



**NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN
GEOMORPHOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP**

**BULLETIN DU GROUPE CANADIEN DE
RECHERCHE EN GEOMORPHOLOGIE**

Number 15

March 2002

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - MOT DU PRÉSIDENT

Dear geomorphologists,

I am happy to finally have found the time to write this column. Here are several points, in no particular order, that I would like to raise.

Past and upcoming meetings:

As most of you know, the CGRG has held its annual meeting last June at McGill University in conjunction with the Canadian Association of Geographers. The meeting has showcased advances in Canadian geomorphology and has focused on process studies. Bill Nickling (Guelph), Rorke Bryan (Toronto) and Rob Ferguson (Sheffield) were invited as keynote speakers to put into perspective recent research on eolian, hillslope and fluvial processes. In all, 37 papers anchored by the keynote presentations were presented. A field trip organised by Pascale Biron (Concordia University) and Michel Lapointe (McGill University) took the delegates to several sites in Southeastern Québec where stream restoration projects are under way. The meeting was very well attended and student participation was excellent. It has been a real success which showed again that we are a lively group of scientists.

CGRG will meet next May in Saskatoon as part of the GAC-MAC meeting. The program will again be strong and lively with a pre-conference field trip, a special session on Great Plains geomorphology and environmental change and regular sessions on process geomorphology, Quaternary studies and techniques in

geomorphology. Steve Wolfe and Alec Aitken have put a lot of time and energy into the preparation of the scientific and social programs. Other activities that are part of the GAC meeting are also of interest to our group. Of note are the special sessions organised by the IGCP 449 on Global correlation of late Cenozoic fluvial deposits. It is important that we attend the meeting and have a good gathering in Saskatoon. I encourage you to put Saskatoon on your agenda.

A student award:

For the first time in Saskatoon, the CGRG will present an award for the best student presentation at the annual meeting. Both poster and oral presentations will be considered. The award will consist of a 250\$ money prize. The CGRG executive hopes that this annual award will help to recognize and to promote the excellence of the scientific contributions made by the students to the development of our discipline.

Items on the agenda at the annual meeting in Saskatoon:

I wish to draw the attention of our members on a few issues that will be discussed at the next CGRG general assembly. Firstly, CGRG needs to look into the question of its relationship with the Canadian Geophysical Union (CGU). Members of both groups have discussed informally the nature and intensity of the links that CGRG should maintain with CGU. The

question remains open to debate and opinions range from a limited and occasional bound when it is appropriate to a more formal recognition of CGU as a parent association of CGRG. It is important though that we clarify our position and we should take the opportunity of our next meeting to do so.

The second issue concerns the relationships between CGRG and the journal *Géographie physique et Quaternaire*. Several members have suggested that a more formal tie should exist in the form of a recognition of GpQ as the flagship journal of the CGRG. Is it timely, appropriate and beneficial for the CGRG to select a flagship journal? Is GpQ the journal that the CGRG should choose as a flagship journal? This needs to be explored and discussed fully.

Words of thanks:

On behalf of the CGRG and of myself personally, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to our colleague, Olav Slaymaker, for his dedicated and excellent work as president of the International Association of Geomorphology. Olav has demonstrated leadership and wisdom and has represented well Canadian geomorphology at the international level. His service to our scientific community is much appreciated and has left a strong imprint on the progression of our discipline here and abroad.

Visibility and impact of our discipline:

Here, I wish to express my personal views on the issue of visibility of our discipline. CGRG members produce a great deal of high quality science and contribute significantly to the advancement of knowledge in the earth sciences. Despite this important contribution, I sense that the community does not make as great an impact as it could or should. My past experience on the NSERC 09 Grant selection committee has convinced me even further of this state of affairs. Part of this feeling may be related to the dispersed nature of our association and to the fact that we rarely (if ever) have an occasion where most of us gather at once. After all, we

are not that numerous (although the number of members is on the rise!) and we do come from a number of different parent associations.

