and planned activities. We will be making changes in our approach to the AGM, with the advent of a badge system vs. the tickets that we have gone with in the past. As well attendees will have the opportunity to pay on-line. Our next convention will be held at the same location on January 27th & 28th of 2010 at the Westin in Halifax.

**Grant Feltmate, Executive Director**  
**Nova Scotia Road Builders Association**



## NSRBA Charitable Events

Since its founding in 1947 the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association (NSRBA) and its members have played an integral part in building the province, its roads, and its infrastructure. A non profit organization, the NSRBA also helps build good will in the local community by giving back to it through charitable donations. Every year the association shows its support by donating surplus funds to many different charitable groups and causes.

At the NSRBA's annual general meeting in January 2008, the association put on a formal evening and held a live auction with the proceeds going to the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada. The event raised over \$80,000 dollars. The donation is one of the largest that the charity has ever received from a third-party event.

In 2009 a smaller version of the auction was held, with the proceeds going to a charity of the NSRBA president's choice: the Truro STAR program. For this charity the NSRBA raised more than \$8,000. The STAR program is a non-profit organization that relies solely on fund-raising and donations. The first session of STAR took place in January 2004 and the organization has continued to grow each year. It provides much needed support to special needs children in our community.

The NSRBA's 2009 donation to STAR was the largest the program has received to date. The money is being used to purchase much needed equipment for the unique needs of the program's participants. The NSRBA's support has also helped the charity fund more extensive volunteer training.

## 2009 NSRBA 7th Annual Golf Tournament

More recently, on July 10, 2009 the NSRBA held its seventh annual golf tournament at the Truro Golf Club. Each year the event attracts more than 140 players and raises funds, which go to charities like the Christmas Daddies and the Turkey Club Society.

This years tournament raised \$5,000. The cheque was presented to Jack Cruickshank, Chairman of the Turkey Club. His sincere thanks for the generous donation was extended to us in November.

"It is difficult to find the words to fully express our appreciation but I hope that you will accept the sincerity of our thanks. Please pass these sentiments on to those at the Association who may have been involved in the decision to give so generously."

The NSRBA takes great pride in supporting these charitable initiatives. We're able to make these donations because of the great support and generosity of our members. Thank you to each one of you.



**Thanks to all our sponsors for their generous donations to the 2009 NSRBA Golf Tournament on July 10th!**

2009 Golf Tournament Winners (left to right - Steve Deveau, Grant Feltmate, Greg Burke and Josh Campbell) Congratulations!! Good Job!



**NSRBA 2009 Turkey Club Donation - Thanks to all our sponsors!!**

The NSRBA is a proud sponsor of The Turkey Club Society which is a volunteer group dedicated to raising funds so that less fortunate families are able to enjoy a Christmas Dinner and a brighter holiday season. For more information on this organization please visit [www.turkeyclub.org/](http://www.turkeyclub.org/)

(Left to right: Ron Legere - NSRBA Past President, Jack Cruickshank- Chair of the Turkey Club and Ken Thomas - NSRBA President)





## Industry Labour Study Nearing Completion

There are many examples of studies and articles indicating that Canada and Nova Scotia are heading toward very significant labour shortages in the near future. This is due primarily to the demographics around retiring baby boomers and lack of population growth. Anecdotally, members have echoed that trend. However, we have never had a study specifically focused on our industry. We tend to be lumped in with construction. Thanks to the excellent support of the provincial Department of Labour and Workforce Development that

has changed. The Nova Scotia Road Builders Association and the Department of Labour and Workforce Development are working together on a project to understand the workforce development needs of the industry. The goal of the project is to provide for the first time to our industry a quantitative snapshot of our human resource situation and to identify the issues and potential solutions associated with recruiting, retaining, training and succession planning.

The main focus for this project is to better help us as an industry

prepare and plan our human resource requirements for the future. Ordinary and Affiliate members are the focus of this project, with the vast majority participating. We expect the results of this effort to lead to new initiatives that will help the industry best deal with the challenges ahead. It has been interesting to hear how a number of companies have found going through the survey to be a great learning tool for them, with regard to an accurate profile of their own operations.

## Strategic Planning Session

The Board of Directors (2009) of the Nova Scotia Road Builders Association met at Oak Island Inn November 12 – 13, 2009 and created the first ever formal strategic plan for this organization.

Attending Board members included: Ken Thomas, Brad Scott, Paul White, Rylan MacDow, John Flemming, Ron Dunn, Andrew Lake, Pat Gray, Greg MacDonald and Executive Director – Grant Feltmate. The sessions were facilitated by Tony Nash of Inter-Connex Consulting Inc.

