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Third Annual Conference of Environmental Earth Sciences and Engineering

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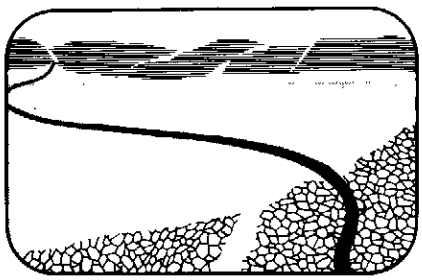

Third Annual Conference of Environmental Earth Sciences and Engineering

Jean-Yves Chagnon
Gouvernement du Québec
Ministère des Richesses Naturelles,
Québec, Que.

The meeting was supported this year as in the past by the division of Environmental Geology of the GAC and was also sponsored for the first time by the Canadian Geotechnical Society, undoubtedly reflecting a recognition of the mutual interests and overlapping activities of both groups. The conference was held at the Department of Geological Sciences, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, on November 2, 1974.

This annual event was designed to be informal and its purpose has been to bring together those who are active in the various field related to the Environmental Earth Sciences.

This year approximately 80 registrants were attracted, very few of them being members of the GAC (10).

The keynote of the conference was the opening address by Dr. R. F. Legget who showed that geologists in Canada have had a longstanding interest in the subject of the environment, dating back to at least 1837, but that their real challenge lay in the coming years. He demonstrated with an ample supply of facts and figures that the year 2000 will see an enormous increase in the needs for raw materials, space, including the potential use of underground space, and energy and that these needs will be fulfilled only if we start thinking today in terms of sequential land use planning. In the future, environmental geology will be called upon to play a major role in the shaping of society and the outlook is very promising.

After this stimulating and provocative address, eleven papers were presented, the presentation being limited to a ten minute summary so that as many contributors as possible could report on their activities. The topics covered were: stream erosion or an example of poor design and wasteful land planning, implications of lining waste disposal sites (with more questions asked than answers given), examples of planning and management in mineral resources development, off-shore drilling in Labrador - Newfoundland and its impact on the environment, application of stable isotope studies in environmental geology, quantitative study of veins, studies of shore bluffs of Lake Ontario and Erie, trace element concentrations in the Holocene sediments of Lake Superior, activities and organization in the Water Resources Branch of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, rehabilitation of pits and quarries. A short film on the Heimay eruption in Iceland, 1973, was also shown.

It should be clear from this summary that the subjects covered are diverse and call upon many disciplines including geology, biology, chemistry and various branches of engineering.

The conference was a successful one and the organizers are to be congratulated. The proceedings of the conference will be published early in 1975 in the Research Report Series issued by the Department of Geological Sciences, Brock University. Further information can be obtained from: J. Terasmae, Department of Geological Sciences, Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario, L2S 3A1.

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