I do think, however, that there may be more to this impression than the result of an inevitable spatial and thematic dispersion. There is no question that the science that we do is of high standard. In my view, it is the way that we promote this science and the difficulty of viewing the broader picture that may be at stake here. The promotion of our science and of its results could come through its relevance for larger scientific issues. Perhaps more importantly I would argue that an increased impact would need both a vision and innovative research designs that could connect our scientific activities at a national or international scale. This would allow geomorphologists to make major breakthroughs. Our research effort is somewhat scattered at the moment and there is a need to focus it. I believe that we need to develop research strategies at the national scale that would foster collaboration and major infrastructure development. Some of this is probably on its way of being developed but we need to pick up the pace as other disciplines do take the lead.

In view of the funding opportunities that have arisen in recent years, I believe that it is time that major initiatives centred on geomorphology be launched. Geomorphologists are often asked to contribute to research programs led by other scientists. Our expertise is widely recognised in environmental sciences. Furthermore several geomorphologists have been able to acquire major infrastructures and equipment through the Canadian Foundation For Innovation and other major programs. All these initiatives have enhanced our research capability but much effort must be put into consolidating this investment into a real impact at the national and international scales. In a way, we must be bolder than we have been in the past and geomorphologists must not be afraid to put their discipline ahead and to implement scientific ventures at the Canadian scale. For instance, major field and laboratory experiments on environmental changes and on the impact of

human activities on natural systems must be designed at the national scale in order to maximise the impact of our research. In other words, we must take the initiative and structure our scientific ideas at a larger scale.

In short, it is time that we think big!

Final word:

Do not hesitate to contact me or other members of the executive on matters that are important to you. Your input is valuable to us.

I wish you all the best in your activities.

Chers amis géomorphologues,

je suis heureux de pouvoir enfin trouver le temps de vous parler. Voici dans aucun ordre en particulier quelques items que je soumetts à votre attention pour information et discussion.

Congrès annuels de Montréal et de Saskatoon :

Comme vous le savez probablement déjà, le dernier congrès annuel s'est tenu en juin dernier à Montréal dans le cadre du Congrès de l'Association canadienne des géographes. La rencontre portait sur l'avancement de la recherche en géomorphologie au Canada en insistant surtout sur les études de processus. Pour l'occasion, nous avons invité Bill Nickling (Guelph University), Rorke Bryan (University of Toronto) and Rob Ferguson (University of Sheffield) à mettre en contexte les avancées récentes en géomorphologie sur les processus éoliens, la dynamique des versants et la modélisation numérique des écoulements fluviaux. Autour de ces trois présentations, ont gravité 37 exposés. Une excursion organisée par Pascale Biron (Université Concordia) et Michel Lapointe (Université McGill) a permis aux délégués de visiter deux sites où l'on procède à des travaux de réhabilitation des cours d'eau. La participation aux activités du congrès a été excellente et plusieurs séances se sont tenues devant des auditoires dépassant 70 personnes. La contribution étudiante, tant en nombre qu'en qualité, a été remarquable. Le congrès a connu un

succès important, à la mesure du dynamisme de notre Groupe.

Le CGRG se rencontrera en Mai prochain à Saskatoon dans le cadre du congrès de l'AGC-AMC. Le programme est solide et il comporte une excursion, une séance spéciale sur la géomorphologie et les changements environnementaux des Grandes Plaines et des séances régulières sur les processus géomorphologiques, les études du Quaternaire et les techniques en géomorphologie. Plus de 50 présentations sont prévues à l'horaire. Steve Wolfe et Alec Aitken ont investi beaucoup d'énergie et de temps dans la préparation du programme scientifique et social de la réunion du GCRG. Je les en remercie. D'autres activités de l'AGC sont aussi intéressantes pour les géomorphologues, notamment les séances spéciales organisées par IGCP 449 sur les corrélations globales des sédiments fluviaux de la fin du Cénozoïque. Je vous encourage fortement à venir à Saskatoon et à participer aux activités du congrès.

