

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS

Session 1974-1975

Meetings and communications during the year were as follows:

1st Ordinary Meeting, 7th October 1974

"The Royal Institution — past and present", M.A.T. Rogers, Oxford University.

Joint Meeting with the Chemistry Department, Dalhousie University, 24th October 1974

"Lap-dissolved projection", D. Harpp, McGill University.

2nd Ordinary Meeting, 20th November 1974 (jointly with the Atlantic Regional Laboratory)

"Fermented foods", C.W. Hesseltine, United States Department of Agriculture, Peoria, Ill.

3rd Ordinary Meeting, 9th December 1974

"The Ipswich Sparrow", I.A. McLaren, Dalhousie University.

4th Ordinary Meeting, 13th January 1975

"Under-water noises of the Arctic", H.M. Merklinger, Defence Research Establishment, Halifax.

5th Ordinary Meeting, 13th February 1975

"Black holes, white holes, and worm holes", R.C. Roeder, University of Toronto.

6th Ordinary Meeting, 10th March 1975

"Scientific evidence and court-room procedures", D.A. Copp, Dalhousie University.

7th Ordinary Meeting, 14th April 1975 (jointly with the Valley Chapter, Acadia University)

"Marine agronomy", F.J. Simpson, National Research Council of Canada, Halifax.

"The littoral environment of Grand Turk Island and Baffin Island", J.S. Bleakney, Acadia University.

114th Annual General Meeting, 12th May 1974

The President, P.J. Wangersky, was in the chair and delivered the following address:

Our program for the year past included eight speakers at the seven regular meetings and two speakers at extraordinary meetings. About half of the speakers were local scientists, and the other half were distinguished visitors. The speakers this year were all good lecturers, speaking on interesting topics. However, the attendance at meetings did not reflect the quality of the lectures. The size of the audience seemed to be related to the point of origin of the speaker, rather than to the interest of the topic or the ability of the speaker. Attendance at talks given by local scientists averaged in the thirties, as compared to audiences in the seventies for visiting speakers. This is doubtless another variation of the definition of an expert as a man who is more than a hundred miles from home. In any event, audiences of this size are surely a sad reflection on our ability to stimulate the interest of the local scientific community, and should cause us to re-examine our reasons for continuing as a society. I will address myself to this question later.

Arrangements have been completed for the first **A.C. Neish Memorial Lecture**, which will be given some time in the autumn. It is to be hoped that local interest in this lecture will be somewhat greater than it has been for the ordinary, or even the extraordinary meetings. With a sufficiently distinguished speaker, it may be possible to get a reasonable amount of pre-lecture publicity from the local radio and television stations. The local newspapers seem committed to a policy of post-lecture publicity only, which may result in better stories, but is of little value in drawing an audience to lectures.

In the past year we completed and distributed the **Ipswich Sparrow** monograph. Copies should have reached all of the membership. The monograph on **Environmental Change in the Maritimes** is in the final stages of editing, and should appear during the summer. This monograph is supported by a grant from the National Research Council; the financing has been arranged in a manner which will result in no financial gain to the Institute, and so its sales will neither help nor hinder the future publication plans of the Institute. Another volume of the **Proceedings** should soon be published, but

the time of issuance must depend upon our ability to pay for it. Beyond these manuscripts, we cannot plan since we cannot foresee our future financial condition.

These comments bring me to the heart of our current problem, the question of money. The costs of printing and distributing meeting notices have steadily increased through the past few years, until we have reached the point where the money brought in by membership dues no longer supports even the cost of meeting notifications. We must therefore request an increase in the membership dues, both private and institutional, in order to cover the costs of conducting these meetings.

However, no reasonable increase in membership fees will help us to finance any future publications. At the present time, we can afford to publish only those papers which come complete with their own financing, papers such as the *Chondrus crispus* and *Environmental Change* symposia. It would be sad, indeed, if we were to be thus reduced to the status of a vanity press.

Our present financial status is that we are essentially flat broke. Our request for an increase in our annual provincial grant was refused, and we received the customary grant of \$500, a sum which has not changed in the ten years I have been associated with the Institute. We continue to sell copies of the *Chondrus crispus* symposium, but there are only a few hundred left, and this source of revenue must soon end. We have a considerable inventory of the *Ipswich Sparrow* monograph; the continuance of our publication program must await the liquidation of this inventory.

Our present straitened circumstances have led me to consider carefully possible new directions for our Institute. It is obvious to anyone attending the meetings with any regularity that the Institute is no longer serving the needs of any large part of the local scientific community. Out of an estimated scientific population of eight hundred, we have managed to enroll only about a hundred members. At most meetings, only a third of these show up; mainly the same third, at that, with the proportion of white hair steadily increasing. At the annual business meeting, we are hard put to make up a quorum.

Considering the way in which the Institute operates at present, it is not surprising that the membership has not increased; there is really no incentive to join. The lectures are open to the public, to anyone interested in the topic and speaker of the evening, and our attendance figures certainly show us that only the extraordinary speaker draws any reasonable representation of the local scientific community. Whatever it is that the local scientists want, it does not seem to be another lecture. The members do receive the publications of the Institute, but until the last few years there were so few publications that in all fairness, they could not be listed as an inducement. Older members will remember the long lapse between parts one and two of the *Flora of Nova Scotia*. As things now stand, there are likely to be even fewer publications in the future.

It seems to me that there are three possible courses for the Institute in the immediate future. We have discussed the expansion of the Institute into the field of community education, through special lectures given at the Nova Scotia Museum, at the local high schools, and perhaps over the local community television station. While such a program has many good points, not the least being the involvement of some of the younger members in such a lecture series, it also requires an administrator, working at least half time. It is not a program which can be carried out by a working scientist in his few spare moments. Regretfully, this possibility must be put aside until more money is available.

