ACMLA NEWS

CARTO-ACMLA/ACACC President's Report

It has been a strange year, somewhat unexpected that the world is still as it is, but we continue.

Thank you to this year’s executive: Daniel Brendle-Moczuk has served as a voice of experience as past president; Francine Berish, who volunteered to serve as secretary; Rosa Orlandini, who in concluding her term as VP Communications and Outreach; and Dan Jakubek for his work as Treasurer. Thank you to those who have stepped up or continued on as members of our executive, to Alex for his work as our webmaster, and for Sherri for her ongoing work managing membership.

In the summer of 2020, we – along with OCUL-GEO – were approached by Global Affairs Canada (GAC) about increasing researcher access to Radarsat Constellation Mission (RCM) data. This appeared to be a very interesting and beneficial partnership for researchers, and we kept the membership updated as things progressed. Unfortunately, it was felt that the requirements on GAC’s side would require too heavy an extra workload on library workers, and an inability to reach consensus led GAC to pursue a different direction for this access.

One of our new members, Kyla Jemison, expressed an interest in the Bibliographic Control Committee. This committee had not met in some time, and the expression resulted in some discussion among the executive, followed by a call for participants. With several volunteers, and Kyla’s leadership, the first meeting has occurred, and the terms of reference have been updated. We look forward to the new group developing its planned projects over the next year, updating ACMLA’s cataloguing and bibliographic information.

The conference this year came together wonderfully, thanks to the hard work of the organizing committee. When I called the executive together to discuss, we were uncertain whether anyone would want another virtual event, but the response suggested it would be worthwhile, and with more than 170 registrants, that has certainly proved that planning it was the right choice. Thank you to everyone to made it happen!

It has otherwise been a quiet year. We will be having a discussion shortly on membership types and costs. Some new members from various stages of their career have joined the association, and we remain a modest national association for geospatial information professionals who have met the changes and challenges of these times with poise and panache. Though we worry at times about membership, engagement, or the state of our careers, I think, on the whole, we continue to thrive.
As I noted in my incoming message last year: we cannot know where we are until we’re there. Thank you for having me as president this past year, and I look forward to continuing with the association in the years to come.

Martin Chandler

CARTO-ACMLA/ACACC Past President's Report

After more than a year of COVID-19 in Canada and throughout our world, we are not out of the COVID woods yet but getting close in Canada and hope for other parts of our world.

To begin, this report will not repeat or summarise the year 2020-2021 as that is contained within the President’s Report. However, a huge thank you to the Executive that stepped up at the CARTO (ACMLA/ACACC) virtual AGM in June 16, 2020. Martin Chandler (McGill) volunteered to be President and Rosa Orlandini, (York) continued to be VP Communications & Outreach. Francine Berish (Queens) volunteered to be Secretary. Dan Jakubek (Ryerson) continued on, or was stuck with, Treasurer for his 3-three year tenure. We thank Alex Guindon (Concordia) for his role as webmaster for the past two years and thank Eva Dodsworth (Waterloo), for recently volunteering to be our new webmaster along with her very important role of Editor of our Bulletin.

CARTO-ACMLA-ACACC Honours Award

This Past President received a nomination of Marcel Fortin for the CARTO-ACMLA-ACACC Honours Award from Cheryl Woods, (Honorary Member; Western, retired) and seconded by Richard Pinnell (Honorary Member; Waterloo, retired), and Colleen Beard, (Honorary Member; Brock, retired). With the newer CARTO model of a lean organisation, the Executive served as Awards Committee and was in unanimous agreement that the nominee Marcel Fortin should receive this award (see separate write-up for Marcel’s award).

No nominations were received for the CARTO-ACMLA-ACACC Cathy Moulder Paper Award. As per CARTO-ACMLA-ACACC Bylaws 8.01 & 8.02, emails were sent in March & April 2021 asking for 2-3 members in good standing to join the Nominating Committee to coordinate and carry out the 2021-2022 executive election. As in recent past years, no one volunteered so a call will be made for the Executive at the AGM2021 in June 2021. (This past-president personally communicated with some folks to consider serving.)

