

Rapid Change in the Quaternary AMQUA/CANQUA 1990

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Volume 17, Number 3, September 1990

URI: https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/geocan17_3con03

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Publisher(s)

The Geological Association of Canada

ISSN

0315-0941 (print)

1911-4850 (digital)

[Explore this journal](#)

Cite this article

Blackwell, B. (1990). Rapid Change in the Quaternary AMQUA/CANQUA 1990. *Geoscience Canada*, 17(3), 195–197.

The same type of relationship has been observed in fragments produced by nuclear explosions, and by Sammis in fault gouge (or breccia). Turcotte cited evidence in his lectures that it can be extended to metre-size fractures, and indeed to entire systems of faults and fault blocks, such as those displayed by the crust of the state of California. A physical model that displays much the same fractal dimension as observed in these examples can be developed using the reasonable premise that blocks fragment only when two blocks of nearly equal size come into contact with each other in a zone of compression or shear.

My personal reaction to these two days at AGU was first that these are exciting and controversial times during which the practical application of the main concepts and techniques of nonlinear dynamics are being extensively tested for the first time on a wide range of geological phenomena, and second that I must immediately learn a lot more about fractals — there is a great deal more there than pretty pictures! A short bibliography of references not in my recent review article on nonlinear dynamics follows. The emphasis is on practical applications rather than on mathematical theory.

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- The article by Voss in this book is one of the most straightforward published introductions to the topic.*
- Scholtz, C.H. and Mandelbrot, B.B., 1989, eds., *Fractals in Geophysics*: Birkhäuser Verlag, Boston, 313 p.
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The following are two symposia in press.

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- Barton, C.C. and LaPointe, P.R., eds., *Fractals and their Use in the Petroleum Industry*: American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Reminder: GAC is sponsoring a two-day Short Course on Nonlinear Dynamics, Chaos and Fractals (with Applications to Geological Systems) at the 1991 Annual Meeting in Toronto, 27-29 May 1991.



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On 4-6 June 1990, more than 250 participants from across Canada and the US attended the first joint meeting of AMQUA (American Quaternary Association) and CANQUA (Canadian Quaternary Association) at the University of Waterloo. Although this was the second CANQUA meeting in as many years, it did not seem to affect attendance by Canadians, underlining the need for an annual regular scientific CANQUA meeting. This conference was extremely well organized, with a wealth of excellent presentations on a variety of Quaternary interests. Each province and territory was represented by participants, in addition to most US states. Participants were split among industry, government, and university research personnel.

Before the conference, three field trips showed participants the numerous Quaternary features in the region of Southern Ontario and northern New York state. I personally found the Waterloo regional glacial geomorphology trip to be excellent. In addition to seeing five different local moraines, we examined Wittlesea shorelines, visited a major drumlin field, a series of kames *sensu stricto*, a kettle lake, and karst features that may have been carved during melting of the local ice. Also evident on the trip were several examples of poor regional planning that did not consider local Quaternary geology:

1. Continued unrestrained urban expansion has so taxed the local water supply that a major project to draw water from the Grand River and pump it through the local aquifer has become necessary.
2. A housing development had to be abandoned because methane leaching from a land fill could not dissipate through the clay-rich till.
3. More than 25 years of corn-based agriculture have so reduced the quality of the soil, that wind erosion has deflated the entire A and B horizons in many fields, leaving ex-

posed C horizons. In the 60 km+ winds, on the day of our trip, we watched incredible amounts of soil blow away.

Other participants on the Eastern Lake Erie basin and Lake Ontario north shore trips reported that they had seen some fascinating glacial and archeological sites as well.

The conference kicked off with a mixer on Sunday night at which many old friends had an opportunity to catch up on recent events. Early Monday morning, the scientific sessions started with welcomes from conference Chairman Alan Morgan, Barry Warner, and Dr. D.V. Wright, President, University of Waterloo.

The theme for the conference was rapid change in the Quaternary. In the keynote address, Bill Fyfe repeatedly asked the question "What will the world be like in 2050?" With vivid pictures and eloquent phrases, he then described to us what it will be like if we do not start to clean up our act as a race. He cited a variety of evidence to convince us that global change is upon us whether we like it or not:

1. Canadians use more energy per capita than any other nation, with the US only slightly behind us.
2. If world population continues adding 90,000,000 per year, then by 2050, there will be 10 billion. Population will increase to 14 billion before leveling off.
3. 40,000 children a day die of starvation and/or disease.
4. If the efficiency of the earth's thermal blanket increases by 1%, the ice caps will melt in 60 years!
5. Iowa has lost one-half of its top soil.
6. As much as 30 cm of top soil can be lost from land cleared of jungle in Thailand in one rain.
7. Several towns in Poland have had *no live* births in decades due to pollution.
8. In the Amazon basin, the major dam project will silt up in less than 10 years, but is only producing 5% of its capacity. Plus, it has covered millions of hectares of jungle in a lake averaging 1 m deep, the ideal breeding ground for malaria.
9. One edition of the Sunday New York Times requires 77,000 Canadian trees.
10. More than half the elephants alive in 1981 are now dead due to poaching.
11. Primary productivity in the Mediterranean has almost ceased now due to pollution.

