

Atlantic Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (ACAG)

Annual Division Report

The 34th annual ACAG conference and AGM was hosted by Mat Novak, Peter Bush, and others at Saint Mary's University, November 20-21, 2025. The conference was fully online, as has been our practice for the past several years for our geographically dispersed division. This format allows us to be inclusive of members who are unable to travel for the conference, and allows us to have free registration, as there are no meeting costs beyond presentation paper awards, moving us towards increasing equity and inclusivity in our division. The keynote speaker was **Dr. Amber Silver** (University of Albany, New York) who spoke on "*Hazardous Weather in Atlantic Canada: Public Perceptions and Responses*". We had 49 registrants, with 27 speakers participating over two days.

Three students were recognized for their presentations at the conference:

- Student Lightning Round Competition - **Jane Heeney, Saint Mary's University**. Fences in the Sand: Exploring the impacts of a wild horse population on the ecomorphodynamics of coastal sand dunes on Sable Island, Nova Scotia.
- 1st Place Student Presentation - **Graydon Gilles, Memorial University of Newfoundland**. Masting is associated with smaller range sizes but does not predict range shift velocities
- 2nd place Student Presentation (Founders Award) - **Megan O'Brien, Saint Mary's University**. Improving the prediction of old-growth forest with GIS and remote sensing techniques for Nova Scotia

At our annual general meeting, we had the unusual circumstance of all board members reaching the end of their terms. I am grateful for the service of Mathew Novak (SMU), ACAG Secretary-Treasurer (2022-2025); Dr. Josh Lepawsky (MUNL), Member-at-Large (2022-2025); Dr. Dave Lieske (MTA), ACAG Member-at-Large (2022-2025), Mr. Johnathan Carter (NB), Member-at-Large, and Mr. Joshua Barrett (UGuelph but based at MUNL), Member-at-Large during my term as President.

The newly elected board is:

President: Dr. Peter Bush

Secretary/Treasurer: Mat Novak, Saint Mary's University

Members at Large: Carissa Brown (Memorial University), David Lieske (Mount Allison), Araby Smith (Mount Allison)

Student representatives: Lily Binney (Saint Mary's University), Ava Gould (Saint Mary's University), Anna Macdonald (Dalhousie University), Bethany Poltl (Dalhousie University)

Finally, our next annual meeting will be hosted online by the Department of Geography at Memorial University.

~**Carissa Brown, Memorial University, ACAG (Past) President**

26 February 2026