Respectfully submitted,
daniel Brendle-Moczuk, Past President, 2020-2021
**CARTO (ACMLA/ACACC) AGM 2021 Annual (Online) General Meeting**

Attendance (27 participants): Francine Berish, Sherri Sunstrum, Dan Jakubek, Martin Chandler, Andrew Cook, Alex Guindon, Barb Znamirowski, Andrew Nicholson, Cheryl Woods, Christine Homuth, daniel Brendle-Moczuk, Evan Thornberry, Leanne Trimble, Rhys Stevens, Roger Wheate, Wenonah vanHeyst, Zack MacDonald, Kara Handren, Sarah Rutley, Rene Duplain, Rosa Orlandini, Rebecca Bartlett, Sylvie St-Pierre, Erika Reinhardt, Rudolf Traichel, Meg Miller, David Jones

The Agenda

Approval: (moved) (seconded)

1. Honours Award Presentation
   a. Awarded to Marcel – daniel Brendle-Moczuk made presentation – Cheryl Woods spoke about work for the association and OCUL – Francine Berish, Dan Jakubek, Rosa Orlandini added their words
   b. Chat will be captured so we can send email to Marcel
      i. I am newer to CARTO-ACMLA and the GIS community, but Marcel has always made himself available when I've had questions and has been a great support. This recognition is well deserved! I know others - former mentees and collaborators of his at USask - would feel the same way as well.
         - Seconded
      ii. So happy to see Marcel receive this award! So well deserved!
      iii. Marcel has been my mentor since 2004. I didn’t know he was receiving this award today, but just want to say how deserving I think he is. I hope we can put together our comments into something (email?) we could share with him later
      iv. Marcel has been long time champion of Map and GIS Librarianship. He was a big part of my moving to UTM from Oregon!
   c. ACTION: Revisit at 2022 AGM when we’re able to gather again (Fran Moved – seconded Dan J)

2. Reports
   - President (delivered)
   - Past president (delivered)
     o Encouraging new members to step up to executive
   - Treasurer (delivered)
     o Reports presented
   - Approved (Wenonah VH, seconded Sherri S.)

3. AGM Executive & Webmaster volunteers
a. VP – Rene Duplain & Francine Berish stepped up
b. Webmaster – Alex G. stepping down Eva D. will be stepping up
c. Secretary – Zack MacDonald
d. Treasurer – Dan J. volunteering for another 3-year team
   i. Approved (Andrew N moved, DBM seconded)
e. President – Martin Chandler continuing on

4. Memberships
   a. A proposal to create a second membership type for those members not
      institutionally funded (including, but not limited to, students, technicians, and
      retirees), at a cost of $10.
      i. Retiree rate welcomed
      ii. Add under-employed category
      iii. 20$ proposed – seconded by Wenonah, Daniel Brendle-Moczuk, Evan
           Thornberry, Kara Handren, Dan Jakubek
      iv. Financial impact?
      v. We used to income from facsimiles and also had a SSHRC travel grant
         (2500$) and admin grant – disappeared during harper government
         - Connection grant requires at least 7000$ spending
         -
   b. ACTION pending research – will put out to 20$ to membership

5. Other business
   a. Next year – check in with UVic and Mun who had offered back at the AGM in
      2020

6. Adjournment

For reference, last year’s minutes:

https://openjournals.uwaterloo.ca/index.php/acmla/article/view/1901/2140
Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives Awards

ACMLA Honours Award: Marcel Fortin, University of Toronto

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](http://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.”**

**Historical GIS Research in Canada.**

**“The library as research partner and data creator: The Don Valley historical mapping project.”**

**“Putting Literacy into Geographic Information.”**

**“Nineteenth Century Canadian County Maps GIS Project.”**

**“Online GIS: Solutions for Dissemination of Geospatial Data in a Library Setting.”**


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


Nominator: Cheryl Woods
Seconders: Richard Pinnell, Colleen Beard
The 54th CARTO-ACMLA/ACACC conference, Old is New is Old, happened this year to great success, either because or in spite of the ongoing pandemic. With no set location, the executive was able to solicit volunteer organizers from members across the country, who worked hard to ensure the conference was smooth and educative for all. In something of a change from standard practice, the events took place in a restricted time frame of 2.5 hours per day over 3 days, scheduled to ensure accessibility for participants from the Atlantic to the Pacific time zones. This proved a popular schedule, particularly in a time of Zoom fatigue.

