

Editorial

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to our first year 2000 issue! With the high level of content in *Geoscience Canada*, it is now time for format changes as implemented in this issue. Although some changes have been introduced since 1997 — better paper, more colour, and different coloured covers — until this issue the format has been essentially the same since 1974. Toronto-based design consultant Warren Huska provided suggestions for a new layout and fonts. His work, with choices made by Managing Editor Leslie King and me, is seen in the format of this issue. Main text is Garamond, headings are Formata bold, and text is now set with a ragged right margin for easier reading. Peter Russell's heading diagrams continue, now with square corners: 1970s rounded corners are gone. Introduction of the new cover format permits us to highlight some content, although the full table of contents still appears on the back cover. We hope you are pleased with the new look!

Geologist Darren Dyck of BHP Diamonds Inc., Kelowna, provided the superb cover photo, the producing EKATI™ diamond mine, NWT, operated by BHP Diamonds Inc. Canada's first diamond mine, EKATI™ is expected to produce per year about 4% of current global diamond production by weight, which is about 6% by value (BHP Diamonds Inc., 1998). A paper in this issue by Al Levinson and Fred Cook considers the importance of geological knowledge to the global diamond industry, a significant topic for Canada now that we have our first producing diamond mine. BHP Minerals has an added presence here: Oliver Warin, writing on globalization and mineral exploration from a Sudbury '99 keynote address, is a former Senior Vice-President of Exploration for BHP Minerals in San Francisco. Alan Morgan reviews the Heimaaey, Iceland setting 25 years after the 1973 major volcanic eruption, with dramatic accompanying colour photos. On the Series front, Godfrey Nowlan and Ward Neale present the Calgary Science Network, a prize-winning public education venture; and Bob Courtney and John Shaw's multibeam imagery paper has outstanding Atlantic continental shelf images. Tom Lane's conference report of the 1999 Dublin, Ireland North Atlantic Minerals Symposium, along with reviews, complete this issue. Eager geo-ophiles must wait for Simon Haynes' next paper in the new *Geology and Wine* series to appear later this year. Here Simon reviews "Terroir, the Role of Geology, Climate and Culture in the Making of French Wines," by James E. Wilson, an excellent example of the fascinating geology-wine linkage.

Geoscience Canada demonstrates the breadth and depth of Canadian geoscience. I rarely hear from readers, but what I do hear is positive; I conclude that our approach is successful. Meanwhile debates on the future of the printed word grow louder. Some maintain that publications such as this must be available on the Internet. This view is part of a generic question on the Internet/print media balance. To me it seems that we have a spectrum of opinion: on one side there is a relatively small number of very vociferous individuals who seem to

advocate abandonment of the traditional print medium with nearly everything becoming available on the Web. On the other side are many of the rest of us, perhaps regarded as quaint by Web advocates, as we still enjoy the look, feel, convenience and portability of the printed word in formats such as this one.

To be specific: How should *Geoscience Canada* respond to the growing prominence of the Internet? Should it respond? Recent surveys suggest that about half the population of Canada now has access to the Internet; the number must be greater for the earth science community. *Geoscience Canada* certainly could become all-digital; the technology exists, and to make such a transition only requires a decision to do so followed by the expenditure of time, effort and money. *Geoscience Canada* already has a slight Internet presence: we post tables of contents and summaries from each issue on GAC's Web site.

I see three broad choices: 1. Continue as is, publishing the journal as now, with the slight Internet presence continuing; 2. Move to an increased Internet presence including a digital, Internet version accompanied by a continuing print version much as now, although to realize economics, changes in the printed format would need to be made to parallel changes required to create a digital version; or 3. Become an Internet journal exclusively, to be read on screen or downloaded and printed as desired.

I hasten to add that this is an informal request on my part for your views, and I do not make decisions in this area: GAC Council is the decision-making body, and is unlikely to act without strong support from the membership. This is where you come in. What changes would you like to see us make in terms of delivery to you: "as is," a combined Internet/published format, or an exclusive Internet format? As editor I would appreciate hearing your views. Meanwhile GAC Publications Committee is gathering data on the success of other similar Internet ventures. This is GAC's journal, but it is also your journal. I will value your suggestions on delivery and also on content. You can reach me at: rmacqueen@nrcan.gc.ca.

This issue begins my fifth calendar year as editor. When GAC President Mary-Claire Ward asked me in January 1996 to become editor for a year or so to get the journal back on track, I agreed to only a -1-year commitment, but I'm still here because I enjoy the challenge! My contention in a June 1996 editorial that there is a wealth of good geoscience work underway in Canada has been borne out by what we've published since then. Thanks to all those who have contributed to *Geoscience Canada* over the past 4 years, and thanks too to such stalwarts as Leslie King, managing editor, Peter Russell, illustrator, our associate and assistant editors, and the crew at GSC Calgary who help to make up for my limited digital skills: Billie Chiang, Glen Edwards, Elizabeth Macey, Peter Neelands, Brian Ortman and Bryan Rutley. Thanks people: I owe all of you!

Roger Macqueen