Prix étudiant :

Pour la première fois à Saskatoon, le GCRG remettra un prix pour la meilleure présentation étudiante lors du congrès annuel. Les présentations sous forme d'affiche et les exposés oraux seront considérés. Le prix consiste en un montant de 250\$. Le GCRG espère ainsi souligner et rendre plus visible l'excellence des travaux réalisés par les étudiants dans notre discipline.

Sujets de discussion à Saskatoon :

Plusieurs points importants seront discutés à l'assemblée générale annuelle qui se tiendra à Saskatoon. Premièrement, le GCRG doit examiner ses liens avec l'Union géophysique canadienne (UGC). Les membres de ces deux associations ont échangé de manière informelle sur la nature et l'intensité des liens que doivent maintenir le GCRG et l'UGC. La question demeure ouverte et les opinions se situent entre le maintien de liens occasionnels entre les deux associations à une reconnaissance formelle de

l'UCG comme une association qui parraine le GCRG. Il est nécessaire de clarifier notre position lors de la prochaine rencontre annuelle.

Le deuxième point concerne les liens entre le GCRG et la revue *Géographie physique et Quaternaire*. Plusieurs d'entre vous ont proposé qu'un lien formel devrait exister entre les deux entités et que *GpQ* pourrait être reconnue comme la revue-étendard de notre groupe. Est-ce qu'un tel lien est avantageux pour les membres du GCRG? Une autre revue serait-elle plus appropriée comme revue-étendard? Ces questions doivent faire l'objet d'une discussion approfondie de la part des membres afin que l'on puisse prendre les mesures appropriées le cas échéant.

Remerciements :

Au nom de notre groupe et en mon nom personnel, je remercie notre collègue, Olav Slaymaker, pour son excellent travail et son dévouement en tant que président de l'Association internationale de géomorphologie. Olav a fait preuve d'un excellent leadership et de sagesse dans ses fonctions et il a brillamment représenté la géomorphologie canadienne à l'échelle internationale. Toute notre communauté scientifique a apprécié son implication. Son impact sur la discipline, ici et à l'étranger, sera durable et profond. Merci Olav!

Visibilité et impact de notre discipline :

J'aimerais vous exprimer mes vues personnelles sur la visibilité qu'a notre discipline. Les membres du GCRG sont des scientifiques de haut niveau qui produisent des résultats de recherche originaux, importants et utiles et qui, de ce fait, participent de façon active à l'avancement des connaissances en sciences de la terre. Ceci est connu. Mais en dépit de cette importante contribution, je constate que notre communauté n'a pas un impact aussi grand que ce qu'elle pourrait ou devrait avoir. Cette constatation s'explique en partie par la dispersion de nos membres à travers les associations qui parrainent le GCRG et par le fait que l'on a peu souvent l'occasion de se

rencontrer tous ensemble. Après tout, il est vrai que nous ne sommes pas si nombreux (bien que notre nombre de membres ait augmenté substantiellement récemment!) et qu'il est parfois difficile de sentir que nous pouvons avoir un impact.

Je crois cependant qu'il y a plus dans ce manque apparent de visibilité qu'un effet de notre dispersion spatiale et thématique. Il est clair que la science que nous faisons est pertinente et de haut niveau et que par elle-même elle devrait avoir un impact. Ce sont peut-être la façon de promouvoir notre science et la difficulté de voir grand qui sont en cause ici. Une façon d'accroître notre impact serait de mettre de l'avant une vision et des protocoles de recherche innovateurs qui regrouperaient nos efforts de recherche à l'échelle nationale et internationale. Notre recherche même si elle est faite de plus en plus en équipe est dispersée et il est peut-être temps de lui donner une structure et des objectifs communs. Je crois qu'il est nécessaire de mettre en place des stratégies de recherche en géomorphologie à l'échelle pancanadienne ce qui stimulera la collaboration entre chercheurs et permettra de développer des infrastructures majeures de recherche. Des initiatives en ce sens ont déjà cours mais il est temps d'accélérer le processus.