This gloomy litany of symptoms indicates a sick planet. Dr. Fyfe emphasized that the solution must include education for all, especially women, everywhere, but an education that ensures people are literate, "numerate", and "scienctate" (scientifically literate). Our governments must stop considering scientists to be plumbers who get called in only when there's a leak. Technological innovation must include a readily available cheap power supply, such as GaAs and GaSb power cells, in which one hour of solar energy stored will provide for a fridge, TV, fan, and

lights for a house. He emphasized that, as Quaternary scientists, we provide the background data against which more recent global changes must be measured.

Art Dyke used the incidence of bowhead whale skeletons and driftwood logs to show that the pack ice in the Arctic must have been at maximum extent between 4 and 7 ka. Citing climatic monitoring data from the Arctic, Alan Morgan sketched the effects on permafrost and arctic climate from the expected temperature rises due to greenhouse gases. By using frequency histograms of ^{14}C dates obtained from marine molluscs, Brunneau *et al.* attempted to show how marine conditions had varied since deglaciation. I.P. Martini (with R. Morrison) discussed deglaciation, the development of wetlands, and biota on Prince Charles Island, NWT.

In a very erudite talk, Jim Teller *et al.* explained how drainage from the proto-Swan River caused catastrophic drainage of Lake Assiniboine into Lake Agassiz. Patrick Julig described how points from gravel lags in several sites around the upper Great Lakes showed evidence of having been rounded during floods which deposited the gravels. Using transfer functions on pollen species abundances during the Younger Dryas, Linda Shane determined that cold temperatures then prevailed in the Lake Michigan region. By comparing pollen zones in Ontario, Quebec, and the Maritimes, Pierre Richard determined that pollen production rates were lowest from 10 to 7 ka, and charcoal production peaked at 10-9 ka. Differential abundances of trace fossils on the bedding planes enabled Dana Nalder to define Champlain Sea sediment seasonality. In many sites in eastern North America, Bob Mott (with R. Stea) correlates increased mineral concentrations and decreased organic sedimentation, particularly pollen, at 11.5 ka with the European Younger Dryas.

At the AMQUA Annual General Meeting, discussion centred on how the society should spend some of its surplus funds. Several proposals were considered including lobbying congress, lobbying NSF coordinators, education, and PR. In the evening, many participants visited the local pubs to continue the day's discussions.

Starting Tuesday's sessions, S. Lehman explained to us how meltwater pulses entering the Atlantic cooled the ocean surface by adding a pulse of cold freshwater to ocean, which allowed the sea ice limits to move significantly further south and caused readvances of the ice sheets, particularly the Laurentide sheet. These pulses can be seen in $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ records of Atlantic cores from the tropics to Arctic. The pulse at 15-14 ka occurred from collapse of the ice blocking the Norwegian channel. Two meltwater pulses came down the Mississippi at 13.5 and 12 ka due to the melting Laurentide sheet. The final pulse at 10 ka, the Younger Dryas, is not as well documented in the cores, and may be

due to the draining of Lake Agassiz through the St. Lawrence, as recently suggested by several Canadian Quaternarists.

Michel Parent (with J.M.M. Dubois) feels that the glaciation on les Iles de Madelaine may have occurred in Stage 3 or 4, but not in the late Wisconsinan. Stephen Hicock (with A. Dreimanis) discussed the rheology of deformation till, and cited some examples. Robert Gilbert detailed the sedimentological history of deglaciation in the Kingston basin (now part of Lake Ontario). J.T. Grey (with N. Hetu) described the sand spit stratigraphies along the lower St. Lawrence. Alan Kehew explained how the Grand Valley spillway was cut by floods from Lake Saginaw into Lake Chicago. Using the pollen records from beaver ponds and oxbow lakes in Iowa, Richard Baker (with C. Chumbley) determined that the warmest, driest period during the Holocene occurred at 5.5 ka.

