



## **CAGONT Annual Report 2009**

The annual meeting was a grand success! The Friday evening Ice Breaker was attended by approximately 60 students and faculty and was opened by Amrita Daniere, Chair of U of T Mississauga and she thanked the organising committee of including Ron Buliung and Sabrina Ferrari and welcomed everyone. She then introduced Dr. Gage Averill, Dean of U of T Mississauga, and thanked his office for his financial and moral support for the conference. Dr. Averill, an ethnomusicologist, gave a wonderful welcome and made a strong argument supporting his view that Geography and its sister discipline Cartography are important in every aspect of society today and he feels that Geography and Cartography are as important to academia today as Philosophy was to intellectual thought of the past!

After the Ice Breaker, a cultural field trip ensued led by Carolyn Winsborough, of U of T M, that included sampling Irish music, various types of liquid amber nectar and much participant observation of applied ethnographic studies - CAGONT geographers work and work and some worked so much after the Ice Breaker during this field trip that they had no time to sleep Friday night.

The Conference began Saturday morning with a plenary session by Dr. Ken Jones, Dean, Faculty of Business, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University entitled "From Power Centre to Lifestyle Centre: The Next Wave?" His talk drew a standing room crowd and was very well received.

CAGONT 2009 broke the existing attendance record with 191 persons registering, consisting of: 121 graduate students; 39 undergraduates; 22 professors/professional members; and 9 others! There were more than 70 papers and 24 posters presented. More than half the posters and over one third of the presentations focused on physical geography topics. This was a wonderful showing by physical geography graduate students.

The recipients of the graduate and undergraduate essay competition respectively were:

**Carolyn Winsborough**, Ph. D. student, Geography, University of Toronto Mississauga, for her paper, "Fungal and Bacterial Activity in Northern Peatlands".

**Ritika Chaudhary**, Geography, University of Toronto Mississauga, "Lake Nyos Eruption of 1986: Potential for another gas release and the assessment of risk management".

The recipient of the 2009 Service to Ontario Geography Award was Dr. John Clarke recently retired from the Department of Geography at Carleton University. The following has been selected from his letter of nomination for those who might not happen to know of him or his work:

"Dr. Clarke has dedicated more than 40 years to understanding the historical, cultural and economic geography of Ontario. His research has been both meticulous and thorough, and the fruit of his career-long program of research is a trilogy of books that recreates life in what is now southwest Ontario. Land, Power and Economics on the Frontier of Upper Canada was released in 2000 and won the AAG's prestigious Meridian Award for Outstanding Scholarly Work in Geography. Ordinary People of Essex: Culture, Environment and Economy on the Frontier of Upper Canada: 1788-1841 is in press. The final instalment of the trilogy, Oligarchy and Land in Upper Canada, will be completed in mid-2010.

Dr. Clarke's dedication to research has been matched by his commitment to teaching. He taught entry level and core courses in the Department for over 30 years. He played a major role in the development of these gateway courses during the "foundation years" of Carleton's Department of Geography, and he encouraged many students to major in geography and eventually pursue graduate studies. He was the "geographer's geographer"...[and] also supervised 42 BA Honours and MA students who prepared research theses that addressed aspects of the historical geography of Ontario."

Dr. Wayne Forsythe of Ryerson University was elected as the incoming VP for CAGONT and will serve a three year term beginning immediately. Dr. William Crumplin, CAGONT President, thanked Dr. Marilynne Jollineau for her dedication and hard work for the last 5 years. He also stated that his second term as President expires in 2010 and asked people to consider volunteering or nominating someone at next year's annual meeting.

Again the program that contributed the largest number of CAGONT registrants was the joint Waterloo-Wilfrid Laurier grad program with about 40 persons. Dr. Jean Andrey of Waterloo has been a long time supporter of CAGONT and is one of the faculty who spearheads this attendance. Of note this year was a group of 23 3rd and 4th year undergraduate students from Laurentian University who make the trek in a convoy of 4 vehicles from Sudbury to Mississauga. Dr. Nicole Yantzi of Laurentian University was instrumental in encouraging so many undergraduate students to attend and 5 or 6 indicated that they are now serious about pursuing grad studies in the next year or two.

Bill Crumplin  
President, CAGONT  
and  
Department of Geography  
Laurentian University