Compte tenu des fonds importants qui sont actuellement dédiés à la mise en place d'infrastructures de recherche, on se doit de lancer des projets majeurs axés sur la géomorphologie. En tant que géomorphologues, nous sommes souvent appelés à contribuer à des programmes de recherche dirigés par des scientifiques de disciplines connexes. Ceci est une reconnaissance explicite de l'apport important que nous amenons à l'avancement des sciences. De plus, plusieurs d'entre nous ont bénéficié de fonds pour la mise en place d'infrastructures novatrices de recherche. Ceci accroît sûrement notre potentiel en recherche. On doit maintenant s'assurer que ces initiatives débouchent sur des réalisations substantielles et à fort impact. En un sens, je crois que nous devons être plus audacieux et que nous ne devons pas hésiter à mettre notre science de

l'avant. Il est temps d'envisager la mise sur pied de programmes majeurs de recherche sur les changements globaux de l'environnement ou sur les impacts humains sur les systèmes morphogénétiques. Ces programmes reposeraient sur des travaux de terrain et de laboratoire déployés à l'échelle nationale. En d'autres termes, nous devons prendre l'initiative et structurer notre recherche scientifique à grande échelle.

Bref, il est temps de voir grand!

Mot final :

N'hésitez pas à contacter votre président et votre exécutif si vous souhaitez discuter des sujets qui vous tiennent à cœur. Votre input est important pour nous.

Au plaisir de vous rencontrer bientôt,

André Roy

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Membership has remained constant at about 140 members over the years, although individuals come and go. We have fairly good representation from industry, government, and university faculty and students. For 2001, revenue from memberships was \$2706, and expenses were \$2243.

How to reach us: You are encouraged to contact any of the executive about newsletter items at the addresses shown at the end of the newsletter, or by Email. Newsletter items should ultimately be sent to Lynda Dredge or Yves Michaud.

Lynda Dredge

NOTE FROM GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Shirley McCuaig joined the Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador this spring as a project geologist in the Terrain Sciences section. She spent a successful first field season in southern Labrador on a mapping - till geochemistry project, and will be a valuable addition to the Survey's mapping programmes.



Dave Liverman

IAG REPORT

Slymaker will become Past President of IAG after the August 2001 meeting in Japan. Past President is a non-elected position on the IAG executive and would allow the potential election of a Canadian candidate to an IAG executive position. (Only one representative from any

country may hold elected office on the IAG executive). Possible candidates must be nominated by July 20th so suggestions to Andre Roy must arrive before July 15th. The meeting endorsed the executive's selection of Alan Trenhaile (Windsor) as CGRG Delegate to the

next IAG meeting. The delegate will have to vote on a number of significant issues at the general assembly and will consult with Slaymaker and the IAG executive on these matters.

Olav Slaymaker
President of IAG.

ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Registration for Professional Geoscientists in Ontario has begun in November 2001. The regulations have been issued in the Ontario Gazette for 13 October.

Professional Geoscientists as soon as possible. But if you are a paid up member, you will receive a package in the mail.

Ontario geoscientists wishing to register should contact the Association of

Chris Burn

THE J. ROSS MACKAY AWARD

The J Ross MacKay award is to be presented annually by the CGRG in recognition of a significant achievement by a young geomorphologist within Canada. The purpose of the award is to foster the development of geomorphology in Canada and to provide recognition of young scientists in this field.

- a member of one of the following: CGRG, AAQUA, CAG, CANQUA, or GAC.
- a Canadian citizen or resident working in Canada.
- within 12 years of graduation from a Ph.D., Masters or undergraduate program, OR under the age of 40 on December 31 of the year of the award.

This years deadline for nominations is November 19, 2001. Please forward nominations to the committee chair:

Dr. Joe Desloges
desloges@geog.utoronto.ca

NOMINATION

Nominations are to be made in a letter to the Chair of the Award Committee signed by two members of the CGRG. The letter of support should first identify the nominees' contribution in a concise statement. The reasons why the contribution is considered significant should then be given. Nominations should be accompanied by a current c.v. and five (5) copies of a publication or part of a publication presenting the contribution.

An award made this year will be presented at the Annual General Meeting of CGRG at the joint CGRG-GAC/MAC conference in Saskatoon.

