

**Canadian Geoscience Education Network (CGEN)  
Notes from May 30, 2002 Annual Meeting  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

Welcome to all new members of the Network! The CGEN meeting took place following the annual joint meeting of the Geological Association of Canada and Mineralogical Association of Canada, referred to in the notes as the GAC/MAC meeting. If you have any questions about the activities referred to in the notes, please contact the person identified as the lead on the project, or me. Happy reading. Christy

**Issues, Actions & Decisions**

Present: Diane Baldwin, John Clague, Ron Clowes, Matthew Dalzell, Dixon Edwards, Fran Haidl, Horst Heise, Kim Mysyk, Ward Neale, Godfrey Nowlan, Claudia Riveros, Sean Robson, Dave Rudkin, Harvey Thorleifson, Bob Turner, Eileen Van der Flier-Keller, Christy Vodden. Regrets: Jennifer Bates, Frank Brunton, Pat Dillon, Kathleen Kemp, Maureen Lipkewich, Toon Pronk, Dave Scott, Cam Tsujita, Vic Tyrer, Gordon Williams

**Financial Report** (Christy Vodden)

CGEN funding over the past year came from the Geological Association of Canada (\$5,000, with \$3,000 allocated to EdGEO and \$2,000 held for EarthNet, pending funding submission) and from the Canadian Geoscience Council (\$6,000, with \$3,000 allocated to EdGEO and the remainder to be determined). The CGEN balance as of April 30, 2002 was just over \$12,500.

We were also very pleased that the CGEN funding application to the Ontario Ministry of Enterprise, Opportunity and Innovation in support of the three Ontario-based Geoscape projects (Ottawa, Toronto, Grand River area) was successful (\$90,000 over three years was awarded to the project; with the first year allocation of \$35,000 deposited in the CGEN account in mid-May).

**EdGEO** (Fran Haidl/Eileen Van der Flier-Keller)

The transfer of the EdGEO Secretariat from Saskatoon to Victoria is now completed. Eileen Van der Flier-Keller is the new chair ([fkeller@uvic.ca](mailto:fkeller@uvic.ca)); Dave Mate will continue as the Newsletter Editor ([dmate@pgc-gsc.nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:dmate@pgc-gsc.nrcan.gc.ca)). The EdGEO website is at [www.edgeo.org](http://www.edgeo.org).

Fran Haidl, as outgoing chair, reported on last year's activities: EdGEO supported eight workshops, involving close to 200 teachers. All of the workshops took place in the West and in Nova Scotia. A challenge for EdGEO is to stimulate workshops in the North and in Ontario and Quebec. The presence of Nunavut (Claudia Riveros) and NWT (Diane Baldwin) representatives at the CGEN meeting augers well for stronger EdGEO presence in the North, but a concerted effort will be required for Ontario and Quebec. CGEN gave a big vote of thanks to Fran and all her Regina colleagues for the dedication and commitment they have devoted to EdGEO..

Eileen van der Flier-Keller, as the new chair, described the new EdGEO team and the team's immediate goals: increase number of workshops across the country, focus on

student teachers, expand the website, encourage networking and fundraising to accommodate any expansion.

Discussion points were:

1. Broadening EdGEO activity across the country: Claudia Riveros and Diane Baldwin offered to join the EdGEO national committee and make the connection for a Yukon counterpart. Eileen plans to contact existing members of the national committee to reconfirm their commitment and interest. (Action: All CGEN members to send Eileen suggestions for new members of the national committee).
2. Fundraising: It was suggested that a campaign strategy developed a few years ago, but never activated at the request of the Canadian Geoscience Council, be revisited. All agreed that any national campaign must not jeopardize local fundraising efforts for individual workshops. As well, the role of CGEN (support/advice) in any fundraising efforts should be considered.

### **EarthNet** (Christy Vodden for Jennifer Bates)

Jennifer Bates tabled the following report of activity for the past year and a summary of future possible developments. Funding for EarthNet remains an issue. (Action: John Clague to discuss CGEN role in fundraising with Jennifer). The EarthNet website is at: <http://earthnet.bio.ns.ca>

Discussion points were:

1. Connections with SchoolNet and other national educational sites: The presence of geoscience on SchoolNet seems to have become buried. (Action: Christy Vodden will review and identify any action CGEN could take).
2. Ongoing content development: Claudia Riveros commented that there was a need for more Aboriginal content and indicated that she would be very interested in working with EarthNet towards this goal. (Action: All are encouraged, as always, to provide content suggestions to Jennifer Bates).

