

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

Tourism and Recreation Study Group - CAG Study Group 3

Submitted by: Holly Donohoe, Chair

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The following is a summary report of the CAG Tourism and Recreation Study Group Activities during the year 2008-2009.

CAG Annual Meeting 2008, Quebec: As a special feature of the conference, the Study Group hosted a special session on Aboriginal Tourism and three additional sessions on tourism geography. Presentations were delivered on a variety of themes including: tourism development, national parks and protected areas, sports events, tourism dynamics and modeling, cybercartography, qualitative research methods, and collaborative research initiatives. It is noteworthy that a variety of geographical perspectives and regional contexts were represented. Thanks must also be extended to Sylvie Blangy, Claudia Notzke, Rhonda Koster, and Kirstine Metansinine for their contributions to the Aboriginal Tourism session.

Study Group Student Awards 2008: For their outstanding presentations at the conference, four students were awarded the Tourism and Recreation Study Group Award: Kate Hano – University of Waterloo, for her paper '*Threat of Creative Destruction in Krasieczyn, Poland*'; Peter Johnson, McGill University, for his paper '*Experimenting with Dynamic Tourism Scenarios: An Agent-Based Approach*'; Laura Prazeres, University of Ottawa, for her paper '*Exploring Environmental Experiences in Canada's North: The Findings of a Geographical Study of Kluane National Park Visitors*'; and Stephanie Pyne – Carleton University, for her paper '*Linking Cybercartography and Indigenous Tourism: The Reconciliation Trail*'.

Annual Business Meeting 2008: The Study Group convened for the Annual Business Meeting at the CAG in Quebec. Holly Donohoe from the University of Ottawa chaired the meeting and approximately fifteen people attended. At the meeting, and action items were identified for 2008-2009: (1) Newsletter continuance, (2) Special Tourism and Recreation Study Group Sessions for CAG 2009, and (3) the possibility of a special issue of the *Journal of Rural and Community Development* with a focus on rural tourism and recreation. A meeting report is available online and progress towards these goals in detailed below.

Study Group Website: The creation of a website was identified as a study group priority action item in 2007 and updates continue. The website provides a central portal and an overview of the Study Group purpose, structure, and activities. Links to related resources such as academic journals and conferences are also available from the website. <http://tourismrec.googlepages.com>.

Newsletter: The study group continues to provide electronic newsletters. In 2008-2009, quarterly newsletter distribution continued. In addition, newsletters have been made available for download on the study group website.

CAG 2009 Study Group Special Session: Guided by the priorities established at the 2008 Business Meeting, a special session on Rural Tourism and Recreation in Canada was proposed by the Study Group in partnership with the Rural Geography Study Group. Overwhelming interest and abstract submission resulted in three sessions being scheduled for the CAG 2009 conference. Researchers from across Canada and from a variety of disciplines will meet in Ottawa.

Special Projects: A special issue of the *Journal of Rural and Community Development* is planned for 2010. The theme is 'rural tourism and recreation in Canada'. The issue is being co-edited by Rhonda Koster (Lakehead University) and Holly Donohoe (University of Ottawa). A Call for papers has been distributed through various networks and presenters at the CAG will be encouraged to submit papers based on the presentations.