There was excellent participation and engagement by all participants resulting in the creation of a vision statement, a mission statement, and a defined core purpose. Several strategic directions were identified, as well as an action plan complete with timelines to make sure we keep this important focus for the association. It should be noted that prior to beginning the sessions the report from the Past President's session held earlier this year were reviewed by all participants. Please look for the full report that will be included in up coming AGM material.



## NSRBA Completes New Website

[www.nsrba.ca](http://www.nsrba.ca)



The NSRBA is pleased to advise its members that its new website is officially up and running as of May of this year.

The website has a fresh new look and feel, is much more user friendly and will be a valuable tool as the association moves progressively forward.

The association decided some time ago that a new website would be an important tool to increase our public profile, send a clearer message about who the NSRBA is, and to better support our members in the efficient and accurate transfer of information.

The association is utilizing this crucial tool now to advise its members of upcoming events, allowing them the ability to pay online for events and membership registrations electronically, and the ability to view recent tender postings. The site also hosts a useful and up to date membership listing with information on all of our 140 member companies.

The site will continue to evolve and develop over time as the association determines what other functions the membership would like to see added or expanded.

Please be sure to check your own member profile to confirm that the information listed is up to date and accurate.

NSRBA also encourages you to send your corporate information. Be sure to check the site out at [www.NSRBA.ca](http://www.NSRBA.ca)

## NEW ASSOCIATE NSRBA MEMBERS

CSP Web-Based Management Inc.



Peter Clarke & Co. Inc

**Peter Clarke & Co. Inc**

Britney Conveyor Ltd



Mac Williams Engineering Limited



Rockico Truck & Trailer Sales Ltd



Lockhart Truck Center



Source Atlantic



Seaboard/Harmac Transportation Group



Leica Geosystems Ltd.



Heritage Gas Limited



## NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERS

G&R Kelly Enterprises Limited



Beaver Marine Ltd

**Beaver Marine Ltd**

For a complete members listing, visit us at [www.nsrba.ca](http://www.nsrba.ca), and click on the **Member Directory** link



## NOVA SCOTIA ROAD BUILDERS ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS 2009

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TANS/Labour Relations	Greg MacDonald	Alva Construction Ltd.	<a href="mailto:greg@alva.ns.ca">greg@alva.ns.ca</a>	863-6445 W	863-6446
Rental Rates	Donald Chisholm	Nova Construction Co. Ltd.	<a href="mailto:donaldchisholm@ns.sympatico.ca">donaldchisholm@ns.sympatico.ca</a>	863-4004 W 867-7470 C	863-2291
Safety	Patrick Gray	Highland Asphalt Limited	<a href="mailto:pgray@haspl.ca">pgray@haspl.ca</a>	445-6010 W 471-4152 C	443-4817
Convention/Membership	Troy Nauss	Black & McDonald Ltd.	<a href="mailto:tnauss@blackandmcdonald.com">tnauss@blackandmcdonald.com</a>	481-5633 W 456-8166 C	468-3102
Newsletter/Website/Media	Rylan MacDow	Shaw Group Limited	<a href="mailto:rmacdow@shawpipe.com">rmacdow@shawpipe.com</a>	883-2201 W 499-7550 C	883-8908



## 2010 HOCKEY CHALLENGE TEAM UPDATE

Our Hockey Challenge is expanding for 2010, from two teams to four. In addition to the South Atlantic Cats and the North Atlantic Explosives, we are adding an NSTIR team and an Associate Members team.

Tuesday, January 26th is the date for the semifinal games, with the NSTIR facing off against the defending champion South Atlantic Cats from 10:30 AM to 12:00 noon at the Halifax Forum. The evening game features the North Atlantic Explosives against the Associates from 10:30 PM to 12:00 midnight at the Halifax Forum.

The winners of these two games will meet in the final, tentatively scheduled from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM on Wednesday, January 27th at the Halifax Metro Centre, although the venue is subject to change due to scheduling conflicts. Although the stakes are high, the competition is friendly, and everyone is welcome, regardless of skill level, as we will do our best to “even” out the teams. If you are interested in playing in this year’s tournament, email the following information to Blair Landry, [blair@thompsonsolving.ca](mailto:blair@thompsonsolving.ca) before December 18, 2009:

- 1) First Name:
- 2) Last Name:
- 3) Company:
- 4) Phone Number:
- 5) Position Played:
- 6) Highest Level of Hockey Played:
- 7) # of Years Played:
- 8) Are you still actively playing (Y or N):

Team rosters will consist of 9 forwards, 6 defense-men, and 1 goalie. Your team captain will e-mail you in early January once the rosters have been set. If you would like more information about the tournament, please e-mail Blair Landry at [blair@thompsonsolving.ca](mailto:blair@thompsonsolving.ca)



# HOCKEY