

A Word from the Secretary General

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

During our last IMWA conference in Karlsbad, Czech Republic, our members elected a new IMWA Executive Council. Our new President is Adrian Brown, Denver, USA and our new Treasurer is Lee C. Atkinson, Lakewood, USA. I am sure that this new configuration of our EC will further improve IMWA's work. You can find all of the other new Executive Council members on the last page of this journal.

Our Karlsbad meeting was a great success! It was the largest IMWA Congress that we have ever had. The venue was a nice place, the delegates were great colleagues (Fig. 1), and our congress organizer, Nad'a Rapontova, was fantastic! From my point of view, it was a good decision to have our 10th IMWA Congress in the Czech Republic, and many mine water specialists joined us there. Thanks to all of our longstanding members who attended and the many individuals who decided to become IMWA members. For everyone who is already looking forward to



Fig. 1 Delegates listening to a presentation during the 10th IMWA congress, Karlsbad, Czech Republic

the next IMWA meeting, please plan to come next year to Pretoria, South Africa.

As many of you already know, there has been a “little” change in my personal co-ordinates. I recently accepted a position as full Professor at Cape Breton University, Nova Scotia, Canada. I will hold the position as “Industrial Research Chair for Mine Water Remediation & Research”; to my knowledge, this is the first chair of this kind worldwide. Except for the change in my mailing address and time-zone, you will not encounter much difference between my work in Europe and in North-America; the subjects will be the same, though the locations of my research will be “slightly” Canadian based now (Fig. 2)—if you like *A Mari Usque Ad Mare*. If you noted some delay in my e-mail answers, you now know why: my transition from Bavaria to Nova Scotia. By the way—please do me a



Fig. 2 The Canadian banner

favour if you plan to visit me here; be sure that you book flights to Sydney in Canada and not the other (somewhat larger) Sydney as it will be difficult for me to pick you up down under in New South Wales!

As always: Glückauf
Chris Wolkersdorfer

Give Mine Water Greater Priority

Increased federal funding for reclaiming battered mine lands is about to improve Northeast Pennsylvania's landscape, functionally and aesthetically. As detailed by David Singleton of The Times-Tribune, a \$1.4 billion increase in federal funding over 15 years will enable the state government to fund a host of reclamation projects on land that has been scarred for up to a century. The most highly visible results of the new funding, so far, are along Interstate 81 in Pennsylvania's anthracite region where old mine sites are being reclaimed. As projects unfold over the next 15 years, state and federal efforts are turning to the more difficult aspect of the region's mining legacy: cleaning waterways that continue to be fouled by mine pollution.

The state of Pennsylvania has flexibility to use some of the new federal money for projects to reduce acidic mine drainage into waterways. It plans to use 30% of the new federal money, \$420 million, for water reclamation projects. But land and water reclamation are not mutually exclusive concepts. Both are important and they should not be addressed at the expense of each other. Cleaning up all of the state's mine-related water problems would cost about \$15 billion, making the \$420 million just a down payment.

The most notorious mine-water site in the state probably is a bore hole near the confluence of the Lackawanna and Susquehanna rivers, which dumps about $380 \cdot 10^3 \text{ m}^3$ (100 million gallons, U.S.) of tainted water into the Lackawanna each day, creating a dead zone and a long, reddish plume. The Lackawanna River Corridor Association has proposed the establishment of a regional commission, including Lackawanna and Luzerne counties and the state government, to aggressively address mine-related pollution throughout the regional watershed. That would be a needed step towards shifting the focus to water reclamation, even as the land-reclamation projects in the pipeline take place.

