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Letters to the Editor

Lithoprobe: A Comment

The Victoria Section of the Geological Association of Canada held a symposium on the deep structure of Southern Vancouver Island representing the first results from Lithoprobe Phase 1. The symposium was held at the Pacific Geoscience Centre, 19 April 1985. Papers presented covered various aspects of the geology of the region, comparable terrains ancient and modern, the new seismic data, earthquake data, heat flow and electromagnetic results, geochemistry and geochronology. About 150 earth scientists attended.

First, for me, it was a most stimulating occasion to have such different approaches, directed at a single problem, reported at a single forum. There were no communication problems between the various specialists. Second, there was no doubt about the significance of the results. Long ago I was told that subduction of oceanic lithosphere occurs because it becomes old, cold and dense. But the Juan de Fuca plate is young and warm and precise description of this situation must lead us to much better models of global convective forces. It was clear from the results presented that there could be good reason to extend the present traverse a little further, and particularly into the zone of much higher heat flow to the east.

I came away from this meeting feeling that Phase 1 has been a great success and that the integrated approach of the Lithoprobe concept is working. This study of a subduction process should become a major Canadian contribution to earth science.

Ted Irving and Ron Clowes must be congratulated on organizing an unusually stimulating symposium.

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PROFESSEUR-CHERCHEUR

L'INRS-Géoressources est à la recherche d'un(e) titulaire de doctorat pouvant initier et réaliser des travaux portant sur la géologie et la métallogénie des minéralisations en terrains sédimentaires. Une expérience pratique des techniques d'analyse d'inclusions fluides est souhaitable. Poste à combler avant juin 1986. Toute personne intéressée est priée de faire parvenir son curriculum vitae au Directeur du personnel, Institut national de la recherche scientifique, C.P. 7500, Sainte-Foy, Québec, Canada G1V 4C7.