By using diatom preferences, Jan Smol *et al.* determined that pH has decreased in most lakes in the Adirondacks since 1850. Furthermore, R.B. Davis *et al.* showed that the acidification was *not* a response to recovery from logging, and was well beyond the normal changes seen in the Pleistocene. K. Johnson explained the problems that many rural communities in the Adirondacks are having with their water supplies. Buddy Schweig, with L. Leffler, described examples of the damage done by the New Madrid earthquakes in 1810. The quote-of-the-conference award must go to Michel Bouchard for his description of cars as the "trace (fossil) erratics" in the next glaciation's till, and our ability to determine the depth of erosion by the amount removed from the CN Tower. Michel Bouchard *et al.* used the erosion of the rims of the Nouveau Québec crater to determine that each glaciation removes about 1-5 m of rock from the shield.

At the CANQUA Annual General Meeting, it was determined that the 1993 meeting would be held in Winnipeg, but that the decision regarding the 1995 meeting would wait until Fredericton for a final approval. The problems of professional registration were also raised again, given the exclusion of geologists from the Free Trade agreement. It was also announced that all future Johnston Medal awards would be handled by the committee headed by the past president. The problems of increasing conference size were also addressed. Most people would prefer not to have concurrent sessions.

Tuesday wrapped up with a barbeque where plenty of good food and beer lubricated the discussions. A local group treated us to unusual musical renditions, that included the CANQUA/AMQUA "theme song" from the Flintstones, and everything from Irish folk music to recent rock. The local organizing committee also favoured us with a lively song and dance (somewhat reluctantly).

Wednesday morning began with the presentation of the W.A. Johnston Medal to Jan

Terasmae for his career contributions to Quaternary sedimentology. Alan Morgan also detailed plans for the 1991 International Quaternary Association (INQUA) meeting in China.

In Louisiana soils, Scott Burns *et al.* found the highest natural radioactivity generally occurred in the B₁ horizon. June Mirecki *et al.* described several problem sections for amino acid stratigraphy from the Virginian coastal plain. By ^{36}Cl dating of Searles Lake cores, Fred Phillips *et al.* determined that pluvial/interpluvial changes are very abrupt and that glaciations correlate with pluvials. D.J. Sauchyn (with S. Porter) reported on a 9 m core from the Cypress Hills, Alberta.

Using ^{36}Cl dating, M. Zreda *et al.* found several Sierra Nevada glaciations to be contemporaneous with the major glacial events. Vic Levson described how ice advancing down the main valleys in the Cordillera first ponds glacial lakes in the side valleys before the main alpine sheet covers the area. On the basis of till filling prairie dog burrows in the Hand Hills, Alberta, R. Young *et al.* determined that significant erosion occurred in Alberta during the last glaciation, hinting at complete blockage of the ice-free corridor. Dorn, presenting for Moody *et al.*, described gravels from 17 distinct flood events in the channelled scablands from 18 to 11.8 ka.

By dating bottom sediments from lakes ponded behind moraines, Tom Davis (with G. Zielinski) has re-evaluated the supposedly Neoglacial moraines in the Cordillera as Younger Dryas, or earlier. Allen Gottesfeld (with Lynn Johnson-Gottesfeld) described the abandonment of little Ice Age terraces in the Cordillera.

Posters presented included discussions of late glacial and post-glacial stratigraphy, sedimentology, palynology, and/or paleo-environmental interpretations from all over Canada and the world, including Newfoundland (Liverman and Taylor; Catto; Macpherson; Bolduc *et al.*; Batterson and Liverman; Miller *et al.*; Irwin and Davis), the Maritimes (Seaman; Walker; Miller; Pronk *et al.*; Anderson; Stenson; Finck and Stea; Stea and Mott), Quebec (Lauriol *et al.*; Pienitz and Lortie; Richard and Bouchard; Gajewski and Garralla), Ontario (Miller and DiLabio; Suffling *et al.*), the Great Lakes region (Feenstra *et al.*; Brown *et al.*; Karrow *et al.*; Vanderveer; Hann; Morris; Motz and Morgan; Marsters and Warner; Heath *et al.*), the Prairies (Vreeken; Kuhry; Osborn *et al.*; McGinn; Wayne), the Cordillera (Hebda; Matthews; Petersen), Arctic (Douglas and Smol; Morgan *et al.*; Bell; Keenan and Cwynar), Virginia (Kneller and Peteet), Florida (Karrow *et al.*), Ohio (Snyder *et al.*; Lowell *et al.*; Szabo *et al.*), Minnesota (Zeeb and Smol; Huber and Gilbertson; Card), Texas (Haywood), the Gulf of Mexico (Johnson and Wehmiller), Mexico (Elias), South America (Seltzer; Kuhry), and Africa (Wilson). The geochronological dating methods discussed included dendrochronology (Luckman *et al.*), ESR (Blackwell *et al.*;