We could continue our current program of lectures, since an increase in dues will cover the expense of the lectures, and abandon any pretense of conducting a program of publication. This change in direction would at least let us live within our finances, but would result in our abandonment of the network of exchanges built up over the long history of the Institute. I would hate to see us decide in favor of this option, even though it is the fiscally responsible one. Also, since the lecture series are even now so poorly attended, I suspect this option would ultimately result in the final disintegration of the Institute.

A third choice would be to attempt to increase our schedule of publication, to become an outlet for regional manuscripts, papers valuable in themselves, but too long and too local to be published in the usual scholarly journals. I feel that it is in this direction that the future of the Institute really lies. Most professional societies now support themselves primarily by the earnings of their journals, and I suspect we might be able to do the same.

In order to do this, however, certain changes in our publishing procedures need to be made. We have always published our *Proceedings* by getting bids for each individual number; this was a

reasonable procedure when we published one number every two years, but surely we could secure better rates for a more regular publishing schedule. We should also look into the possibility of securing professional help in handling the details of publication. Obviously, we would need a reasonable amount of money to start such a program, more money than we are likely to receive from the province, to judge by historical precedent. The possibility of a Federal grant for this purpose should be investigated at the same time that representations are made, not only to the Nova Scotian provincial government, but also to the governments of the other Maritime provinces.

I do not feel that the lecture program, even though sparsely attended, should be discontinued; one of the great benefits of the Institute is that it serves as a platform for distinguished visitors who are in the area for other reasons. However, the program cannot exist solely as a sometimes thing. The Board must meet regularly, and there must be a regular lecture program, or the machinery for setting up the lectures must inevitably rust away. We must accept the small regular audience as part of the price we must pay for the occasional full house, and we need the Board meetings as a place where planning for future meetings is carried out, and as a point of contact for visiting speakers. If we can establish a regular schedule of publication, accompanied by our customary lecture series and our occasional extraordinary lectures, we may eventually secure enough local support to enable us to venture into the field of community science education. If we cannot do these things, I am afraid our Institute will soon disappear, along with other institutions which no longer serve their original purposes.

As your almost outgoing President, I wish to thank the Board and officers of the Institute for the extraordinary amount of work they have done this year. Most of all, I thank, and I think the Institute as a whole should thank, our outgoing Secretary, Mr. Norman Cuthbertson, who for eight years has kept the Institute running, and without whose incessant labor you might never have been furnished with this written version of the Presidential address.

The Treasurer, D.S. Davis, reported

Receipts	\$2,840.40
Expenditures	7,847.70
Permanent Fund	536.89
Total cash assets as of 30th April 1975	513.55

The Editor, M.J. Harvey, reported that part 2 of volume 27 of the **Proceedings** and the monograph on the **Ipswich Sparrow** have been printed and distributed. The third supplement to volume 27, **Environmental Changes in the Maritimes** should be available soon; publication costs were aided by a grant from the National Research Council of Canada.

The Librarian, Miss E.M. Campbell, reported that a number of journals have been incorporated each year into the main science collection in the Science Library of Dalhousie University. These, together with other journals, bulletins, proceedings, and transactions are available to anyone wishing to consult them. **Chondrus crispus** is still selling well, and orders for the **Ipswich Sparrow** are now coming in.

Officers and others elected for the session 1975-1976 were:

President	W.D. Jamieson
First Vice-President	G.W. Mitchell (deferred status)
Second Vice-President	A. Taylor
Secretary	K. Hellenbrand
Treasurer	D.S. Davis
Editor	M.J. Harvey

Council	W.A. Aue, E.G. Bligh R.F. Brown (deferred status) H.A. Ellenberger, B.C. Loncarevic A.Y. MacLean, Sr. P. Mullen (deferred status) F.J. Simpson
Auditors	J.R. Dingle, W.J. Dyer

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS
(Valley Chapter 1974-1975)

1st Ordinary Meeting, 7th October 1974

“Acoustical sounding of the atmosphere”, G. Tillotson, Acadia University.

“Pollution in the Habitant Creek and the Cornwallis River system”, D. Stiles, Acadia University.

2nd Ordinary Meeting, 4th November 1974

“Ancient Crete and its palaces”, J. Walter Graham, Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.

3rd Ordinary Meeting, 2nd December 1974

“Tantalum — from the mine into reciprocal space”, J. Grice, Acadia University.

4th Ordinary Meeting, 6th January 1975

“Gilbert Island, an example of the agriculture-wildlife conflict”, P. Barkhouse, Acadia University.

5th Ordinary Meeting, 3rd February 1975

“The ill winds of architecture”, A. Penney, Nova Scotia Technical College.

6th Ordinary Meeting, 3rd March 1975

“Working holiday in the Caribbean”, S.V. Anand, Nova Scotia Sanatorium.

“Occupational health and safety”, C.R. May, Department of Public Health, Halifax.

“Case report-byssinosis”, J.J. Quinlan, Nova Scotia Sanatorium.

7th Ordinary Meeting, 14th April 1975 (jointly with the Halifax Chapter, Acadia University)

“Marine agronomy”, F.J. Simpson, National Research Council of Canada, Halifax.

“The littoral environment of Grant Turk Island and Baffin Island”, J.S. Bleakney, Acadia University.

Officers and others elected for the session 1975-1976 were:

President	S. VanderKloet
Vice-President	T. Haliburton
Secretary	F.C. Bent
Treasurer	R. Olsen
Councillor	M. Rostocka