

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During 1978-79 the Institute held 2 lecture series, 1 in Halifax and a shorter series in the Annapolis Valley. The successful series were arranged by B.L. Blackford, A.Y. MacLean, and A. Taylor in Halifax and by R.E. Olsen in the Annapolis Valley. The Institute is indebted to them for obtaining interesting and informative speakers whose topics ranged from lichen taxonomy to automobile evolution. The Institute is also indebted to the Nova Scotia Museum of Science, in whose auditorium the Halifax lectures were held. It is a distinct advantage to have a fixed location for a lecture series and we are fortunate to have so hospitable a host.

The disappointment of the year was the cancellation of a special meeting which Dr. A. Hanson, director of Dalhousie University's Institute for Resources and Environmental Studies had agreed to co-sponsor with our Institute. The speaker, Richard Golab, director of the Center for Short-Lived Phenomena, was himself the victim of a short-lived phenomenon. He spent a weary day at the Boston airport until finally his delayed flight to Halifax was cancelled because of a sleet storm. His Center has studied sonic booms, oil spills, and ship sinkings off the Nova Scotian coast and it is hoped that the Institute soon will find an occasion to invite him again under pleasanter circumstances.

A far more successful event was the 3rd A.C. Neish Memorial Lecture co-sponsored by the A.C. Neish Memorial Trust and the Institute. Dr. F. Ronald Hayes was the speaker and discussed the topic "The Evolutionary Basis for Religious Belief: Marx's Takeover Bid for Darwinian Sociobiology". The lecture is included in this issue of the PROCEEDINGS. Following the meeting a reception was held for Mrs. A.C. Neish and Dr. Hayes in the Faculty Club of Dalhousie University.

Under the direction of the editor, J. McLachlan, and the editorial board (H.B.S. Cooke, I.A. McLaren, A. Taylor, P.J. Wangersky, and S.P. Vander Kloet) all parts (1 to 4) of volume 28 of the PROCEEDINGS have been published. The original papers presented in the PROCEEDINGS emphasize and continue a tradition of contributing to our knowledge of the natural history of the Maritimes area. The editor and the board are to be commended for their excellent work. It is hoped that membership fees, research grants, and submitted papers from the membership will continue to support the PROCEEDINGS with the money and materials necessary to maintain the new vigor editor J. McLachlan has injected into the publishing activities of the Institute.

At the final meeting of this year's Council, it was agreed to accept an Atlantic Geoscience Society proposal for a joint meeting in the autumn at which the speaker would be Dr. J. Ostrom, a leading dinosaur researcher. Possibly the new Council should consider more joint or co-sponsored meetings with other scientific societies or organizations in the area. It would provide a better audience for the speaker and would introduce more people to the broader activities of the Institute and encourage membership.

Finally I would like to thank the members of the Council whose help and support has made my work simple. In particular, I wish to express my appreciation to our secretary, Klaus Hellenbrand, who has included coffee making with his secretarial duties; to our treasurer, John van der Meer, who has the onerous task of keeping the membership records in order and whose books balance!; to our editor, Jack McLachlan, whose achievements I have mentioned; and to our librarian Evelyn Campbell, who for many years has given generously of her free time in looking after the publications of the Institute and the many library exchanges.

My best wishes go to the new president, the council and the membership for a successful 1979-80 season.

Paul H. Odense