

**Minutes of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers
(WDCAG) AGM, University College of the Fraser Valley, BC.
March 11, 2007.**

Welcome from CAG President Prof. Allison Gill.

1. Adoption of Agenda - (Beaney/Brealey).

Carried

2. Approval of the Minutes from WDCAG AGM March 10, 2006. (Gibson/ Viaud).

Carried

3. Business Arising from the Minutes - None.

4. Action Items.

1. Awards – (Jim Windsor)

a. W.C. Wonders Award – Research (Scholarly Distinction) awarded to Doug Porteous.

b. J.A. McVey Award – Teaching Excellence awarded to Jim Windsor.

c. J.L. Robinson Award for Meritorious Service to the WDCAG awarded to Craig Coburn.

2. CAG Travel Grant disbursement (\$1500 total). The distribution of the travel grant this year was based on travel distance to Abbotsford. UNBC was awarded \$400, \$300 was awarded to UofL and UofA. \$150 was awarded to UBC-O, and TRU. CNC and Malaspina were awarded \$100. (Coburn/Windsor)

Carried

5. Reports.

a. **Secretary/Treasurer Report.** Craig Coburn reported a balance of \$6437.28 as of March 11, 2007. Revenue for the year ending March 11, 2007 was \$2500, while expenses amounted to \$1613.09. Revenue exceeded expenditures by \$886.91.

Motion 1 – (Wilson/Rogerson) That the Secretary/Treasurer's report be accepted as presented.

Carried

Motion 2 – (Wilson/Rogerson) Motion to allow the Secretary/Treasurer to allocate extra division funds (over the average annual expenditures) into GIC to generate some interest for the division.

Carried

Motion 3 – (Smith/Windsor) Motion that the executive be charged with dispensing the extra divisional rebate (additional \$1000) granted by the CAG once they have clarification from the CAG that this grant was meant for travel funding

Carried

b. **Western Geography - Editor's Report.** There are no manuscripts in hand for volume 17 to date. We should be encouraging students attending the WDCAG 2007 to submit their research to Western Geography. There are 38 standing orders for Western Geography at \$18 per copy, although many are sold via subscription services are discounted 30%. We may wish to increase the cost of the production of the journal to better reflect the current cost of production. Ross Nelson is the new editor and will have material forwarded.

Motion to accept the report as presented (Coburn/Smith)

Carried

The Western Geography account at CNC is to be closed and needs to have shortfall of \$921.32 covered by the WDCAG.

Motion to have the WDCAG cover the shortfall in the Western Geography account at CNC (Windsor/Smith)

Carried

c. **Newsletter Editor's Report.** The newsletter had two additions in the last year (spring/fall) – keep the articles coming. UofA was contacted and encouraged to participate. The website has been updated with the most recent versions of the newsletter.

Motion to accept the report as presented (Wilson/Viaud)

Carried

d. **Archivist Report.** A brief discussion about the nature of the materials that should be circulated to the archivist was held. The division decided that newsletters, meeting details, posters and other important division documents should be circulated the archivist then forwarded to the archive held at SFU every 5 years for deposit.

Motion to accept the report as presented (Beaney/Evenenden)

Carried

e. **Presidents Report.** Neil Hanlon circulated a written report and a brief discussion followed.

The president thanked UCFV for organizing the conference this year. The number of participants was, once again, over 200 and we have made some inroads in getting the larger universities to participate in the WDCAG meeting. Conferences are critical for renewal and recognition of important activities in the division. The president extended thanks to the CAG for providing the travel grant again.

Motion to accept the report as presented (Rogerson/Wilson)

Carried

6. Next Meeting.

A number of universities and colleges have been asked to hold the WDCAG next year. To date, no one has agreed to accept the responsibility of running the conference.

Motion to continue to pursue potential departments to accept the conference with the final approval of the hosting institution to be decided by a vote of the WDCAG executive (Coburn/Rogerson)

Carried

8. Elections.

- a. President – Robert Rogerson (University Canada West - 2 year term).
- b. Vice-President – open.
- c. Past-President – Neil Hanlon.
- d. Secretary-Treasurer - Craig Coburn (UofL).
- e. Members at large –

Sandy Vandenberg (Douglas College)

Hester Jiskoot (UofL)

Gilles Viaud (TRU)

Barb McNichol (Mt. Royal College).

f. Student Members –

C. Hoffman (UNBC)

Steven Vincett (UofL)

g. Publications – Ross Nelson (TRU).

h. Newsletter Editor – Ineke Dijks.

i. Archivist – Ken Brealey (UCFV)

9. Other Business.

a. Student Presentation Awards – each student will be awarded a one-year membership in the CAG (total \$135).

i. Kellie Leedham (UBC-O).

ii. Derek Turner (SFU).

iii. Heather Castleden (UofA).