Adapted from "The Times-Tribune"; August 12, 2008

International Roundtable on the Restoration on Mining Legacy Sites

The World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), and the Post-

Mining Alliance (Eden Project) hosted the Roundtable in Toronto on March 2–3, 2008. This roundtable is a component of the IUCN-ICMM Dialogue on Biodiversity and Mining. Prior to the roundtable, the Post-Mining Alliance completed an international survey on the challenges surrounding mining legacies and prepared a discussion paper based on over 100 responses. Both of these documents will be available soon from <http://www.postmining.org>. The objective of the roundtable was to identify the next steps and make recommendations to address the issues and challenges related to legacy mines, specifically concerning funding and finance, legislation, partnership, and knowledge sharing. Forty-eight people from 13 countries attended the roundtable. Delegates were impressed by the amount of work completed in Canada on orphaned and abandoned mines. The main recommendation was that the initiative needs an international champion to compile the information and move the issues forward.

Adopted from the MEND Monitor April 2008.

NOAMI—New Jurisdictional Legislative Review CD-ROM

This report provides a brief background to the problem of orphaned and abandoned mines (OAMs) in Canada and reviews the constitutional authority for control of mining activity in Canada. Existing and prospective legislative, regulatory, and policy authority for controlling mining activity at the federal, provincial, and territorial levels are examined. Mining, environmental, land use planning, and workplace safety requirements are considered.

According to the report, the primary gap in mining and environmental laws is with respect to OAMs. Two types of recommendations are provided to address remediation of OAMs. One type is intended to facilitate volunteer activities and to establish permanent funding arrangements. The second type is based on categories outlined in the guidelines. Legislation/policy/program matrices for the jurisdictions are included that summarize the report findings on the overall strengths and weaknesses of the legal, regulatory, and policy framework in Canada with respect to OAMs, contaminated sites, and operating mines. A toolkit of legislative approaches, outlining a number of options tailored to each of the jurisdictions, and to be used towards implementation of legislative change, is part of NOAMI's workplan for 2008.

This review "Report on the Legislative, Regulatory and Policy Framework Respecting Collaboration, Liability and Funding at the Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Levels in Canada in Relation to Orphaned/Abandoned, Contaminated and Operating Mines" was completed by Joseph

Castrilli, and is available on CD-ROM or from the NOAMI website at: <http://www.abandoned-mines.org>.

Adapted from the NOAMI newsletter (Gilles A. Tremblay) May 2008.

Persons

Paul Younger, Director of the Sir Joseph Swan Institute for Energy Research at Newcastle University is renowned world wide for his pioneering research and outreach programme of community-based projects to remedy the serious threat to the environment caused by water pollution from abandoned mines, work which won a Queen's Anniversary Prize for the University in 2005. Paul has recently taken on the job of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Engagement) at Newcastle University, and will provide leadership on the University's engagement in the economic, social, and cultural development of north-eastern England, and its strategic positioning as a civic university nationally and internationally. "I feel deeply honoured to be asked to lead the University on engagement," said Professor Younger. "Our renewed commitment to regional relevance strongly resonates with our history, given that the University's forerunner institutions were established in response to profound societal needs. Today, this commitment is strongly reflected in exciting initiatives that are already underway in teaching and research, as well as major strategic developments such as the forthcoming iKNOW Beacon of Public Engagement programme, the Cultural Quarter, and Science City," he said. Professor Younger's vision is to make the Newcastle University name synonymous with global best practice in engagement.

Adapted from NewsLink, University of Newcastle Web Page, 10 April 2008.

Prof. Dr. Christian Wolkersdorfer, General Secretary of IMWA, has been awarded the position of "Industrial Research Chair in Mine Water Remediation & Research" at Cape Breton University Nova Scotia, Canada. After his post-doc responsibilities at Technical University Bergakademie Freiberg and Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich in Germany, he will now focus his research on mine water processes and mine water geochemistry towards remediation and management actions. This Research Chair is co-financed by the Cape Breton Development Corporation and will focus on Mine Water Issues emanating from the former mines of the Sydney Coalfield and on research about geothermal use of mine waters. Furthermore, general research concerning world-wide mine water issues will be conducted.

We recently learned that **Prof. Roy E. Williams**, an early and long-standing member of IMWA, passed away on April 6, 2007 at the age of 69. Roy had been Professor

of Hydrogeology at the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, USA and since 1999 was professor-emeritus there. He obtained his B.S. in 1961, his M.A. in Indiana 1963, and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, USA, in 1966. He had a distinguished career of research and consulting in hydrogeology and mine hydrology. He was married to Dr. Barbara Cooke Williams, who is also a faculty member at the University of Idaho.

