

President's Report 2006-2007

The past year has been one of transitions, and also major accomplishments.

Our year started with a very exciting and successful conference as part of the 2006 GeoTec Event in Ottawa. This was our first conference in association with GeoTec and it was invigorating to meet with so many other geo-types! The focus on the Centennial of the National Atlas of Canada gave an additional dimension to the event. And Ottawa in the summer is always a beautiful place.

Our Executive Board reflected a transition with a new Treasurer, Susan Mowers taking over from Pat McIntyre who had served as the Association's Treasurer for many years. Susan has worked hard, with assistance from Marc Cockburn, 1st V-P and other members, to familiarize herself with our financials and develop new structures and procedures. Another transition came in the Fall when Marc Cockburn stepped down as 1st V-P. The 1st V-P portfolio was divided amongst the other members of the Board, particularly Colleen Beard, 2nd V-P (for conference) for the rest of the year.

Our Association is not alone in transition. The status of Canadian topographic mapping is also undergoing major transitions. As we learned at our 2006 Conference in Ottawa the approach to the provision of topographic information to Canadians is undergoing change. Many of us saw major problems with the vision that was presented and through our Map Users' Advisory Committee (MUAC), led by Heather McAdam a major program was developed to bring national attention to the issues. The web page, MapsforCanadians, and the subsequent Policy Brief (see Bulletin No.127) has secured a re-assessment of the policy and recognition of the importance of topographic mapping for all Canadians.

The release of NRCan spatial data into the public domain, through GeoGratis, and the move from restrictive licensing in April 2007 represent important steps forward for all spatial data users.

A related notable event was the renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Depository Services Program, reflecting the changes in philosophy at NRCan.

The other portfolio and committee reports provide more details of the many activities of our Association. You will see how much is being accomplished and other transitions underway. There are many opportunities to participate in the transitions and assist your Association; among them:

Map Users Advisory Committee: Additional MEMBERSHIP needed
Publications Committee: CHAIR position is vacant
Publications Officer is needed
ACMLA Archivist is needed

Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Committee: MEMBERSHIP is needed

Please contact me or other Executive members to express your interest.

In closing, there are more transitions forthcoming. Louis Cardinal, Publications Officer and Archivist, and Beth Ray, Membership Committee Chair are recognized for their long and dedicated service to the Association. Their 'retirement' from these positions leaves openings for newer/younger members of the Association.

I wish to thank our Treasurer, Susan Mowers who is stepping down, for the time and effort that she has given to that portfolio.

Also, since I am stepping aside as President, Marcel Fortin our Past-President will be leaving the Executive. Marcel has been a great asset to our Association and I am sure he will continue to be so even when not on the Executive – Thanks again Marcel.

Heartfelt thanks for all your contributions.

Finally I urge you to read the other reports and bring copies to our AGM, May 11, 2007 in Montreal. Our local arrangements and program committees have put together programs and events to make our 40th conference one not to be missed!

I look forward to seeing you in Montreal

Respectfully submitted
David L. Jones
President
May 2007