

**PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS  
1983-84  
HALIFAX CHAPTER**

**1st Ordinary Meeting**, 19 October, 1983

"Continuous fermentation of potato wastes for the small scale production of alcohol for use in gasohol." R.G. Woodside and M. Comberback. Technical University of Nova Scotia.

**2nd Ordinary Meeting**, 7 November, 1983

"The Nova Scotia Children's Dental Health Scheme." D.P. Cunningham. Dalhousie University Dental School.

**3rd Ordinary Meeting**, 5 December, 1983

"The Halifax Explosion as a Seismic Event." A. Ruffman, Geomarine Associates and D. Simpson, Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory of Columbia University, N.Y.

**4th Ordinary Meeting**, 6 February, 1984

"The Evolution of Senescence." M. Rose, Dalhousie University.

**5th Ordinary Meeting**, 5 March, 1984

"Controlling the Growth of Fungi." R. Brown, Dalhousie University.

**6th Ordinary Meeting**, 2 April, 1984

"Peat for Energy and Chemicals—The National Research Council Program." N. Tibbits, National Research Council, Halifax.

**Annual General Meeting**, 30 April, 1984

"A Visit to China." F. Forsyth.

**VALLEY CHAPTER**

**1st Ordinary Meeting**, November, 1983

"Greenhouse Industry in Holland." B. McPhail.

**2nd Ordinary Meeting**, February, 1984

"The Facts Behind Aids." W. Schlech.

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that the year for which I was President was one of comparative tranquility and consolidation.

There were no major projects such as the publication of Dr. Roland's book on the *Geological Background and Physiography of Nova Scotia* which consumed so much energy and expense in the previous year.

This meant that we were able to give attention to improving our present methods of operating and finance.

As the report from the Treasurer indicated, we have now received financial support on a three-year basis from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council. This provides us with a more secure basis on which to plan.

We have also improved on our excellent relationship with the Nova Scotia Museum, and hence the Provincial Government, in terms of use of facilities, sales of our publications and direct financial support.

One feature of our activities which is still not entirely satisfactory is the communication between the Valley Chapter and Council but I hope we can improve on this at this meeting.

Although the Nova Scotian Institute of Science is probably best known, at least in the Province, as the sponsor of lectures on topics of scientific interest, the Treasurer's Report shows that the overwhelming preponderance of our expense is associated with publishing the Proceedings.

Since the production of the Proceedings is the responsibility of an Editorial Board and is not directly supervised by Council, it is important that there are effective communications between the Editorial Board and Council and some effort was spent this year to improve communications in the future.

Although the lectures sponsored by the Institute had high quality speakers, in some instances the audience was disturbingly small.

This does not reflect well on the Institute and is an indication that we may be providing something for which there is a reduced demand.

When the Nova Scotian Institute of Science was founded in 1862, there were very few opportunities for scientists and those interested in science to meet and discuss their work.

Nowadays there are abundant opportunities to attend seminars, lectures, colloquia, etc., and the need for the Institute to provide a forum for members to speak to other members is not quite so great.

On the other hand, interest by the public in scientific subjects has never been so great and I strongly feel that the Institute has a valuable and an exciting role to play in providing information and opportunities for discussion on scientific matters of public concern.

This function has always existed to some extent but my personal opinion is that this activity should be greatly expanded and I recommend strongly that my successor discuss with his Council how best the Institute may provide information to the general public on scientific and technological matters which affect us all.

Finally, I should like to thank all of the Council for their work and support during my term of office, particularly John Walters whose job as Treasurer is the most demanding, and I should like to wish the incoming President a successful and enjoyable year.

A.Y. McLean