

Editor's Page

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[See table of contents](#)

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Our lead paper in this number is a co-ordinated environmental study based on the individual contributions of many workers from several educational institutes and government agencies. It embraces many diverse studies but is truly interdisciplinary as it strives to attain its goals within a single mission. The full spectrum of the activities ranges from sub-bottom studies to the ocean climate, and embraces particularly the movement and fate of sedimentary particles in the physical environment of the modern ocean. Because a considerable portion of man's activity in the sea is in close proximity to the coast, the present study will serve as a model in dealing with problems on waste, the disposing of dredge spoils and the engineering aspects of coastal installations. With the topic of offshore nuclear generators high on the list of alternate sources of energy, studies in environmental marine geology will have sensitive pertinence to the locating of suitable sites for such devices. This may usher in an entirely new era of coastal industry, and a new vocation for geologists who may be forestalled in the development of deep-sea mining and petroleum exploration for lack of the needed technology and funding - not to mention the implications of the Law of the Sea Conferences and its numerous debatable issues.

Another fine study from McMaster University is presented in the work of Robert Dalrymple. This contribution will have a direct application to the feasibility studies undertaken by government agencies on the utilization of tidal power as another alternate source of energy. However the present study is not economically oriented, but represents a scholarly enquiry into the nature of the sedimentary processes in an area characterized by some of the world's greatest tides. This should serve as an "end-member" study in terms of the physical marine environment, the other end-member being in the quiet areas of little current or wave vigour. An additional paper on the ocean climate is given by B.N. Akpati, which provides further data on environmental studies. Finally we have an analysis on sedimentation in Baffin Bay by David Piper. Although some cores have been studied in this area, Piper's work offers an opportunity to study the recent sediments in greater vertical depth and to confirm some of the processes that have been active in the bay.

In current research we have included a submission from the petroleum industry in order to provide a picture of the problems faced by the exploration companies off the eastern Canadian seaboard. As well as geotechnical properties of the sediments and the dynamics of the watermass, these operators must face the hazards of drifting ice; both in the water where it may present a collision emergency, and on the seafloor where it may plough into seabed installations or pipelines.

One of the most important meetings held locally was the Geological Colloquium under the auspices of the Atlantic Geoscience Society. Its topic, "The Evolution of the Appalachians", included a diversity of subject matter such as regional sedimentation, plate tectonics, igneous activity and rock deformation. In order to keep the entire theme of the meeting together, we have published all the abstracts that were available at the time of the meeting. Our next issue of MARITIME SEDIMENTS will include several of these papers, although it is unlikely that the full proceedings can be published due to prior commitments by several authors.

We would like to extend this page in order to thank the National Research Council of Canada for assisting us by means of a grant of money. This support has been provided for many years, and it has made our publishing of the magazine possible.

B. R. PELLETIER, Editor.