

Preface/Préface

Roger Brown, the first Research Advisor for the Permafrost Subcommittee of the Associate Committee on Geotechnical Research, served in this position with dedication and distinction for more than twenty years. The Subcommittee was formed in 1960 in response to a recommendation arising from a conference on permafrost sponsored by the ACGR in 1958. This conference brought together scientists and engineers from Canada and the United States with an active interest in research on this northern terrain condition. The Subcommittee was given the mandate to actively promote research on permafrost and assist in the publication, dissemination, and application of results.

Roger joined the Division of Building Research, National Research Council of Canada, in 1953 to undertake studies of the distribution of permafrost in Canada and to investigate the factors that determine its occurrence. He applied himself with enthusiasm to this work, and through field surveys, communication with other workers, and mastery of the literature, he soon became knowledgeable about permafrost conditions not only in Canada but in other countries as well. This knowledge he recorded in a book published in 1970 "Permafrost in Canada", the first definitive work on permafrost conditions in Canada.

Roger Brown, premier conseiller en recherche auprès du Sous-comité du pergélisol du Comité associé de recherches géotechniques (C.A.R.G.), s'est distingué dans cette fonction, qu'il a occupée pendant plus de vingt ans, par ses talents et son dévouement. Le Sous-comité a été formé en 1960, suite à la recommandation formulée lors d'une conférence sur le pergélisol organisée par le C.A.R.G. en 1958. Cette conférence a réuni des scientifiques et des ingénieurs canadiens et américains qui s'intéressaient activement à la recherche dans ce domaine. Le Sous-comité a reçu pour mandat de favoriser de façon concrète la recherche sur le pergélisol et de contribuer à la publication, à la diffusion et à l'application des résultats.

Roger s'est joint à la Division des recherches sur le bâtiment du C.N.R.C. en 1953, en vue d'étudier la répartition du pergélisol au Canada et les facteurs qui déterminent cet état du sous-sol. Il s'est consacré avec enthousiasme à ces travaux et, bientôt, les enquêtes sur le terrain, les échanges avec d'autres chercheurs et une revue approfondie de la littérature ont fait de lui un expert sur le pergélisol au Canada et ailleurs. En 1970, il a publié "Permafrost in Canada", premier ouvrage important paru sur le sujet.

Roger a travaillé sous la présidence de M. Trevor A. Harwood (1960-1968), du professeur J. Ross

Roger served under several Chairmen – Mr. Trevor A. Harwood (1960–68), Professor J. Ross Mackay (1969–72), Dr. Walter O. Kupsch (1973–78), and Professor Hugh M. French (1979–present). The Subcommittee's accomplishments during this period were truly remarkable. The series of seminars, workshops, and conferences on permafrost science and engineering that it sponsored, the proceedings of these meetings, and the special publications that have been produced all show the distinct organizational skills and strong guiding hand of Roger and are a testimony to his efforts and devotion to his profession. A highlight of his service was the excellent job he did as Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Third International Conference on Permafrost held in Edmonton, Alberta in 1978 and as Technical Editor of the English translations of the Russian papers published in the conference proceedings.

Over the years, the Permafrost Subcommittee has sponsored a series of major Canadian Permafrost Conferences. At the time of his death, Roger was deeply involved in the organization of the Fourth of this series. This Conference was held in Calgary, Alberta in March, 1981. It is indeed very fitting that this volume, containing the papers presented to this very successful Conference planned so carefully by Roger, should be dedicated to his memory. It is a manifestation of the current state of knowledge on permafrost in Canada and clearly shows the remarkable advancement with which Roger was so closely associated and to which he contributed so selflessly.

Special thanks and appreciation must be expressed to Professor Hugh M. French, Chairman of the Permafrost Subcommittee and of the Conference, to the Organizing Committee who arranged the program and carried the Conference through to a successful conclusion, and to the Editorial Board that had the responsibility of producing these Proceedings. In particular, the hard work and special efforts of Professor French, that has resulted in this splendid memorial volume, must be recognized. The Associate Committee on Geotechnical Research expresses its thanks and gratitude to all these individuals.

L.W. Gold,
Chairman,
Associate Committee on
Geotechnical Research

March 1982

Mackay (1969–1972), de M. Walter O. Kupsch (1973–1978), et du professeur Hugh M. French (1979 à ce jour). Les réalisations du Sous-comité durant cette période ont été remarquables, et toutes portent la marque de Roger et témoignent de ses qualités d'organisateur et de son dévouement à sa profession. Il suffit de mentionner les séries de séminaires, d'ateliers et de conférences sur la science et les techniques du pergélisol parrainées par le Sous-comité, l'établissement des comptes rendus de ces réunions et la mise au point de publications spéciales. Roger s'est particulièrement distingué par l'excellent travail qu'il a accompli en qualité de président du Comité organisateur de la troisième Conférence internationale sur le pergélisol, qui s'est tenue à Edmonton (Alberta) en 1978, et comme rédacteur technique des textes russes traduits en anglais qui ont été publiés dans les comptes rendus de la conférence.

Depuis sa création, le Sous-comité sur le pergélisol a parrainé plusieurs importantes conférences canadiennes sur le sujet. Au moment de sa mort, Roger s'occupait très activement des préparatifs de la quatrième conférence, qui s'est tenue à Calgary (Alberta) en mars 1981. Il est donc très approprié que le présent recueil des communications présentées à cette conférence, dont le très grand succès doit beaucoup à la planification de Roger, soit dédié à sa mémoire. Cet ouvrage expose l'état actuel des connaissances sur le pergélisol au Canada et met en lumière les progrès remarquables qui ont été réalisés, et auxquels Roger a contribué de façon si désintéressée.

Nous tenons à remercier le professeur Hugh M. French, président du Sous-comité sur le pergélisol et président de la conférence, le Comité organisateur qui a effectué les préparatifs et permis le succès de la conférence, ainsi que le comité de rédaction, qui a assuré la publication de ces comptes rendus. Il faut souligner, en particulier, l'effort déployé par le professeur French, qui nous a donné cet ouvrage superbe. Le Comité associé de recherches géotechniques tient à remercier et à exprimer sa gratitude à tous ceux qui ont participé à l'établissement du présent recueil.

Le président du Comité associé
de recherches géotechniques,

L.W. Gold

Mars 1982

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