

Historical Maps Committee Report
2012-2013
June 10, 2013

First of all I want to thank Gord Beck and Cheryl Woods for their work and contribution to the Committee this past year.

Sales dropped by 25% over last year's and postage keeps rising, to the point that it's 30% higher than the fee charged. There were a total of 15 sales of 168 maps for total sales of \$1,096.25 and postage was \$172.19. Other challenges have arisen as McMaster has closed its Canada Post outlet requiring Gord Beck to have to go off campus to mail the items. There is also pressure to move the facsimile map collection as changes are happening at McMaster as well.

In his report Gord Beck wrote:

“The Historical Facsimile Map Project began several decades ago when the availability of such prints was limited. It has enjoyed many years of success and the maps have educated and entertained many. I believe the main reason for our declining sales in recent years to be a direct result of the growing availability of high resolution images on the web and from other sources. This availability coupled with the proliferation of large-format, colour printing services at relatively inexpensive pricing has, unfortunately, dramatically reduced the demand for our maps.”

“I wish to thank all those who have been involved in this project over the years, especially Cheryl Woods who has been there since its inception. It has been my distinct pleasure to have worked with you and I feel greatly enriched from the experience.”

The Historical Maps Committee was contacted through Gord Beck by a publisher in Great Britain seeking permission to reproduce nine of the Birds Eye View series for an atlas that will be published. The Committee and the Executive agreed that this would be a good idea and to move ahead with it.

Gord Beck has announced his intention of stepping down as Historical Maps Distributor by the end of December 2013. It does not seem enough to simply say “Thank You” for all of your work and dedication with the Historical Maps Committee. You have been a big part of its success and therefore the overall success of ACMLA. On behalf of the executive, I express my gratitude for everything you have done for ACMLA and wish you all the best in your future.

Danial Duda
Chair, Historical Maps Committee