

Vancouver Geology - A Short Guide

C. S. Ney

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Vancouver Geology – A Short Guide

by G. H. Eisbacher
*Cordilleran Section, Geological
Association of Canada, 56 p., 1973*
Paperbound \$1.00.

Reviewed by C. S. Ney
*c/o Quintana Minerals Corp.
1215 – 2 Bentall Centre
Vancouver 1, B.C.*

It is a challenge to any scientist to reduce his knowledge and understanding of things to a discourse that the novice may understand, but yet the experienced reader will find interesting. *Vancouver Geology* attempts to meet this challenge.

A brief, well worded introduction introduces the reader to the processes of geology and explains what the book will try to do. Six pages that follow give a short account of the Geologic History of the Vancouver Area. The next 44 pages describe the geology of 14 localities grouped in five different areas about the city from the Mountains in the north to Fraser River Delta in the south. These areas cover, with some overlap, a wide variety of subject matter, e.g., the formation of granitic rocks, the transport of beach sand, the sinking of delta lands. The book concludes with a brief glossary of about eighty geologic names and terms. There is one simple and effective coloured foldout geological map, several sketch maps, and a couple of dozen black and white photographs.

While many of the photographs are excellent for representing a geologic process or material, there is in many of them a regrettable lack of perspective, scale, or scenic

connotation. A photograph on page 20 of columnar jointing in Stanley Park fails to convey any sense of scenery; it is an injustice to the spectacular Lions Gate of Vancouver Harbour. The same may be said of the view on page 26 of Capilano Canyon.

No economic minerals are mentioned in the text, although some do occur within the map area. This is a pity, because though they are rare, mineral deposits should be considered natural products of geologic processes.

This little book will be a very useful one for students down to grade 10, possibly to 8 or 9. It will be a valuable guide to a certain section of the public who have already acquired an interest in geology. But because of its terse factual style of writing, the austerity of its illustrations, and the fine printing, it is not going to prove an attraction to the wide group of naturalists that the subject deserves.

MS received. March 14, 1974.

Sellout: The Giveaway of Canada's Energy Resources

by Philip Sykes
Hurtig Publishers, Edmonton
235 p. 1973
\$8.95 for cloth cover
\$2.95 for paper cover.

Reviewed by T. A. Oliver
*Department of Geology
The University of Calgary
Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4*

Sellout is essentially a popularized version of the brief "Economic Development with Environmental Security" written by a group of academics, the Dalhousie Four. While the main theme is accurately stated in the title, the author jumps from issue to issue: the Mackenzie Valley pipeline; the energy crisis; the misuse of Canada's water resources in the Columbia, the Churchill-Nelson System, and the James Bay area; PRIME and NAWAPA; the "fire sale" of Alberta's gas and oil resources; the role of the multinational oil companies; the waste of resources; and finally, a slap at "Ottawa, the Careless Guardian".

Some common threads run through the melodrama. The villains are the slick Yankee traders, the provincial premiers – the "foxy, Machiavellian" W. A. C. Bennett and the crafty opportunist Bourassa, among others – willing to sell off the country's resources for short-term gains, the Federal Government unwilling to impose long-term solutions, but above all the multinational companies buying up the country. The victims are those Canadians losing jobs because of the export of resources, and the native