

## MEETING SUMMARY REPORT

### Tourism and Recreation Study Group Annual Business Meeting

June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Prepared by: Holly Donohoe

The Canadian Association of Geographers Tourism and Recreation Study Group convened for the Annual Business Meeting at the CAG / CCHSS 2007 in Saskatoon. Holly Donohoe from the University of Ottawa chaired the meeting and approximately ten people attended. The majority of attendees were students from Canadian Universities.

**Of Special Note:** Study Group sessions and the Study Group meeting were attended by a delegation of female-only delegates. Perhaps CAG 2007 is indication of an emergent 'demographic shift' for Canadian Tourism and Recreation Geographers?

The agenda for the meeting was pre-determined:

1. Overview of the Study Group Purpose and Activities
2. Review of the Study Group Annual Report
3. Review of the Treasurer's Report
4. Executive Review
5. Study Group Functions
  - a. Newsletter
  - b. CAG 2008 Study Group Sessions
  - c. Student Awards
  - d. Website
  - e. Other things that the study group can accomplish

The following sections represent a summary of what was accomplished at the Business Meeting.

### 1. OVERVIEW OF STUDY GROUP PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

The Chair reviewed the purpose of the study group with members:

The purpose of this group is to provide an opportunity for members to connect their research, work and/or learning pursuits in tourism, recreation and parks with other geographers across Canada. The study group hosts a listserv, distributes bi-annual electronic newsletters, sponsors sessions at the CAG, holds an annual business meeting and produces an Annual Report. The executive exists to provide guidance and facilitate study group activities

## 2. REVIEW ANNUAL REPORT

Items from the 2006 Annual Report were circulated to members in the Study Group Newsletter dated May 2007. The following Action Items from the Annual Report and Student Group Annual Business Meeting (2006) were reviewed at this year's meeting:

- ***Profiling Tourism Programs:*** this was identified as a priority and a number were profiled in the August Newsletter.
- ***Student Awards:*** It was decided that Students Awards in 2007 would take the form of a one-year membership to the Canadian Association of Geographers and to the Tourism and Recreation Study Group.
- ***Web Page:*** Progress to update the web page was stalled because of a lack of host for the CAG website. Updating the page was identified as a priority for providing reliable information to study group members and for encouraging new study group memberships.
- ***E-Newsletter:*** The frequency of newsletter distribution has been reduced from quarterly issues to semi-annual issues as momentum has been hard to retain. The list serve continues to be maintained.
- ***Membership:*** The Study Group continues to encourage new membership. The new format for the Student Award was identified as a means for bolstering membership numbers and for encouraging student involvement.

## 3. REVIEW OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT

A treasurer's report was not available prior to the meeting in Saskatoon. As such, no review was provided.

## 4. EXECUTIVE REVIEW

The announcement was made that current Study Group Chair, Kim Lemky will be not continuing as Chair in 2007. Kim will maintain his involvement and assist in the transition to a new Chair by assuming a Vice-Chair Position. This transition was approved by members. Prior to the meeting, Rhonda Koster expressed a desire to remain Study Group Treasurer. Members were happy to approve her continuance.

During the meeting, a new Study Group Chair was nominated and approved by members. Holly Donohoe, Department of Geography, University of Ottawa will assume the roll of Chair.

Areas where member leadership could serve to support study group activities and/or objectives were also discussed at the meeting. Members offered to take on projects and these offers are detailed in the subsequent sections.

## **5. STUDY GROUP FUNCTIONS**

A number of functions were discussed at the meeting including the newsletter, the webpage, CAG 2008 study group sessions, student awards, and other things we can accomplish as a study group.

### **a. Newsletter**

At the business meeting in 2006, profiling tourism programs was considered an item of interest for the newsletter. Members confirmed continued interest in this item. Other items of interest for the newsletter were identified: member profiles, research updates, and departmental profiles.

Members were encouraged to contribute to the newsletter and to respond to future calls for newsletter contributions.

### **b. CAG 2008 Study Group Sessions**

Study Group members were encouraged to organize tourism and recreation sessions at the CAG 2008. A number of topics and themes emerged of particular interest and Julia McCleave, University of Waterloo, agreed to take on a leadership role to organize a number of sessions. Other members offered Julia support in pulling sessions together.

Members were encouraged to organize additional sessions.

### **c. Student Awards**

A review of the criteria for Study Group Student Award eligibility was provided to members:

- A presentation must be delivered at any of the sessions sponsored by the Recreation and Tourism Study Group
- Candidates must be registered students at a Canadian University
- Candidates must be a current member of the CAG at the time of the annual conference.

In past, the ambition was to present one award in each of the following categories: Undergraduate, Master's and PhD. The Study Group has not adhered to this structure consistently because the distribution of students in these categories has varied (for example, one year there were only PhD and Masters students presenting). Flexibility in this regard has become the norm.

This year, the challenge of determining award recipients was related to eligibility. Four students submitted applications for the Award. The members agreed that one student did not qualify for the award because the candidate was not present at the conference to present their paper. It was noted that the purpose of the award is to encourage student participation at the annual conference and student contribution to Tourism and Recreation Geography.

For delivering quality papers to Tourism and Recreation Study Group sessions at this year's CAG, three students were awarded the CAG Tourism and Recreation Study Group Student Award. The recipients include:

***Holly Donohoe, PhD Candidate, University of Ottawa***

Making Ecotourism Culturally Relevant in a Global Community

***Kate Hano, PhD Candidate, University of Waterloo***

Accessibility of Hotels and Resorts for People with Disabilities: Attitudes, Motives and Problems which Disabled Tourists Face

***Julia McCleave, PhD Candidate, University of Waterloo***

The Regional Integration of Canada's National Parks: Preliminary Results from Four Case Studies

Students will receive a one year membership to the CAG as well as a one year membership to the Tourism and Recreation study Group.

The names of Award recipients will be provided to the CAG.

**d. Website**

Study Group members confirmed that the website needs to be developed. Jamie Noakes from Lakehead University offered to take a leadership role in putting some material together. The Chair agreed to support this process.

Also of note, was the suggestion that a list of study group members be posted on the study group website. This was imagined to be a short list that detailed the members name, affiliation and research interests (key words). It was agreed that this was a priority.

The Study Group Chair will explore possibilities for webpage development funding assistance and webpage hosting.

**e. Other Things the Study Group can Accomplish**

The suggestion was made to explore and formalize a link with the International Geographical Union, particularly the IGU Tourism Study Group. Members agreed that a formal relationship would strengthen the group, and would lend credibility to the study of tourism and recreation geography in Canada. There was consensus that this relationship should be considered an Action Item for 2007. Suzanne de la Barre of the University of Alberta agreed to explore this opportunity. Holly Donohoe agreed to support and assist in the process.

Building on this suggestion, the notion of attending an IGU conference as a Canadian Tourism and Recreation Study Group was discussed. It was agreed that the opportunity to attend a conference as a delegation presents a means to strengthen the group, to strengthen the relationship with IGU, and to contribute the Canadian perspective/experience to the international tourism and recreation discourse.