



# C. M. S. NEWSLETTER

1976 APRIL

Number 2

## A New Editor for *Atmosphere*

Ian Rutherford has accepted a one year appointment with the European Centre for Medium-Range Forecasting in Bracknell, England and as a result will be unable to continue as editor of *Atmosphere*. During his three year tenure he has, with the aid of his large and able editorial committee, succeeded in raising *Atmosphere* to a journal of not inconsiderable scientific stature. This accomplishment required long hours of painstaking effort in order to obtain a steady flow of acceptable material and to monitor all stages of production to ensure that the final product reflected the quality of the input.

It was not easy to find a man willing to follow such an impressive performance, however the daring Jacques Derome has agreed to move into the editor's desk. Professor Derome is well-known to society members as recording secretary in 1973-74 and as a frequent contributor to *Atmosphere*.

Jacques' responsibilities commence with Volume 15 (1977). Since the selection and review of material for Volume 14 has already been completed, future correspondence should be addressed to *Atmosphere*, Dept. of Meteorology, McGill University, P.O. Box 6070, Station A, Montréal, Québec, H3C, 3G1.

## American Meteorological Society Awards

Two of our members were recently honoured by the American Meteorological Society.

The Sverdrup Gold Medal, awarded on the advice of an international committee appointed in consultation with representatives of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the University of Bergen, was presented to Dr. Robert W. Stewart "for outstanding leadership in experimental and theoretical research in problems of the air-sea interface, and the adjacent turbulent boundary layers of the atmosphere and ocean. He has brought the high standards of measurement and analysis of the laboratory to field studies and has pioneered measurements of surface waves and turbulence in the upper ocean".

The 1976 Cleveland Abbee Award for Distinguished Service to Atmospheric Sciences by an individual was presented to Dr. Patrick D. McTaggart-Cowan "for his distinguished leadership, both nationally and

internationally, through his career of public service, as Director of the Canadian Meteorological Service, University president, and first Executive Director of the Science Council of Canada."

### Who Owns this Club?

The complaint is frequently heard that the practicing forecaster no longer has much of a voice in the C.M.S.; that *Atmosphere* is drifting into arcane and esoteric digressions from the main streams of meteorology, and that our Congresses are dominated by computer fanatics and by impractical professors and their prize students, to the point where the average forecaster or gifted amateur has the feeling that he has strayed into the wrong hall. Similar misgivings have been forcibly expressed in the American Meteorological Society, such as at the recent Conference on Weather Forecasting which was noteworthy for the presence of a handful of actual forecasters together with a grand array of professors and administrators.

It is undoubtedly true that the CMS has become more scientific over the years, but this is mainly a reflection of the fact that meteorology itself has become more scientific. Some thirty years ago the Canadian Branch of the Royal Meteorological Society, the forerunner of the CMS, consisted mainly of forecasters; administrators were few in number and frequently doubled as forecasters and practicing atmospheric scientists were rare indeed. Weather forecasting was an art whose successful practice depended mainly on long years of experience. The latest scientific advance was the establishment of the Arctic weather observing stations, the jet-stream was an exciting new concept, some people had heard of computers. In Canada, indeed in most countries, forecasters themselves undertook most of the research and produced the bulk of the meteorological literature. Today, practicing forecasters make up rather less than half of the professional meteorological community. In the CMS, with its considerable enrolment of oceanographers, geographers, and interested amateurs from many fields, the proportion is even smaller. Loss of their majority position has undoubtedly weakened the forecasters' control over the society.

There are few members of the Society, however, who have no interest in forecasting; it remains at the very heart of meteorology. At the same time, I am sure that most would agree the forecasting has not yet reached perfection. Over the past twenty years scientific advances have been reflected in continually improving accuracy in weather forecasting and anything our Society can do to promote scientific investigations in meteorology will ultimately act to the advantage of the forecaster.

Our Society aims to provide a common meeting ground for all those interested in meteorology and physical oceanography. In recent years, there has been a tendency for communication in only one direction, from the researchers to a somewhat resentful audience. The forecasters grumble, but, except for a few remarkable figures, they do not speak out and they do not commit their thoughts and ideas to paper. Much original research in the past has been carried on in forecast offices, stimulated by the amazing peculiarities observed in the day-to-day weather. If the forecasters want a larger role in the Society, they must be prepared to contribute.

If any of our readers wish to expand on this subject, the Newsletter would be pleased to receive your comments.

### Is the Climate Changing?

The Central Intelligence Agency is of the opinion that the climate of the earth will change, with dire consequences. Time magazine is of the opinion that the climate has already changed, becoming simultaneously warmer, colder, wetter and drier. Canadian decision makers in government and industry are completely uninterested, judging by the attendance at the Conference on Living with Climatic Change held in Ottawa last June.

Canadian climatologists tend toward the same position as Time magazine, i.e. that climatic variability has increased in recent years, pointing out, however, that the present climate should be considered normal and the rather stable conditions of the previous forty years were the true abnormality.

