

Editor's Page

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With the opening number of Volume 13, we are presenting an extra length paper entitled: "Coastal Environments of the Maritime Provinces" by E.H. Owens and A.J. Bowen. This is an exceptional review on the subject and will serve as a reference for years to come. Indeed, for this subject, it is in the category of a "landmark" or "milestone" contribution. The knowledge of the earth scientist (E.H.O.) is blended so skillfully with that of the coastal oceanographer (A.J.B.) that the entire work is presented in a harmonious unity. Very little source material by way of references has been overlooked as these authors have delved with industry into every pertinent aspect of their subject. A study of their illustrative material alone will testify to the scientific scope and geographic breadth of their study. As we suggested, from this day onward, coastal investigators will have to examine this work before proceeding further. This may well apply to coastal workers outside of the Maritime Provinces. We have also included a case history of a beach restorative program undertaken locally by a consulting firm. The author, C.D.R. MacGregor, has described the partial destruction of Melmerby Beach, a recreational area in a coastal region of Nova Scotia. Many examples of such case histories are available, and all show how the fate of the beach follows the principles outlined by Owens and Bowen.

Many new books are on the market and we suggest an examination of the titles and contents for your edification. Perhaps the contribution about which to be thoughtful is the book by G.V. Middleton and J.B. Southard. We say thoughtful because this effort, unlike its commercial counterparts, is not directed toward monetary gain - only toward meeting its cost and finding its way to as many students' and teachers' book shelves as possible. It may lack the adornment of the modern text but it is the material that really counts, and this is not lacking. Such productions are inexpensive and generally a labour of love. There is no devotional substitute for such efforts and MARITIME SEDIMENTS congratulates these authors for this contribution to their profession.

Also in the Current Research section, we have published a number of scientific meetings that may be of interest to our readership. However we wish to indicate here the significance of the so-called specialty meetings. These are usually targeted for a registration attendance consisting of a few hundred people. Unfortunately there are a great number each year and, because their subject matter is generally confining in nature, it is necessary for the investigator to attend several such meetings in order to absorb the peripheral material of any single symposium. In contrast to such workshops, symposia, specialty sessions and narrow-theme meetings, is the national conference with perhaps six themes, and the international congress with its multiplicity of themes, usually a dozen or more in number. Will these huge conventions comprising upwards of 3000 attendees continue to elaborate upon themselves like the dinosaurs did, or will travel restrictions and over-generalization bring about their decline and demise? One thought to bear in mind for future conferences concerns the introduction of electronic aids. Films, slide loops, audio-video tapes and television combine to form a mighty package for a professional audience. The power of these presentations may one day supercede the need for the immediate presence of the speaker. And as the extraordinary large movie theatre audience, made up of 3000 or more spectators, gave way to the magic of television and the economics of smaller theatres, so may go the larger scientific audiences inherent with the national and international conventions. One may also question the advantage of immediacy concerning the presence of the speakers, when it is quite obvious that the magic of electronics can place these speakers anywhere from any reasonable centre.

For the information of subscribers we must announce new rates for 1978. Private (individual) subscriptions will be increased to \$4.50/year, and corporate rates will be increased to \$9.00/year. Page costs on separates will be \$3.00/page/100 copies - flat rate. These rates are assisted by a publication grant from the National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa. Our deep thanks to all.

B. R. PELLETIER, Editor