

## **Award for Service to the Profession of Geography Dr Daniel J. Smith**

Dan Smith has shown extraordinary leadership in promoting communication throughout the profession of Geography and within the Canadian academic community in general. Dan's moderating of the CAG Website, his running of the CAG Listserver and his being the architect of the CGRG Website have facilitated the professional careers of all geographers. The resulting networks are the envy of geographers and geomorphologists world-wide. His willingness to chair and provide leadership at countless conferences and academic field trips and his chairing of the NSERC Scholarships and Fellowships Selection Committee for Earth Sciences and Ecology are truly outstanding contributions. The geographical community in Canada is stronger as a result of his efforts.

The quality of Dan's service is especially recognized in relation to the Canadian Geomorphological Research Group, the Canadian Quaternary Association, the Prairie and Western divisions of the Canadian Association of Geographers as well as the CAG and the larger community of all professional geographers in Canada. During his two terms as Chair of the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria he was known for his fairness, supportiveness and effectiveness. The department flourished under his leadership.



Many of Dan's service activities go unappreciated in the formal processes of promotion and academic awards. His service benefits other members of the profession far more than Dan himself and they epitomize the concept of servant leadership.

In addition to his stellar record of service, Dan is an inspirational teacher, a natural educator and a superb ambassador for Geography. He motivates the brightest students and maintains the interest of all his students. His creative focus on field classes and his conscientious driving of large numbers of his students to conferences in the Pacific Northwest are two aspects of his career that are legendary in the western region. Dan attends all Western Division CAG meetings, plays a leading academic role and turns up with a retinue of senior undergraduate and graduate students. Dan has inspired many of his students not only to attend but also to present some of the best student papers at WDCAG conferences and elsewhere. Dan's enthusiasm is contagious and his students reflect this enthusiasm. In short Dan is one of the best teachers in the business.

Not only is Dan a great servant of the discipline and a consummate teacher but his research has transformed our understanding of the Little Ice Age in the Canadian Cordillera, a field area that presents daunting challenges of both a logistical and intellectual nature. His tree ring laboratory has become an internationally respected centre for understanding of climate and environmental change.

The University of Victoria, the Canadian geographical community and geographers world-wide will be delighted to hear the news of Dan's award. His style and effectiveness are a source of admiration throughout the profession.