

Editorials

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EDITORIALS

This issue marks the last for which I have responsibility as Editor. Demands of a new job do not leave the time to maintain the standards of *Geoscience Canada* which I inherited from my distinguished predecessors. Although the decision to step aside was made with some regret, I hand the blue pencils to Phil Thurston with every confidence that the journal will thrive under his leadership, with a healthy dose of Monica Easton's experience and devotion to GAC and its publications, and the support of Leslie King, our new Managing Editor. This change also consolidates the Editor, Managing Editor and Chairwoman of the Publications Committee in a single city, which should speed processing of manuscripts and response to inquiries.

This departing editorial provides an opportunity for me to thank the many people who provided advice, assistance and support, and those who submitted the excellent manuscripts which make *Geoscience Canada* so successful. The staff at GAC headquarters have always been kind and patient. Members of GAC Executive with whom I have interacted have been equally patient and supportive. Authors (at least most of them) have been more than understanding about the publication delays that I never could overcome. Reviewers have been thorough and prompt in dealing with my requests. A journal like *Geoscience Canada*, which is highly dependent on volunteers, cannot thrive without the active co-operation of all of these parts of our association and profession.

The job has been interesting, informative and challenging. With the continued support of the GAC's members, I am sure that Phil will derive the same satisfaction from his new responsibility.

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I believe that the journal has fulfilled a very specific role in Canadian geoscience, indeed beyond the boundaries of our nation. Gerry Middleton, the first editor, described the mandate of the journal as offering "general interest articles about the earth sciences in Canada or about developments in the earth sciences outside Canada, that are likely to be of special interest to Canadians" (*Geoscience Canada*, 1974, v. 1, p. 4). That mandate has served the journal and the Geological Association of Canada well. I doubt that he could have foreseen the high regard that some of the series of the recent past, such as facies models or the ore deposit models, would bring *Geoscience Canada*. The journal and, in particular, reprints of those series have enjoyed a wide distribution and have become citation classics.

That niche defined by Gerry Middleton is a useful one. As a reader, I depend upon the journal to broaden my horizons. As a Precambrian geologist, I was glad to have the series on dating of Quaternary deposits when I became involved in shield structure beneath the Toronto area and its relationship to seismic hazard considerations.

In taking on the editorship of this well-regarded journal, I will have the invaluable support of the Ontario Geological Survey. I believe that the niche of *Geoscience Canada* is quite distinct from the *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences* or *Geology*. My view of the future of the journal is one of evolutionary change. I would like to see *Geoscience Canada* able, five years from now, to commission one or two additional reprint series which will send a useful distillation of Canadian geoscience out to a wider audience than that reached by the journal. With evolutionary change in mind, I will be talking to as many of you as I can reach to ferret out ideas for new articles and series. I would suggest we are overdue for a series on Precambrian shield problems, given Canada's leadership in Precambrian shield interpretation. Any contributors or associate editors out there for such a series?

I will be reviewing the roster of associate editors to ascertain that all currently listed are still keen to participate. So phone, fax or write with suggestions and keep those contributions coming; it's our journal, let's make it the best we can.

Phil C. Thurston
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