Feedback on the conference was exceptionally positive, and overall attendance was quite high, with more than 120 registrants overall. These included current and past members, as well as new individuals from around the world. Thank you to everyone who made the conference happen, and we look forward to seeing you next year! - Martin Chandler

Monday, June 14, 2021
Drones in Libraries: The Development of an Interdisciplinary Research Service Using Drones and 3D Modeling Technologies at Ryerson University Library

Dan Jakubek, Ryerson University

On June 1, 2019, new rules for flying a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) or “drone” in Canada came into effect, requiring drone pilot certification to operate any drone between 250 g and 25 kg. In response to new regulations and the needs of our researchers, the Ryerson Library has developed a research service dedicated to supporting the use of drones and 3D modelling
technologies. This presentation will highlight our progress to date, existing collaborations and future directions for our research and service.

**University of Manitoba GISHub: ESRI Site License Integration using ArcGIS Online, Hub, and Enterprise**

Meg Miller & Mullai Manickavalli, University of Manitoba

The University of Manitoba Libraries has been working to add a geospatial data repository to its suite of service offerings. Initially this project was conceived to be a secure local storage solution for geospatial data, but upon stepping back and looking at the tools we have access to under our ESRI site license the project was re-imagined to encompass the following:

1. Semi-automated management and integration of UM ESRI site license;
2. Discovery and access point for proprietary and open researcher data;

This session will discuss our experience and outcomes based on our roles as the project librarian and systems analyst and answer any questions the audience might have on implementation at their own institution.

**From Coast to Coast to Coast with NetCDF files**

daniel Brendle-Moczuk, University of Victoria

While the multidimensional open source NetCDF data file format has been around since c.1990s, some users, including geospatial librarians, are not familiar, and/or are frustrated with this data format. NetCDFs are used to store and disseminate data such as climatic, (climate modelling, precipitation, temperature, wind, etc) oceanic, (bathymetry, currents, temperature, etc) and usually in time series. This session will provide a brief overview of the history of NetCDFs, their changes over the years, and how to interact with NetCDFs within a GIS environment, specifically QGIS and ArcGIS. In addition researchers want to deposit their NetCDFs into data repositories. Finally, this session will highlight real life uses of various NetCDF data.

**Retrieving geographic information from historical Ottawa texts**

Rebecca Bartlett, Carleton University

The Ottawa Resource Collection in the Carleton University Library’s Archives & Special Collections contains rich details about the history of Ottawa locations, from specific buildings to entire neighbourhoods. The digitization of the collection introduced the possibility of facilitating local-area research by extracting those locations from the texts and linking corresponding geospatial data (such as latitude-longitude coordinates). Limitations with existing geoparsers led to the development of a geographic information retrieval tool for identifying and geolocating Ottawa locations, and successes and challenges will be discussed.
Mapping Loyalist Migrations

Liz Sutherland & Jordan Fuller, Western University

The American Revolution displaced approximately 60,000 people between 1775 and 1783. Loyalist Migrations (loyalistmigrations.ca) is a spatial history project that aims to digitize and visualize the journeys of these individuals in an interactive GIS dashboard, hosted on the project’s open data site. It is also an experiment in collaborative public history research and GIS data entry. The project is a partnership between the Huron Community History Centre, the Map and Data Centre at Western Libraries, and the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada (UELAC). The project team is drawing upon a variety of archival, scholarly, and genealogical sources, to visualize the scope and diversity of the migrations. In the years to come, we will provide new research and analysis based on this data.

