

A Message from the President

This first issue of *Geoscience Canada* is an historic event for our Association; it marks both the start of a bold new venture and the end of an old one. Specifically *Geoscience Canada* replaces our Proceedings which for over 25 years contained formal accounts of scientific studies and of our Association's activities. *Geoscience Canada* will be more broadly based, more topical, will discuss issues and maintain a poise of responsiveness; its appearance is most timely.

The relevance of geology in Canada today is greater than it has ever been. Yet there is substantial polarization of information and views between news media and scientific journals; hopefully *Geoscience Canada* may help fill this gap by providing a forum for informed opinion. But it must do more than this. It must provide for presentation and discussion of concepts which may be ephemeral yet essential to the evolution of our science. Perhaps *Geoscience Canada* will even present something of the culture of geology—a rich culture shared by few. It has many elements: love of the outdoors, pioneer spirit of the prospector, disappointment and frustration countered by an underlying enthusiasm and determination for discovery, and the manner in which emotions can be violently stirred as new theories are put forward. *Geoscience Canada* should reflect some of this refreshing vitality but the underlying theme must be the science itself.

Man's evolution is marked by his mastery of minerals and metals; I hope *Geoscience Canada* will convey with impact that geology is not in a back-water but is a rapidly developing science that is exciting, relevant, and well-poised to respond to present and future needs in the world.

Les géologues de l'avenir devront faire face à une carence partielle des richesses naturelles, au souci de protection de l'environnement, ainsi qu'à la complexité croissante des politiques gouvernementales. Espérons qu'ils pourront relever le défi. Leur participation aux débats sur l'actualité et leur contribution à *Geoscience Canada* se doivent de demeurer purement scientifiques. Souhaitons que *Geoscience Canada* saura véhiculer la pensée géologique et ainsi être utile non seulement aux géologues mais aussi à tous ceux qui vivent dans ce grand milieu qu'est la Terre.

Longue vie à *Geoscience Canada* et bonne chance à son rédacteur,
G. V. Middleton.

W. W. Hutchison