Nomination criteria can be found both below and at: <http://cgrg.geog.uvic.ca/jrm1.htm>

CRITERIA

1. The award is to be given for a significant contribution to geomorphology, which may be a synthesis or a regional study, a new concept, a significant advance in a subfield of geomorphology, or the development of a technique.
2. Recipients of the award must be:

Joseph R. Desloges, Associate Professor and Chair
Dept of Geography and Program in Planning
University of Toronto, 100 St. George St.
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phone: office 416-978-4977, lab: 416-978-5234;
fax: 416-978-6729
desloges@cirque.geog.utoronto.ca

UPCOMING MEETINGS

CGRG Annual Meeting

Canadian Geomorphology Research Group (CGRG) will holding its annual meeting in conjunction with the Geological Association of Canada (GAC-MAC 2002) in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. May 26-29, 2002

Sessions:

1) General Geomorphology Session:

Presentations in the general session will be arranged into sub-disciplines, as follows:

- Process Geomorphology
- Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology
- Techniques in Geomorphology (modelling; GIS; remote sensing; field and lab techniques)

2) Special Session SS2:

Great Plains Geomorphology and Environmental Change Sponsored by IGCP 413; CGRG and GSC. **Keynote speaker:** David S.G.Thomas. Sheffield Centre for International Dryland Research.

Presentations in eolian, slope and fluvial processes, various proxy records of environmental change, and insights gained from geoarchaeology. The session will focus primarily on northern Great Plains issues, but contributions from the Central and Southern Great Plains are strongly encouraged. The session will include both oral and poster presentations.

Other Activities:

1) Field Trip A4: Holocene Geomorphology and Environmental Change in south-central Saskatchewan.

A two-day field trip examining geomorphological features in the Saskatoon area. The trip will include visits to active and stabilized sand dunes at Pike Lake and Douglas Provincial Park, glacial features such as

recessional and hummocky moraines, spillways (Blackstrap and Last Mountain Lakes), Glacial Lake Saskatchewan basin, cliff-top dunes and mass wasting along the South Saskatchewan River and Lake Diefenbaker. The field trip will include an over-night stop at at Manitou Springs Resort to take in the "Healing Waters" and a lively discussion of salt-lakes.

Preview the Field Trip tour at the following web-site, courtesy Jeff Ollerhead, Mount Allison University:

http://www.mta.ca/~jollerhe/trip_a4/trip_a4.html

*Estimated cost of \$240 CDN will include taxes, meals, transportation, accommodation and guidebook. Field trip commences and ends in Saskatoon.

2) Wanuskewin Ice-breaker:

Friday evening (May 24) at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, including dinner and self-guided tour of the archaeological site.

Conference Information:

General information regarding the GAC Annual Meeting may be found at:

<http://www.usask.ca/geology/sask2002>

Information regarding abstract submissions may be found at:

<http://www.usask.ca/geology/sask2002/abstracts.html>

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Email: swolfe@gsc.nrcan.gc.ca

CALENDAR

2002

9th International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG), "Engineering Geology for Developing Countries"

September 16-20, 2002

Durban, South Africa

Information: The Technical Committee, 9th IAEG Congress, P.O. Box 1283, Westville 3630 South Africa.

SEG 2002 International Exposition and 72nd Annual Meeting,

October 6-11, 2002

Salt Lake City, Utah

Information: Dr. Mike Powers Technical Program Chairman

<http://meeting.seg.org/>

55th Canadian Geotechnical Conference and the 3rd Joint IAH-CNC/CGS Conference to be held Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. The Theme of the Conference is:

GROUND AND WATER: THEORY TO PRACTICE.

October 20-23, 2002

Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada Sheraton Fallsview Hotel.