The general public in many parts of the country have expressed opinions that the frequency and violence of thunderstorms have been increasing. Official records do not support this; the increase in jet aircraft noise near many observing sites has made thunder more difficult to detect. Observations of temperature and precipitation do seem to indicate that rare events are not as rare as they used to be, even if the moon has not been blue since September 1950.

Are Computers Human?

This recent message to users appeared at terminals connected to the Canadian Meteorological Centre's Cyber system.

A U G U S T 6, 1976.

THE PROBLEM THAT HAS AFFECTED THE 7000 FOR THE LAST WEEK HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED.

LAST FRIDAY, THE MESSAGE...NUCLEUS NOT FOUND... BEGAN SHOWING UP ON THE 7000.

SYSTEMS GROUP FOUND IT TO BE A BIT DROPPING IN MEMORY CAUSING THE WORD NUCLEUS TO BE CHANGED TO FUCLEUS.

New Members

The following have been elected to Society membership. An asterisk denotes membership in the Oceanography Division.

12 Jan

- \* Mr. Robert J. Anderson, Dartmouth, N.S.
- Mlle Christiane Beaudoin, Montréal, Qué.
- \* Mr. Laurent Bilodeau, Vancouver, B.C.
- \* Dr. Kenneth L. Denman, Dartmouth, N.S.
- \* Dr. Nelson G. Freeman, Burlington, Ont.
- Mr. David R. Hudak, Toronto, Ont.
- \* Dr. David P. Krauel, Victoria, B.C.
- Mr. Louis R. Lefavre, Chambly, Qué.
- Mr. Pavel V. Silvestrov, Montréal, Qué.
- \* Dr. Susumu Tabata, Victoria, B.C.

New members (cont'd)

20 Feb

- \* Dr. Ahmed Aissaoui, Gatineau, Qué.
- \* Dr. John M. Bewers, Dartmouth, N.S.
- \* Mr. F. Robert Boudreault, Lévis, Qué.
- \* Dr. Anthony J. Bowen, Halifax, N.S.
- \* Dr. Robert Cooke, Halifax, N.W.
- Mr. Donald B. Crosky, Winnipeg, Man.
- \* Dr. Mark Donelan, Burlington, Ont.
- Mr. Conrad Gutz, Devon, Alta
- \* Dr. Donald C. Gordon, Dartmouth, N.S.
- \* Dr. Louis M. Lauzier, Ottawa, Ont.
- \* Mr. John R. Lazier, Dartmouth, N.S.
- \* Mr. David D. Lemon, Halifax, N.S.
- \* Dr. Scott D. MacKnight, Dartmouth, N.S.
- \* Dr. Neil S. Oakey, Dartmouth, N.S.
- Mr. William G. Rochards, North Bay, Ont.
- \* Mr. Graham A. Smith, Armdale, N.S.

19 Mar

- Atlantic Maclaren Limited (sustaining membership)
- \* Mr. Eric G. Banke, Bedford, N.S.
  - Mr. Rober Caiazza, Edmonton, Alta
  - Dr. A.K. Chakravarti, Saskatoon, Sask.
  - \* Mr. A.R. Coote, Cartmouth, N.S.
  - \* Mr. H.F. Dobson, Burlington, Ont.
  - \* Dr. I. Moira Dunbar, Ottawa, Ont.
  - Mr. Leon Ettinger, Philadelphia, Penn., U.S.A.
  - \* Dr. C.J. Garrett, Halifax, N.S.
  - Mr. A.P. Georgiades, Winnipeg, Man.
  - \* Mr. J.A. Helbig, Vancouver, B.C.
  - \* Dr. Beorge T. Needler, Dartmouth, N.S.
  - Mr. L.E. Parent, Delta, B.C.
  - Dr. R.A. Pielke, Charlottesville, VA., U.S.A.
  - \* Dr. Jean Piuze, Victoria, B.C.
  - \* Dr. Elton R. Pounder, Montréal, Qué.
  - \* Dr. Francis C. Tan, Dartmouth, N.S.
  - Mr. R.B. Thomson, Edmonton, Alta
  - \* Dr. R.E. Thomson, Victoria, B.C.
  - Ms. E.E. Wheaton, Saskatoon, Sask.
  - Mr. J.D. Wilson, Edmonton, Alta.

23 Apr

- \* Dr. N.E.J. Boston, Vancouver, B.C.
- Dr. S.H. Gage, Saskatoon, Sask.
- Mr. R.L. Jones, Ottawa, Ont.
- Mr. T.W. Krauss, Edmonton, Alta
- Mr. D.K.G. Love, Edmonton, Alta
- Ms. Anna M. Malkiewicz, Downsview, Ont.
- Mr. L.G. Sonmor, Saskatoon, Sask.
- Dean E.J. Stansbury, Montreal, Que.
- Mr. Kenneth L. Stewart, Edmonton, Alta

WSC/Tcp

W.S. Creswick  
Editor, Newsletter.