This presentation will focus on the GIS components of Loyalist Migrations. From data cleaning (QA/QC) to data sharing (open data site and dashboard) and research collaboration (public survey).

A Shifting Landscape: A StoryMap of the 1993 Lemieux Landslide

René Duplain & Pierre Leblanc, Université d’Ottawa

In this StoryMap, we will explore the 1993 Lemieux landslide event and present complementary resources gathered by the University of Ottawa Library staff.

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Preserving Government Records and Canada’s Cartographic Heritage: The Role of the Archives

Erika Reinhardt, Library & Archives Canada

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) serves as the official repository of records of the Government of Canada, preserving and providing access to Canada’s documentary heritage for the benefit of present and future generations. To fulfill its mandate, LAC makes decisions about the archival and historical value of government records, including federal maps, cartographic records and geospatial data from federal institutions. When looking at the vast machinery of government, you may have wondered who decides which government records to preserve and which to dispose of. What considerations go into those decisions and how have these notions evolved over time. How has new and rapidly evolving technology created challenges for archives to preserve geospatial data? This presentation examines the role of archivists as influencers in the record lifecycle. It explains how archives interact with federal map and data creators, gives an overview of the Government Records Disposition Program and outlines the process for appraising, selecting and preserving Canada’s federal maps, cartographic materials and geospatial datasets. Understanding the role of the archives and the mechanics of records disposition benefits researchers searching and discovering geographic information and historical context behind government decision-making, surveying, mapping and data collection activities.
Mapping maps in map collections. The development and implementation of a shared print archive for Western Canadian topographic maps

COPPUL Span Phase 6 Working Group

In this lightning talk, members of the COPPUL SPAN Phase 6 Working Group will speak to the process of evaluating and considering maps for shared print programs (SPPs). The group will explore how maps, compiled drawn and printed, contents deposited and containers configured within libraries and archives could be drawn into new projects aimed at their coordinated preservation and long-term access.

The Council of Prairie and Pacific Libraries' (COPPUL) Shared Print Archive Network (SPAN) aims to develop and maintain a decentralized shared print archive across its 22 participating libraries. SPAN is currently developing Phase 6: Western Canadian maps. Because of the unique nature of map collections within academic libraries, a working group of COPPUL librarians familiar with cartographic materials was struck to develop and oversee this phase. The working group will be responsible for defining the parameters of the phase, identifying materials for inclusion, and developing procedures for inventory.

Copyright in Fire Insurance Plans

Jean Dryden

The fire insurance plans preserved in Canadian repositories are among the most valuable records documenting the development of Canada’s communities during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. However, for nearly three decades, making copies for researchers and (more recently) digitizing for online access, has been subject to a copyright “chill” as a result of the copyright claims of the companies that created these plans and their successors. This presentation establishes their current term of copyright protection, explores the extent to which the copyright concerns are justified, and offers possible solutions.

Using GIS to develop a vaccine pharmacy locator app to support COVID-19 vaccine distribution in Ontario

Carina Luo, University of Windsor

The spread of infectious disease is inherently a spatial process; therefore, geographic information system (GIS) technologies are playing a critical role in understanding and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, web-based mapping applications have been developed by organizations around the world to support the dissemination and provision of information on COVID-19. Inspired by those common efforts against pandemic, a GIS web application was developed by the Geospatial Data Analyst at Leddy Library, University of Windsor to help Ontario residents to locate COVID-19 vaccine pharmacy providers close to them. The app allows users to search for an address or click on the map to view pharmacies within a specified search radius, along with their detailed information including addresses, phone numbers, operating hours, and
website links. Users also have the option to overlay the locations of vaccine pharmacies with the distributions of target population groups at the neighbourhood level to see if there are any service gaps that may help improve the vaccine distribution planning and implementation. The presentation will demonstrate the main features of the app and discuss the potential role of academic libraries can play in supporting the local community as well as the opportunities they encountered during pandemic.