### **Geoscape** (Bob Turner)

Bob reported that Geoscape project is in its third (and final) year of funding from the Geological Survey of Canada, with seven projects and the national website to be completed by March 31, 2003. The three-year, \$90,000 funding from the Ontario Government, which has just started, will support the development of teacher resource kits. This will be a test case, and results should be of interest to the other Geoscape projects. The Geoscape poster room that ran throughout the GAC/MAC conference, proved to be a productive exercise. It provided an opportunity for educators and geoscientists to see and comment on all the projects in their various stages of development.

For the future, the challenge will be the long-term maintenance of the national website <http://geoscape.nrcan.gc.ca>. (Action: CGEN members are invited to provide comments to Bob as to what should be on the website; the Victoria website provides an interesting model), and updating existing Geoscape materials. Other plans include

a book based on Geoscape Vancouver due out for the 2003 GAC/MAC and development of a new poster series on water.

CGEN congratulated Bob Turner on winning the 2002 E.R. Ward Neale Award, the GAC's national award for outstanding achievement in furthering public awareness of geoscience. Bob was honoured for his leadership of the Geoscape project.

Discussion points were:

1. The proposed water-themed poster series: This concept could be developed so that teachers could make their own "waterscapes", given that all communities across the country has local municipal experts. A possible model to look at is the Natural Resources Canada's "Canadian Communities Atlas": [http://atlas.gc.ca/site/english/learning\\_resources/ccatlas/index.html](http://atlas.gc.ca/site/english/learning_resources/ccatlas/index.html).
2. Ongoing need for publicity/promotion: On a general note that applies to all long-term, CGEN-supported projects, there was discussion on the need to consider publicity efforts as an ongoing part of any program. For any education-based projects, publicity should be an annual undertaking, given the ongoing movement within the teachers workforce. The Saskatchewan Geology Road Map was given as a good example, with its distribution networks encompassing the provincial tourism board, as well as education and media contacts.
3. Long-term funding base: With the end of GSC funding in sight for Geoscape, there is concern that long-term funding be sought to maintain and expand the Geoscape project. This issue applies to all CGEN-supported projects. Suggestions included: going back to Natural Resources Canada (Geological Survey of Canada) for another three-years funding, or taking a longer view of the issue and working towards an endowment fund (the American Geological Institute was raised as a possible model). This would be a huge undertaking, with broad-based consultation required within the geoscience community.

#### **GeoSciEd IV (Godfrey Nowlan)**

Godfrey summarized plans to date on what is shaping up to be a fabulous event. His report was previously distributed to CGEN. Get the latest details from the website <http://www.geoscienced.org/>

What CGEN can do to help make GeoSciEd a success: (Action all)

1. Publicity: A downloadable poster is available on the website. Post it in your organization and distribute it widely. Ideas on publicity should be sent to Jon Dudley, the publicity chair, at [jdudley@nucleus.com](mailto:jdudley@nucleus.com).
2. Feedback on the program: The technical program themes are listed on the website and their current status described in Godfrey's report. Send any comments, suggestions to Godfrey at [gnowlan@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:gnowlan@nrcan.gc.ca).
3. Fundraising: Fundraising efforts are also summarized in Godfrey's report. Of particular interest to CGEN, there will be a strong push to raise funds to support sending Canadian teachers to GeoSciEd. CGEN members are asked for any fundraising ideas (send them to Alan Morgan at [amorgan@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:amorgan@uwaterloo.ca)). The CGEN and EdGEO networks will be asked to help identify teachers to be sent to the conference.

## **Careers in Earth Science (John Clague)**

The updating of careers information is a priority project for CGEN. The concept, developed over the past year, through consultation with students and teachers and through a brainstorming session in Vancouver in January, has been circulated previously for comment and review by all CGEN. The final concept reflecting comments received during the review process is available from ChristyVodden or John Clague.

Next steps include establishing a working group that will coordinate the project, set up the funding base and consult with all the groups interested in contributing, as well as educators and students. CGEN will be kept well informed about this project, and asked to comment on and help develop content, once a template is developed.

Discussion points included:

1. **Funding:** Applications, based on the concept document, have been submitted to the Canadian Geological Foundation (Newsflash! They allocated \$2,500) and the GSC Grants and Contributions Fund. Other funding options are being researched. Once the template for the website is finalized, it will be used for further fundraising, especially with the career-oriented professional associations. The Canadian Geoscience Council Summit this fall will be a good opportunity to discuss fundraising strategies (Action John Clague). Ron Clowes recommended that we focus our efforts on fundraising a few large amounts, rather than a multitude of small ones.
2. **Content/Publicity/Distribution:** The many excellent suggestions concerning geomatic and aboriginal content, the need for repeat publicity to schools, media marketing, etc. will be captured for the working group.

