

FOREWORD

Gerry McMichael
Conference Chairman

The 1992 Linear Accelerator Conference (LINAC92) was held at the Westin Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada from 1992 August 24 through August 28. This conference was the sixteenth in a series that started at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in 1961 and is the second to be hosted by the Accelerator Physics Branch from the Chalk River Laboratories of AECL Research. The conference had 339 participants from 12 countries, three times the number who attended the 9th conference in the series that was held at Chalk River in 1976.

The program format was discussed at meetings of the International Organizing Committee (San Francisco, 1991 May, and Washington, 1992 April) and of the Program Committee (Ottawa, 1991 December). Both committees chose to follow the very successful format of the last three conferences. There were no parallel sessions, and all five morning sessions were devoted to the presentation of invited papers (34 in total), giving each speaker twenty-five minutes for their presentation plus five minutes for questions and discussion. All contributed papers (220 in total) were presented as posters in three afternoon sessions, with the poster sessions preceded by a short plenary session for five-minute oral "advertisements" of approximately twelve selected posters. (These five-minute oral previews were introduced as an experiment at the 1986 Linac Conference at SLAC, and have been a popular feature of all subsequent Linac Conferences.)

The conference was opened by the Ottawa Town Crier, who, declining any audio-video aids, tested the acoustics of our meeting hall and woke all the late-risers. Traditionally, the conference program has included an afternoon outing for all the delegates. For LINAC92 the outing on Wednesday, August 26, featured a trip to the Wilderness Tours white-water rafting site on the Ottawa River, where participants experimentally tested various forms of acceleration. Over 130 participated in the random acceleration (rafting) experiment and 6 more daring individuals tried the linear acceleration (bungee jumping) experiment. The experiments were successful, some would even say memorable. However, there is some worry that it may be difficult to find volunteers for the next program committee after rafting colleagues helped two of the present members to suffer close encounters with samples of Laurentian Shield granite.

The conference banquet was held at the National Arts Centre on Thursday, August 27 and featured caribou as the main entrée. After the conference's official close, over 100 visitors took a bus trip Friday afternoon to tour Chalk River's Accelerator Physics laboratories and TASC (Tandem Accelerator Superconducting Cyclotron), and approximately 30 went on to Fermilab and the Argonne National Laboratory for a tour of the facilities there on Monday, August 31.

At its meeting in San Francisco, the International Organizing Committee determined that the 1994 Linac Conference would be in Japan, hosted by

KEK. Professor Kimura has agreed to chair the conference, which is scheduled to take place at Tsukuba, 1994 August 22 through 26. A decision on the site for the 1996 Linear Accelerator Conference was deferred to the next meeting of the International Organizing Committee (scheduled to take place during the PAC Conference in Washington, 1993 May 14-21). Offers to host the 1996 conference were received from ANL, CERN, ITEP, SLAC and SCCL.

The weather's co-operation (the only week of real summertime in Ottawa in 1992 coincided with LINAC92) and the efforts of many people contributed to the outstanding success of the scientific and social programs of LINAC92. Thanks are extended to the members of the International Organizing Committee and the Program Committee, session chairmen, speakers and poster paper presenters, who ensured we had a strong technical program, and to the members of the Local Organizing Committee, the Westin Hotel staff, the Dodwell audio-visual technicians, the staff of Wilderness Tours, the National Arts Centre and Love Printing, and all the other groups at Chalk River who worked behind the scenes and assisted with the activities. Together, they provided an enjoyable venue for scientific interchange. Special thanks to Kathleen and Bruce Chidley, who organized a very interesting program for the more than eighty companions. The program included a double-decker bus tour of Canada's capital, a steamboat cruise on the Rideau Canal, and a train excursion through the Gatineau in Quebec. Finally, very special thanks to Margaret Trecartin whose dedication and tireless efforts kept the conference organization on the rails.