

Nomination for the ACMLA Honours Award – Marcel Fortin, University of Toronto – 2021

The Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA) recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to map librarianship at the local, regional, national, and international levels through their granting of the Honours Award for outstanding achievement.

Marcel's work, as a student, at the (then) National Archives' Cartographic and Architectural Archives Division in the summer of 1991, was the beginning of his involvement with the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives. Many of the division's staff were ACMLA members who planned the annual ACMLA conference which was hosted by the National Archives of Canada in 1991.

The first paper Marcel submitted to the ACMLA *Bulletin* is dated 1992 and outlined an independent study that he completed as a student in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Western University. That study was to compile a union list of Canadian fire insurance plans held in Ontario university map libraries (OCUL Map Group). Working with Lorraine Dubreuil and Cheryl Woods, that union list was later expanded to include holdings of the National Archives of Canada, Archives of Ontario and some city and county archives, and public libraries in Ontario, and was published by ACMLA in 1995.

After holding a few librarian positions outside of Ontario, Marcel was hired in 1998 as Head, Map and Data Library at the University of Toronto, where he continues to be very active in many GIS projects. He has held positions on the executive of ACMLA, including president (2003/4-2004/5, 2017/18), and served as chair (2002/3-2003/4) of the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) Map Group. He coordinated the hosting of an ACMLA conference in 2002, at the University of Toronto and has been involved in several conferences as a presenter/panel member. He received the ACMLA Paper Award in 2002.

Marcel has presented at numerous conferences that include: TRY (Toronto, York and Ryerson) Library Staff conference and Ontario Library Association Super conference. He has also served on the Ontario Geographic Names Board.

Marcel's involvement with the DMTI- SMART Consortial Agreement of licensed geospatial data to Canadian universities and its distribution has been a major achievement that has made data sets available to authorized users (generally current students, faculty, and staff at the licensed universities) for authorized use (academic teaching, research, and publishing), under certain license conditions.

He served as a member of the OCUL Map Group's Geospatial Data Access Committee, whose mandate was to support initiatives which broaden the Map Group's access to geospatial data with particular emphasis on data provided through the Land Information Ontario Geospatial Digital Exchange (OGDE) program (by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources). The committee was mandated (in June 2006) to investigate and make recommendations on a centralized, web-based data access and delivery system for geospatial data to OCUL institutions with discovery and browse tools based on metadata that is collaboratively created and shared. The outcome of this mandate was the creation and launch of the OCUL Scholars GeoPortal.

A major accomplishment of Marcel's is a first of its kind publication *Historical GIS Research in Canada*. It brought to the forefront the GIS activity of Canadian scholars across various disciplines and remains a stellar display and example of HGIS research excellence. Subsequently, he initiated a SSHRC-funded project in 2015 as the principal investigator. "The vision of the Canadian Historical GIS Partnership (www.geohist.ca) is to provide a forum for academic and public researchers and institutions, in Canada and beyond, to share data and best practices for mapping Canadian historical subjects on the web." Its 'news & notes' link directs one to a variety of projects. Two HGIS projects that Marcel has played a key role in creating are: the Don River Valley Historical Mapping Project, and the Ontario Historical County Map Project.

A selection of Marcel's publications/papers includes:

"On Partnerships."

M. Fortin - *Journal of Map & Geography Libraries* 12 (2), 223-227, 2016.

Historical GIS Research in Canada.

J. Bonnell, M. Fortin. University of Calgary Press. 2014.

"The library as research partner and data creator: The Don Valley historical mapping project."

M. Fortin, J. Mueller - *Journal of Map & Geography Libraries* 9 (1-2), 157-174, 2013.

"Putting Literacy into Geographic Information."

J. Marvin, M. Fortin - *Bulletin*, Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives 125, 3-9. 2006.

"Nineteenth Century Canadian County Maps GIS Project."

C. Woods, M. Fortin, L. Dubreuil - *Bulletin*, Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives 123, 25-26. 2005.

"Online GIS: Solutions for Dissemination of Geospatial Data in a Library Setting."

M. Fortin - *Bulletin*, Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives 120, 5-12. 2004.

"Whither Canadian Map Libraries? : 1967-2003."

M. Fortin - *Bulletin*, Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives 117, 3-9. 2003.

"Displaying (and Using) High-Resolution Images of Maps on the World Wide Web."

M. Fortin - *Bulletin*, Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives 112, 3-7. 2001.

Canadian Fire Insurance Plans in Ontario Collections, 1876-1973.

Fortin, Marcel, Lorraine Dubreuil, and Cheryl A. Woods. Occasional Papers of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives, no. 5. Ottawa: Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives, 1995.

"Union List of Canadian Fire Insurance Plans Held in Ontario University Map Libraries."

M. Fortin - *Bulletin*, Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives 84, 1-4, 1992.

Nominator: Cheryl Woods

Seconders: Richard Pinnell, Colleen Beard