

Editor's Page

The year 1983 represents an important stage in the evolution of *Maritime Sediments and Atlantic Geology*. This year, for the first time in the history of the journal support from our funding agency, NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council) will be discontinued. Over the last several years NSERC has supported production costs of the journal to the sum of \$3000-\$4000 per annum. This money was utilized essentially to offset printing and distribution costs and to maintain relatively low institution and individual membership subscription rates. We are grateful to NSERC for their past support but regret that the decision to terminate the support was made at a time when, we feel, considerable improvement in the quality of both production and content had in recent years been achieved. NSERC was rather vague in its reasons for terminating its support and stated only, and we quote "It is suggested that papers which now appear in the *Maritime Sediments and Atlantic Geology* could be published by other Canadian journals in the earth sciences area". This statement is of course in total disagreement with the philosophy of the journal (see Editors Page, Vol. 17, part 1) which is, of course, a regional rather than international journal and, in part, publishes material which would or could not be published in alternative journals, for example abstracts of our Atlantic Geoscience Society Annual Meetings. Not that we are downplaying the quality of our published papers - we certainly feel that many of our recent contributions could have been published by other Canadian earth science journals with perhaps a more international flavour. The point is, however, that the authors of these papers chose *Maritime Sediments and Atlantic Geology* as the most suitable vehicle for publication of their articles - whether or not they could have been published in alternative journals is irrelevant!

Encouragement from several of our colleagues has convinced us that to terminate production of the journal would be a rather unfortunate event for eastern Canadian and other geoscientists. Thanks to the support of our colleagues the editorial board are optimistic that the journal will continue to be produced and will continue to attract high quality publications. Nevertheless, because of the discontinued NSERC support we are obliged to introduce an increase in subscription rates effective from Volume 20, 1984. This increase has also been necessitated because of increased production and postal costs. Currently, the total cost of production plus mailing is, on average, approximately \$20.00 per issue, that is, far higher than the existing \$8.00 for individuals and \$14.00 for Canadian institutional memberships. Although we cannot at this time specify the exact increase it will be announced in a subsequent issue for this year. We hope to supplement our income by introducing new policies regarding reprint charges plus charges for manuscripts with more than what the editorial board considers as an average number of photographs for a particular article. Photographic reproduction is particularly expensive and accounts for a high proportion of our printing expenditure. We hope that our existing subscribers are not overly

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disappointed with these anticipated changes and continue to support the journal as they have in the past. We will endeavour to keep the subscription increases as minimal as possible.

Meanwhile, it is with much regret that we announce the sudden death of Professor Rupert H. MacNeill, formerly of Acadia University. Rupert will be fondly remembered by students and fellow workers alike for his contributions as a Quaternary geologist and a much respected teacher. We are currently investigating a proposal by Doug Grant of the G.S.C. to dedicate a special issue of *Maritime Sediments and Atlantic Geology* in his honour. Special thanks must also go to Richard Hawarth one of our associate editors. Dick has recently accepted a post as Head of the Geophysics Division with the Institute of Geological Sciences and will be stepping down in his capacity of associate editor. Bon voyage Dick - we will miss you.

- *The Editors*