

Editorial

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Editorial

The 1975 Annual Meeting of the Association is being held this May in Central Canada, at Waterloo. The University of Waterloo has long had a special connection with the GAC, through the activities of our secretary-treasurer of many years, Chris Barnes. It is hard to believe that, after the 1975 meeting, Chris will no longer be serving the GAC in this position, which he has filled with such devotion and distinction for more years than most of us can remember. The reason most of us cannot remember a time when Chris was not secretary-treasurer is not because of sheer length of tenure, but because it has been during Chris' stewardship that GAC has seen its most spectacular growth, both in membership and in activities. We all owe to Chris Barnes, and to the University of Waterloo, a very great debt for services most cheerfully and efficiently rendered. As readers of this issue of *Geoscience Canada* will note, the years of GAC work, not to mention teaching, inhabiting an office reeking with the fumes of acetic acid, and peering constantly down a microscope at all but invisible (and mysterious) creatures have not at all weakened a strong sense of humour.

Rumour has it that the GAC will continue its fruitful association with Waterloo; and certainly *Geoscience Canada* will continue to benefit from Chris' concern for layout, art-work and design.

Recent years have seen a trend towards establishment within GAC of vigorous regional sections. It is surprising that Southern Ontario, with a dozen university earth science departments, a provincial and federal survey, a large centre for study of the Great Lakes, and several major museums, not to mention the headquarters of most of Canada's large mining and geophysical companies, and a small group of petroleum geologists, has failed to produce any single organization which caters to the varied needs of its many earth scientists. The bad effects of this lack of organization are not hard to observe: for example, New York, Pennsylvania and the New England Colleges all hold well-organized annual field trips, and have produced a distinguished series of guidebooks; but field trips in Southern Ontario are organized only on an *ad hoc* basis by many small groups, and good guidebooks are hard to find (to McMaster's special shame, the only good guidebook to the Hamilton region was produced by the Michigan Basin Geological Society!). Small special interest groups, notably geomorphologists, experimental petrologists and paleontologists (see Conference Reports in this issue) have begun to hold annual meetings and the GAC's two subject divisions (Volcanology and Environmental Earth Science) have strong support in Ontario; but it is undoubtedly time that Ontario geologists formed their own regional section. An organizational meeting has been called for the Annual Meeting in Waterloo. Ontario geologists and geophysicists take note! We have nothing to lose but the splendor of our institutional solitudes!

G. V. Middleton