

To Our Members,

Happy New Year.

What can I say? The year did not turn out as everyone had hoped for back in January. Metal prices and capital markets are stalled at low points with no immediate relief in sight. In fact I venture to guess that the world political scene as it seems to be evolving now (December) is not looking good for a recovery to spur growth in the economy. Thus I expect no wealth to help fund capital markets and no demand for raw materials. But who am I to say I am a geologist not an economist.

In 2014, many of you probably took part in NWOPA's various activities and we hope you can continue to support us in 2015. The Symposium (NWOMMS) in April was well attended with about 500 delegates and 100 exhibitors. Networking, catching up on the latest research by the OGS, excellent talks and the Awards Night Dinner were the highlights. For this year's award winners please visit the updated website at www.nwopa.net. NWOPA Board of Directors had a booth at the NW Ontario Trappers Festival where J. Bjorkman gave a talk on prospecting; participated in the Geraldton Trade Show with a gold panning activity with 100 kids getting gold fever; and they helped immensely with the organization of the second Thunder Bay Mining Day Festival at Marina Park on May 31. (see website for pictorial gallery or visit www.thunderbayminingday.ca)

Other Board responsibilities included attending many meetings dealing with the new Mining Act. This will be an ongoing commitment in 2015 as major concerns affecting our industry are dealt with in the Regulations. It is hard to give you an update on this as it is such a dynamic process. Jess Bjorkman and Dave Hunt are our point people and are fighting hard to get industry's many concerns heard at the table. Please feel free to email your Association with your views and concerns, we are here to serve our members.

The Christmas Party ended our year with a fun time for all. See website for pictures and sponsor list.

I would like to thank our generous sponsors who support our events held throughout the year. Without them the events would not be the successes they are. THANK YOU!!

Heading into 2015, probably all I can say is Good Luck and Pray for a turn-around. These cycles are roughly every ten years so get ready for another bull market and hit it running.

Cheers,

Bob Chataway

President, NWOPA