New Members

We welcome our following new members:

Michael Alter, Tucson, USA
 Jen-Luc Bodin, Rueil-Malmaison, France
 Louis Botha, Delmas, South Africa
 Keith Brady, Steelton, USA
 Barbara Butler, Cincinnati, USA
 Gabriel Canahai, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
 David P Cercone, Pittsburgh, USA
 Maria Claire Costa, Faro, Portugal
 Stefania Da Pelo, Cagliari, Italy
 Gareth Digges La Touche, Nottinghamshire, UK
 Eibhlin Doyle, Dublin, Ireland
 Wilson Mugeru Gitari, Capetown, South Africa
 Alexandra Goldschneider, Rueil-Malmaison, France
 Vitor Manuel Gomes de Oliveira, Lisboa, Portugal
 Braden Hanna, Lakewood, USA
 Terry Harck, Midrand, South Africa
 Graham Hubert, Halfway House, South Africa
 Mike Jenkins, Kingwood, USA
 David Jones, Darwin, Australia
 Ben Mack, Morgantown, USA
 Benjamin Mafa, Gaborone, Botswana
 Reza Marandi, Teheran, Iran
 Mary Beth Marks, Boseman, USA
 David McKay, Redland, UK
 Brent Means, Harrisburg, USA
 Dean Milenic, Belgrade, Serbia
 Ali Moradzadeh, Shahrood, Iran
 Santiago Moreira-Martinez, La Coruña, Spain
 David Robert Mulligan, Brisbane, Australia
 Mihai Muresan, Bryanston, South Africa
 Przemek Nalecki, Toowong, Australia
 Jack Nawrot, Carbondale, USA
 Shawn Ntlhaile, Jwaneng, Botswana
 Barbara Palumbo-Roe, Nottingham, UK
 C. L. Reichardt, Pinetown, South Africa
 Rodrigo Rojas, Heverlee, Belgium
 Javier Sánchez España, Madrid, Spain
 Robert Seal, Reston, USA
 Clara Sena, Barcelona, Spain
 Sied Ziaedin Shafaei, Shahrood, Iran

Michael Sieczkowski, Lenexa, USA
 Otto Uhl, Herne, Germany
 Karolien Vanbroekhoven, Mol, Belgium
 Mike Veres, Chapmanville, USA
 Josef Zeman, Brno, Czech Republic

We hope that our new colleagues will benefit from and contribute to the extensive mine water knowledge and expertise gathered within our group of inter-national experts. Please use your membership number in any correspondence, especially money transfers with IMWA. You can find it easily on your journal's address label, in front of the word "GES".

Lee C. Atkinson, Treasurer, Lakewood, Colorado, USA;
 Chris Wolkersdorfer, Secretary General, Cape Breton, Canada

Back Issues

Members who recently joined IMWA can find a complete index (issues 1–26) of the *International Mine Water Association Journal* and *Mine Water and the Environment* at our web-page <http://www.IMWA.info>. Volumes 17(1), 18(1), 19(2), 20(1) and 21(1) as well as proceedings of the 7th and 8th IMWA Congresses are still available for \$15.00 (U.S.) a copy. Some other back-issues are available on request—copies of single pages at \$0.60 (U.S.) each. Please add \$5.00 (U.S.) for shipping/handling. You can also access the journal on line, using <http://www.imwa.info/springer>. You can download an overview of European mine water issues from IMWA's web page or use the following Digital Object Identifier: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10230-005-0081-3>.

Past IMWA issues, published before the year 2000, can be accessed with your private login and password that you received with your last membership status or by e-mail.