10. Adjournment.

Newsletter Editor=s Report

4 March 2008

The Newsletter is a communication device to keep WDCAG members informed about the activities of its associated institutions and members. The newsletter is issued two times each year, one issue in the spring and one in the fall and is distributed electronically only.

In 2007 the Spring issue and the Fall issue contained 12 contributions each. Some are very detailed with interesting photographs, others are short memos. Nevertheless, all information is important. Several institutions contributed to both, the Spring and Fall issues, others contributed to one or the other. Overall there were 14 institutions contributing throughout 2007. That is two less than the previous year.

In order to keep up-to-date we need the input from as many members as possible and I encourage all institutional representatives to send in news items. Previously I have suggested that student geography clubs of the various institutions contribute to the newsletter, for example information about their activities and projects. Perhaps members can encourage students to write a short contribution. And thank you Dan Smith for making the newsletter available to members and non-members on the WDCAG website.

Ineke J. Dijks
WDCAG Newsletter Editor
email: geoarch@telus.net

President's Report
Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers
10 March 2007

I hope you will agree that the Executive has taken positive steps to continue to make participation in the Division worthwhile for geographers of various stripes. We now have a number of means by which to acknowledge members for excellence in their contributions to the discipline. We have expanded the number of student awards handed out at our annual conference for best paper and poster presentations. In addition, we offer annual awards for faculty and professional geographers in the categories of teaching, research and service to the discipline. These awards are an important expression of the Division's commitment to inclusiveness, whether in the context of career stage (e.g., undergraduate, graduate students, new and seasoned instructors and faculty, and other professional geographer in the public and private sectors) or academic focus (e.g., physical and human geography, GIS).

Once again this year, the Division was well served by its Executive. Craig Coburn kept the financial house in order and was a most reliable source of information as issues arose. Claire Beaney did an admirable job filling in for Ineke Dijks as Newsletter Editor. Ken Brealey has made some great strides in updating and enhancing our archives. Jim Windsor is still looking after our journal, *Western Geography*, until such time as his successor, Ross Nelson, is back from sabbatical leave. My thanks, as well, to our two Student Representatives and four Members at Large for remaining in the loop throughout the year and stepping up when called upon to provide guidance and input. Finally, while not officially a member of the Executive, Dan Smith continues to maintain our website and list-serve for his 'usual fee'.

Last year, I expressed some concern about the potential for volunteer burn-out amongst our Executive. I am pleased to say we have made some progress in bringing new members into the fold, and it is my hope that we continue along this path into the future.

Unfortunately, we were unable to fill the vacant post of BC Educational Chair. This remains a gaping hole for our entire Division, as we need to make better links with the post-secondary educational system and its governance in BC. In fact, we need to think seriously about adding some sort of representation in Alberta where, as many of are well aware, geography is not centrally positioned in the post-secondary curriculum.

We have heard concerns over time about a perceived lack of commitment to the WD-CAG on the part of some of the larger programs and departments in our region. While I am inclined to share some of these concerns, I feel that this situation is beginning to turn around, if only incrementally. It is important that we continue to try to make inroads with colleagues in the larger metropolitan centres by continuing to offer an inviting and engaging platform for faculty and students to network and share their research interests and pedagogical approaches.

The WD-CAG again received financial assistance from the national office to help with the cost of student travel to attend the annual meeting. As always, we have expressed our gratitude to the CAG for this assistance and politely made the case that more of this kind of support would be a 'win-win' for everyone. Last year, we divvied up the \$1,500 received amongst the following departments and programs: University of Alberta, University of Lethbridge, UBC-Okanagan, Thompson Rivers University, UNBC, CNC, Malaspina University College and the University of Victoria. The actual amount transferred to each unit was a function

of the number of student registrants and distance travelled. Details of this year's allocations will be outlined at the AGM.

On a closing note, this is my final report as President and I want to convey what an enjoyable experience it has been to serve the WD-CAG in this capacity. We remain a very healthy and vibrant division, as evidenced by our 200+ members, the excellent attendance at our annual meetings, the quality of our publications (i.e., our journal and newsletter) and the level of activity on our email listserve and website. My counterparts in the other regional divisions routinely tell me they are envious of the level of involvement the Western Division receives from its members. I am certain that Robert Rogerson, our incoming President, can look forward to your ongoing support and participation as we continue to renew and grow the WD-CAG into the future.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil Hanlon", is displayed on a light yellow rectangular background.

