

Editor's Page

B. R. Pelletier

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This number of MARITIME SEDIMENTS contains two detailed studies of the Fundy region. One contribution submitted by H. Greiner gives a detailed account of the geology and geomorphic development within the Fundy National Park situated north of the Bay of Fundy. The study by J. Welsted covers the coastline of the Bay of Fundy and includes two excellent maps depicting the various types of coastal units present. Apart from these papers is an excellent guide to the geology of south-western Ontario written by P. Martini. Many of our subscribers are members of the Northeastern Section of the S.E.P.M., and will find this article of great value to students and themselves when making a field trip to study the rocks of this area.

In the section on Meetings, we have included abstracts and short papers submitted by several geology students from various universities in the Atlantic Provinces of Canada. These papers were presented orally at the annual Atlantic Universities Geology Conference. This conference is organized and conducted by the students, and is rotated each year to another host university. Rules are set by the student committee with regard to entries of papers, and these are judged by three external professional workers for content, scope, documentation and presentation. A prize of money is given by the Atlantic Provinces University Committee of the Sciences, to the author of the best paper, and an equal prize is given to his or her geology club. Over the years the presentations have been excellent and this year was no exception. We are publishing all the papers as a small token of recognition of the work behind these conferences, and offer our congratulations to its workers, participants and delegates for the very fine overall show.

In the Current Research section we have published a press release on Geoscience in Canada. This is a timely notice with respect to the support given to geoscientists in Canada where the science base is small enough without fractionating it further by considering only the geologists, geochemists, geophysicists and many other sub-disciplines. We are painfully aware of acute shortages in money to carry on merely short range programs. How are we going to move toward the year 2000? The editorial makes reference to the fact that the geoscientist will be the vital instrument in attaining our social and economic goals over the next quarter century. We can see that he and she will be needed to continue and intensify the search for minerals, oil and gas, and to provide advice on the preservation of our urban and recreational areas and to point out safeguards where huge dams, reservoirs, pipelines, roads, airports, garbage disposal sites and many other facilities will be constructed. In the marine area of environmental study, geology is commonly the focus of the research. This is particularly true with regard to underwater pipelines, cable lays, sub-sea and sub-bottom installations with regard to the development of natural resources, and now the locating of nuclear reactor plants to develop domestic and industrial energy. Even the quality of the water mass is examined by the geological fraternity as geochemists strive to understand the transfer of elements in suspended particulate matter and to apply this knowledge to the ultimate fate of organic and industrial pollutants in bottom sediments particularly near coastal and urban areas where the environment may be threatened. These considerations will demand the initiating of vast new projects in the earth sciences, many of which must have a foundation in basic research from the universities and institutes, as well as from the industrial and governmental sectors. These projects will require funding solely for research, but they will require human resources also - and these resources must not be spent totally on mission-oriented projects. The geoscientist pool is already depleted from its assignments to so-called fire-fighting tasks and projects that must return their investments to the national economy. But this drain must not be permitted to proceed past the point of no return. This point can easily be reached without adequate provisions being made for the replenishment of both human and financial resources. Additional funding will be required to raise the level of intensity of independent geoscientific research before we find ourselves returning to this well-spring and discovering that the well has run dry.

B. R. PELLETIER, Editor.