Chris Wolkersdorfer, Sydney, Cape Breton, Canada

EU Money Transfers

According to European law, EU money transfers (in EUROS) must not cost more than national money transfers if you use IMWA's IBAN and BIC numbers (they must also be printed on your bank's money transfer statements). The banks are not allowed to charge extra costs. If they do so, please contact your national Complaint Body (see below). Your bank might tell you that those regulations will only be valid in 2008. In fact, this is not true! In 2008, the SEPA system will come into force. This system will harmonize EU and international money transfers but the law has been in force since 2004. Please keep in mind: EU money transfers are not international money transfers! This

law does not apply to these European countries: Andorra, Monaco, Switzerland, San Marino, and the Holy See.

Here is the link to the EU payment legislation: http://www.imwa.info/eu_payment.

If you have problems with your bank (and they often cause problems in this matter), your country has a national Complaint Body:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/payments/crossborder/complaintbodies_en.htm. Please help yourself and IMWA to save money by complaining if your bank does not accept EU or SEPA money transfers.

Lee C. Atkinson, Treasurer, Lakewood, Colorado, USA;
 Chris Wolkersdorfer, Secretary General, Sydney, Cape Breton, Canada

Forthcoming Events

September 14th–18th 2008, Freiberg/Saxony, Germany

5th International Conference on "Uranium Mining and Hydrogeology". <http://www.geo.tu-freiberg.de/umh/>

October 18th–23rd 2008, Vail, Colorado, USA

Tailings and Mine Waste '08: The Conference objective is to provide a forum for presenting the state-of-the-art with respect to mill tailings and mine waste, and to discuss current and future issues facing the mining and environmental communities. Linda.Hinshaw@colostate.edu; <http://tailingsandminewaste.org/>

November 2nd–5th 2008, Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, Canada

Sur L'environnement et les Mines—Mines and the Environment: The objectives of the Symposium are to share recent knowledge and research developments and to discuss common practices to find solutions that reconcile profitability and environmental. <http://www.cim.org/Rouyn-Noranda2008>

November 17th–19th 2008, Sevilla, Spain

Postmining Problems from the Exploitation of Polymetallic Sulphides: This meeting will deal with the main environmental problems that are associated with abandoned polymetallic sulphide mines. The Spanish Ministry of Science and Education considers this topic to be of special interest in 2008. Lectures will be held by both national and international experts. aromero@us.es; <http://www.departamento.us.es/dcmqa>

December 3rd–4th 2008, Vancouver, BC, Canada

15th BC MEND ARD/ML Workshop: *Tailings Management*

March 12th–13th 2009, Pattaya Park Beach resort, Thailand.

2nd Thailand Rock mechanics Symposium ThaiRock 2009: gmr@sut.ac.th; <http://www.geomechsut.com>

June 23rd–26th 2009, Skellefteå, Sweden

ICARD 2009—“Securing The Future”: With the organisation of Securing the Future 2009 and the 8th ICARD in Skellefteå, the organizing committee wishes to bring together international experts on environmental and social aspects of mining and metals from the scientific community, from government agencies, from the mining and metal industries and from other stakeholders to share knowledge and experience and to discuss industry practices, challenges and research needs; <http://www.securing.skelleftea.se>; the deadline for abstracts is September 15th 2008

June 28th–July 1st 2009, Innsbruck, Austria

E^{mc}2009—European Metallurgical Conference: Global Growth of Nonferrous Metals Production; <http://www.EMC.gdmb.de>

September 13th–17th 2009, Bariloche, Argentina

18th International Biohydrometallurgy Symposium; <http://www.ibs2009.org.ar>; info@ibs2009.org.ar

October 19th–23rd 2009, Pretoria, South Africa

IMWA 2009 Symposium; <http://www.IMWA.info>; imwa2009@IMWA.info

September 5th–12th 2010, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada

IMWA 2010 Symposium; <http://www.IMWA.info>; imwa2010@IMWA.info

September 4th–11th 2011, Aachen, Germany

11th IMWA Congress; <http://www.IMWA.info>; imwa2011@IMWA.info

2012, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

IMWA 2012 Symposium; <http://www.IMWA.info>; imwa2012@IMWA.info