Neil Hanlon
UNBC



WESTERN GEOGRAPHY

Canad

EDITOR: Jim Windsor, Department of Geography, College of New Caledonia,
Prince George, British Columbia, V2N 1P8. (250) 562-2131

March 10, 2007

TO: The Executive,
Western Division
Canadian Association of Geographers

FROM: The Editor (Interim), *WESTERN GEOGRAPHY*

RE: Status Report: *WESTERN GEOGRAPHY*

1. Status of Vol. 15/16, 2005/06

Vol. 15/16 appeared in the Fall of last year (2006).

2. Status of Vol. 17

There are currently no manuscripts in hand for the next volume of *WESTERN GEOGRAPHY*.

3. Status of Standing Order Subscriptions

There are currently 31 Standing Orders for *WESTERN GEOGRAPHY* for a total of 38 copies.

4. Cost of *WESTERN GEOGRAPHY*

The current price for individual volumes of *WESTERN GEOGRAPHY* is \$18.⁰⁰. The per unit production cost (printing, shipping and mailing) for Vol. 15/16 was approximately \$9.⁰⁰. The nominal invoice price (as above) is \$18.⁰⁰, although most subscriptions (ie: those billed through a subscription service) receive a 30% discount. Mailing costs are revenue neutral. Thus, net revenue to the WD-CAG for each subscription copy is between \$3.⁶⁰ and \$9.⁰⁰ (depending on the subscriber).

5. Financial Status

As the editorship of *WESTERN GEOGRAPHY* is moving to Thompson Rivers University (see below), I am arranging to permanently close the *WESTERN GEOGRAPHY* account at CNC. This account currently has a deficit of \$1,475.¹⁵ (as of February 28th, 2007). There exists also, however, an accumulated surplus from past years of \$553.⁸³. Subtracting this surplus from the deficit in the current year account leaves a net shortfall of \$921.³². I have requested a cheque in this amount from our treasurer. Upon receipt, this cheque will be used to bring the *WESTERN GEOGRAPHY* account at CNC to a zero balance at which time the account will be closed. It will be up to the new editor to make whatever accounting arrangements he wishes with the good folks at TRU.

6. Status of Editor

As mentioned in my report last year, the publication of Volume 15/16 was the last for me as editor of our journal. I have been the editor of *WESTERN GEOGRAPHY* for almost 13 years. As most may be aware, Ross Nelson at Thompson Rivers University has agreed to take on the editorship of *WESTERN GEOGRAPHY* and has been (or will soon be) duly appointed such by the Executive. Ross, however, is still on Sabbatical but is due to return, I believe, in the Spring. Upon his return, I will forward to him the 7 or so boxes of materials that constitute the *WESTERN GEOGRAPHY* archives, files, remainder copies etc. I will, of course, remain accessible to Ross to answer any questions etc. that he may have as he ascends the (initially steep) learning curve associated with this appointment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Windsor, Editor (Interim)
WESTERN GEOGRAPHY

184 North Sea Ave.
Burnaby, B.C.
V5B 1K5

Dr. Neil Hanlon and Board
President
Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers
c/o Geography Program
University of Northern British Columbia
3333 University Way
Prince George, B.C.

Dear Neil

Please accept this letter, and attachment, as the 2007 submission to the WDCAG Board by the WDCAG Archivist. I am pleased to report that the WDCAG Archives are, as of this writing, completely up-to-date, and include all the documents and other materials from the 2006 edition of the WDCAG at Thompson Rivers University. The document confirming the deposit of these last materials is attached. Having met with the Francis Fournier a couple of times this past year, I am satisfied that all WDCAG materials are in hand and secure in the normal fashion.

Sincerely

Dr. Ken Brealey
WDCAG Archivist

Memorandum

To: WDCAG Executive and Membership

From: Craig Coburn
Secretary-Treasurer, WDCAG

Subject: Financial Statement.

Date: Saturday, March 10, 2007

The Following is a synopsis of the current financial situation of the WDCAG. As you know, our account is operated through Financial Services at The University of Lethbridge, so each entry has been appropriately documented.

Balance ¹ as of March 11, 2006		\$5550.37
Revenue		
CAG Rebate	\$1,000	
CAG Travel Grant	\$1,500	
Total	\$2,500	\$8,050.37
Expenditures (see below)		
Presentation Awards WDCAG 2005		\$135
WDCAG Travel Grant		
(\$300 to UVIC, UNBC, UofA)	\$900	
(\$100 to Malaspina, CNC, and UBCO)	\$300	
(\$278.09 to UofL)	\$278.09	
		\$1,613.09

Balance as of March 11, 2005	\$6,437.28
------------------------------	------------

Note 1- The decrease in the travel grant to UofL was due to internal accounting procedures (lack of receipts).

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Coburn