

Annual report – 2019

Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers

The primary annual activity of the Division was the annual conference. The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Prairie Division, Canadian Association of Geographers (PCAG) was held Sept. 28 to 30, 2018, at the Lakeview Hecla Resort, Hecla-Grindstone Provincial Park, MB. The meeting was hosted by the University of Manitoba, with financial support from the Department of Environment and Geography, the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, and the U of M Travel and Conference Sponsorship Program. The conference attracted a total of 77 attendees (29 of them students), with 19 more guests accompanying registrants to the banquet. There were 31 oral paper presentations (17 by students) across 7 concurrent sessions Saturday morning, plus 9 poster presentations (6 by students). Two field trips were held Saturday afternoon – a physical geography field trip, led by Dr. Heather Hinam, visited several sites of interest around Hecla Island, while Manitoba Parks Interpreter David Hems led a group on a walking tour through historic Hecla Village. The evening banquet included an entertaining and informative keynote address given by Dr. Genevieve Ali, from U of M's Department of Geological Sciences, entitled "Failure to reduce nutrient loading to Lake Winnipeg? Understanding the role of water connectivity and legacy contamination." The evening concluded with the Division's traditional "Great Canadian Geographical Slide Competition".

This year, two Division awards were presented. The John H. Warkentin Award for Scholarly Contributions to the Geography of the Western Interior was awarded to Professor Emeritus Dr. Rod McGinn, Brandon University. The award recognizes his "lifetime of work ... exploring the complex physical geography of western Manitoba ... He is regarded as *the* expert on the glacial geomorphology of western Manitoba." The Prairie CAG Early Career Award was presented to Dr. Rachel Herron, also of Brandon University. Dr. Herron is noted as being "one of the leading early-career health geographers in Canada. She has already gained international recognition for her original, high quality and impactful scholarship on rural dementia care." In 2018, she was appointed to a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Rural and Remote Mental Health at Brandon University. Congratulations to both award winners!

The Division also reminds the community that the latest edition, Volume 20, of *Prairie Perspectives: Geographical Essays* is now available (along with all previous ones) for download on the Division's website (<http://pcag.uwinnipeg.ca>). The journal is fully peer reviewed and open access. Readers may be interested to know that a new feature – "Across the Division" – has been added to the journal as a means of communicating noteworthy events and announcements from member institutions for the previous year.

The upcoming Annual Meeting for 2019 will be hosted in the fall by Brandon University, location TBA.

Respectfully submitted,



Derrek Eberts, President, Prairie Division, Canadian Association of Geographers