

## Atlantic Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (ACAG)

### Annual Division Report

The ACAG Executive membership consists of: Dr. Carissa Brown (MUNL, ACAG President (2022-2025); Dr. 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, Mr. Joshua Barrett (UGuelph but based at MUNL), Member-at-Large, and Miranda Frison, student-representative (2022-2024).

ACAG members were well represented at this year's annual CAG conference, in large part because of its location in St. John's, NL. ACAG President Carissa Brown co-organized the meeting with member Arn Keeling and the LOC, and ACAG officially hosted the Poster Session at the annual conference. Almost all Executive members participated in the conference.

Our annual ACAG conference and AGM was hosted by David Lieske and others at Mount Allison University, November 21-22, 2024. 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 **Professor Larry Swatuk** (University of Waterloo) who spoke on "Opportunities and limitations of policy levers as a means to manage environmental resources: Reflections from 4 decades of direct engagement with water policy in Southern Africa".

Three students were recognized for their presentations at the conference:

- Student Lightning Round Competition - **Megan O'Brien (Saint Mary's University)**
- 1st Place Student Presentation - **Amy Frost Wicks (Memorial University)**
- 2nd place Student Presentation - **Riley Cotter (Memorial University)**

We also awarded the **Stuart Semple Award for Contributions to Geographic Education** to geographer **James Boxall** (please see full nomination below). We were pleased to have Stuart Semple in attendance as nominator Hugh Millward presented the award, and James Boxall present to share his reflections as a geographer in Atlantic Canada.

Finally, we have migrated our division website to the CAG server, led by David Lieske and with the gracious help of Philip Thibault. Our new address is: <https://www.cag-acg.ca/acag-welcome>. Many thanks to our long-serving webmaster Philip Giles at Saint Mary's University for his years of service keeping the website updated until now.

Carissa Brown, Memorial University

ACAG President

31 Jan. 2025

## **James Boxall Nomination:**

James Boxall (FRGS FRCGS) is an ideal candidate for the Stuart Semple Award, and I am pleased to nominate him. For over 30 years he has been a tireless champion of geographic education, and for geographic educators. He has been a long-time supporter of ACAG, but ACAG members may be surprised to know the breadth and depth of his service to geographic education. His impact has been felt provincially, regionally, nationally, and internationally, and has been recognised by national and international institutions.

James is the Geographer and Map Curator in the GIS Centre, which is part of the Dalhousie University Libraries. As well as being an Adjunct in the Marine Affairs Program (MAP), he holds a Lecturer appointment in Earth and Environmental Sciences. His interdisciplinary publications cover the fields of geography, mapping, GIS, digital libraries, health and climate, with an emphasis on sea level rise and coastal communities. He co-edited the book *GIScience Teaching & Learning Perspectives* (Springer).

James was instrumental in the creation of the Canadian Council for Geographic Education, now Canadian Geographic Education, an organization which supports a network of over 20,000 teachers. He is also a Past-President of the Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives, and co-chair of the Canadian Roundtable on Geomatics.

He is a Fellow of both the Royal Geographical Society (UK) and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. He is a past-president of both the Canadian Cartographic Society and the Geomatics Association of Nova Scotia (which honoured him with the Lifetime Achievement in GIS Award). He is also a Past-Governor of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, and a past member of the Board of Governors for the Nova Scotia Museum.

At Dalhousie University James has developed and taught courses in Human Geography in Earth and Environmental Sciences, Geospatial Information Management in the School of Information Management, and Marine Spatial Planning in the Marine Affairs Program. James has been published widely and his geospatial and geography teaching led to his involvement with projects in Canada, the UK, Mexico, and Vietnam, often as co-chair of the International Network for Learning and Teaching Geography.

In December 2022 James was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee medal. This medal was awarded to James to recognize his career of service to geography and geographic education in Nova Scotia and Canada.

Respectfully submitted by Hugh Millward (FRCGS)

Dated September 11, 2024.