**Mapping at scale: Putting McMaster's community-engaged research on the map with collaboration and shared infrastructure**

Jay Brodeur, Christine Homuth & Leora Sas van der Linden, McMaster University

For those working in libraries and archives, some of the most exciting and rewarding work involves collaborating with campus partners to perform new analyses, create new visualizations, and develop new systems and services. At the same time, building new things also prompts an assortment of questions around how to (and who should) scale and sustain them into the future. Given their long history of stewarding information, linking systems, and providing services, academic libraries and archives are well-suited to occupy the nexus of these two interests and help develop novel but robust, maintainable solutions.

In late 2019, the McMaster University Library partnered with the Faculty of Social Sciences on a project to highlight and visualize the community-engaged research work of Social Science faculty members at local, regional, and international scales. Over the following year, the project team collaborated to build systems and workflows to collect these activities as structured data in McMaster’s Research Information Management System and dynamically populate an ArcGIS Story Map that disseminates this information to audiences within and beyond the university. By offering their subject matter and systems expertise, the Library helped the Faculty of Social Sciences realize its goals, while developing the underlying workflows and infrastructure that is scalable and sustainable in the long-term.

In this talk, we will provide an overview of our collaborative work to map community-engaged research activities within the Faculty of Social Sciences, and reflect on the role of the Library to facilitate and steward these kinds of projects.

**Building a virtual lab: connecting students to Carleton's map & GIS collection**

Meaghan Kenny, Mike Reynolds & Sherri Sunstrum, Carleton University

Carleton Library's map and gis specialists provide both reference and instructional services related to the cartographic collection, in both print and digital formats. Each term we go into the classroom to demo GIS software and show students how to access geospatial data; we also invite classes into the map library, to learn about print maps and how to use them in research. Our maps and GIS services are widely used by student and faculty alike, in many disciplines. In January 2021, we were approached by a Geomatics faculty member to provide a map and GIS lab, that we would normally present in person. Due to other commitments, the lab would have to be given asynchronously. This would be our first asynchronous virtual map/GIS lab.
This presentation will show what worked, what did not work as well and lessons learned from those challenges. Meaghan Kenny will discuss her experience pre-recording the GIS component. Sherri will discuss the process of building a virtual lab with print maps; part of that process involved bringing in Mike Reynolds, the library's communication officer and videographer extraordinaire, who will discuss his experience with recording and editing the map lab video.

**Wednesday, June 16, 2021**

**Land Information Ontario Imagery Acquisition Program Updates**

**Bryce Matthews**, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

This presentation will provide a detailed update on recent and upcoming high resolution imagery acquisitions by Land Information Ontario as well as recent activities in the program implemented to improve data access.

**Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources Forestry, Provincial Mapping Unit Elevation Project Update**

**Craig Onafychuk**, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

This presentation will provide a detailed update on recent and upcoming high resolution and high quality elevation acquisitions by the Provincial Mapping Unit of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and an overview of data discovery and access mechanisms from Ontario GeoHub.

**Scholars GeoPortal and LIO: Supporting the dissemination and archiving of provincial imagery products in Ontario university libraries**

**Kara Handren & Amber Leahey**, University of Toronto

Scholars GeoPortal (https://geo.scholarsportal.info) is a province-wide geospatial data repository maintained by Ontario academic university libraries. Built in 2012 and developed and hosted at Scholars Portal (Ontario Council of University Libraries), the GeoPortal’s collections include provincially licensed imagery data from the Ministry of Natural Resources via Land Information Ontario. Through the GeoPortal, researchers across Ontario academic institutions can access and download hundreds of thousands of individual image tiles from over 106 MNR image services spanning 20 years. As this data becomes increasingly in demand and grows in size and complexity, developing new processes and workflows to ensure continued, effective access remains essential. With the GeoPortal embarking on a redevelopment, this unique relationship between Ontario University libraries and LIO will also play a central role in considerations for the future. This presentation will discuss this relationship, recent infrastructure developments to support big data transfers, as well as current redevelopment considerations and data management strategies at Scholars Portal for the archiving and dissemination of large-volume imagery series.