Information: Andrew Piggott National Water Research andrew.piggott@cciw.ca

Hydrologic Extremes: Challenges for Science and Management,

Oct 13-17,

Sheraton Portland Hotel, Portland,

Information: Helen Klose,

AIHydro@aol.com

Web: <http://www.aihydro.org>

2003

XVI INQUA Congress "Shaping the Earth: A Quaternary Perspective.",

July 23 - 31, 2003

Reno Hilton Resort & Conference Center
Reno, Nevada USA

Information: Ms. M. Jones Division of Hydrologic Sciences Desert Research Institute

Email: inqua03@dri.edu

CANQUA 2003

June 8-11, 2003

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Information: Dr. Ralph Stea

rrstea@gov.ns.ca

Third International Conference on Debris-Flow Hazards Mitigation: Mechanics, Prediction, and Assessment,

Davos, Switzerland.

September 10-12,

Information: Dieter Rickenmann, Swiss Federal Research

DFC3_Inf@wsl.ch.

GSA Annual Meeting,

Seattle, Washington.

November 2-5, 2003

Information: GSA Meetings, (303) 447-2020.

3rd International Limnogeology Congress, Presidio Plaza Hotel, Tucson, AZ, USA

Mar 29-Apr 02, 2003

Information: Andrew Cohen,

acohen@geo.arizona.edu

2004

AQUA and CGRG meeting

Quebec City

Information: Michel Allard

LINKS TO WEBSITES

2001 FRIENDS OF THE PLEISTOCENE FIELD TRIPS (see AMQUA website for up-to-date information on Friends trips:

<http://vishnu.glg.nau.edu/amqua/>)

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|---|--|
| American Geophysical Union - http://earth.agu.org/kosmos/homepage.html | International Association of Geomorphologists http://www.homepage.montana.edu/~ueswl/geomorphlist/index.htm |
| Association of American Geographers - http://www.aag.org | International Association of Sedimentologists - http://www.blackwell-science.com/uk/society/ias |
| British Geomorphological Research Group - http://boris.qub.ac.uk/bgrg | International Union for Quaternary Research - http://inqua.nlh.no |
| European Union of Geosciences - http://eost.u-strasbg.fr/EUG | NSF – Geography and Regional Science - http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/bcs/geography/start.htm |
| Geological Society of America - http://www.geosociety.org | Quaternary Geology and Geomorphology Division – Geological Society of America - http://www.ocean.odu.edu |
| Geomorphology Speciality Group Homepage - http://www.cla.sc.edu/geog/gsgdocs | |

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE CGRG NEWSLETTERS

The CGRG newsletter is published twice annually. As with all such newsletters, its success is directly dependent on the contributions that we receive. CGRG welcomes contributions to future newsletters from any of our members. These should be of interest to the Canadian geomorphology community and could include discussions, commentaries, reviews of regional or national meetings and field trips, summaries of issues pertinent to geomorphology, and announcements of future meetings and workshops. Please forward your contributions to either: ldredge@nrcan.gc.ca, or ymichaud@nrcan.gc.ca

CGRG was established in 1993 at the International Association of Geomorphology Congress in Hamilton, Ontario. It provides a strong voice for geomorphology in Canada. Its objectives are to advance the science of geomorphology in Canada by 1) organizing and sponsoring technical sessions, workshops, and field trips, 2) publishing newsletters twice a year, 3) operating a listserver (CANGEORG) which maintains a comprehensive bibliography of Canadian geomorphological, Quaternary, and environmental geoscience publications, 4) supporting publication of technical reports and field guides, 5) presenting the J. Ross Mackay Award in recognition of a significant achievement by a young geomorphologist in Canada, and 6) cooperating with related earth science associations within Canada (GAC, AQQUA, CAG, CANQUA). We encourage all earth scientists with an interest in geomorphology to join CGRG

CGRG EXECUTIVE 2001-2002

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CANADIAN GEOMORPHOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

Registration Form

2000

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postal Code: _____

Phone numbers: (Home) _____ (office) _____

e-mail address: _____

Institution: _____

Annual dues: \$15

New member _____; membership renewal _____ *Please check one*

Student _____ Academic _____ Government _____ Industry _____ *Please check one*

Please make cheque or money order to the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group

(Photocopy application form as necessary)

Send completed form and cheque to: Lynda Dredge, Secretary-Treasurer CGRG, Geological Survey of Canada, 601 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0E8