## **What on Earth (John Clague for Alan Morgan)**

The earth science newsletter published by the University of Waterloo under the name "WAT on Earth" is being revamped to become a national newsletter under the new name "What on Earth". This initiative is being helped greatly by a three-year \$18,000 grant from Promoscience, the public awareness of science fund run by the federal agency NSERC. Alan Morgan will continue as editor. (Action: CGEN members are invited to submit articles to What on Earth c/o [avmorgan@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:avmorgan@uwaterloo.ca)).

## **GAC Outreach (Fran Haidl)**

Education activities at the Saskatoon meeting included a field trip to Flin Flon (10 teachers took part) and a one-day education symposium with 29 teachers in attendance, four of whom gave presentations. Feedback from the teachers was excellent. The GAC provided a \$1000 grant to support teachers participation in this event.

Plans for future GAC/MAC meetings are shaping up, with EdGEO committed to hosting a workshop at the 2003 GAC/MAC in Vancouver. They are also considering setting up an EdGEO leadership workshop. Fran Haidl and Dave Rudkin are going to discuss plans for the 2004 meeting in St. Catherines.

### **Science Fairs (Matthew Dalzell)**

Matthew Dalzell reported on opportunities provided by the Canada-wide science fair program for encouraging student interest in the earth sciences. The national program is run by the Youth Science Foundation, and a full description of the program and the recent national fair held in Saskatoon can be found on their website [www.ysf.ca](http://www.ysf.ca). Of particular

interest to CGEN is the new mentorship program being developed (Matthew is spearheading the mentor database for Saskatchewan). The goal is to provide students, whether in large urban centres or in remote communities, with access to scientists as advisors and mentors. Next year's national science fair will be held in Calgary. CGEN members interested in connecting with the science fair programs in their area or the mentoring program are advised to connect with the planning committee for their area. At the request of CGEN, Matthew will submit a write up about these opportunities to both "Geolog" (the GAC's newsletter) and "What on Earth".

### **CGEN Workplan for 2002-2003 (John Clague)**

CGEN's core programs (EdGEO, EarthNet, Geoscape and What on Earth) all have clearly defined objectives and plans for the year. The Careers in Earth Science initiative will be a major effort. CGEN will provide support and advice to the GeoSciEd IV organizers as required.

### **Other Business and Reports from CGEN Members:**

Harvey Thorleifson noted an interesting opportunity for getting broad visibility for geoscience. He had been approached by a Winnipeg-based publisher who was doing a book on Lake Winnipeg, and wished to add a section about its geology. The publisher felt that the geology chapter was an important addition to the book, and is now using the model for other similar projects (Lake of the Woods is in the works). These are books that "every cottager on the lake" would want. The publisher is very interested in pursuing this genre further, and it was agreed that she should be offered access to the CGEN list as a means of connecting with experts as needed

Ron Clowes noted that a book about the Lithoprobe project is under development, with a publisher being sought.

Dave Rudkin tabled a report of the Royal Ontario Museum's activities over the past year.

A must read for all Ontario CGEN members: Cameron Tsujita submitted a writeup about the Ontario Geoscience Resource Network, an exciting new initiative that will provide many opportunities to promote earth science information in Ontario. Funding for it has come from the Ontario Government and Promoscience. More information is available from Cam at [ctsujita@uwo.ca](mailto:ctsujita@uwo.ca).

Maureen Lipkewich sent in a report on the Mining Association of British Columbia's (Education Division) successful participation at the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (CIM) Conference (in Vancouver, April 28-30) which enabled 230 grade 3 to 6 students to present exhibits at the conference on topics such as technology, careers, mine models, working placer models, mill models, games and art. One grade 3 class presented an interesting career project, in which they interviewed 40 people via email, and then did a profile (and a hand-drawn portrait!) of the person based on the information

from the interview. The CIM Executive Committee was so impressed that they agreed student participation must be part of all future CIM conferences. Other MABC programs can be found at [www.bcminerals.ca](http://www.bcminerals.ca). Of note, they are offering the University Credit Course for teachers through Simon Fraser University.

Christy Vodden  
Secretary Treasurer  
Canadian Geoscience Education Network