Honouring Ken Hare

Jock Galloway

Ken Hare died at 83, peacefully at his home in Oakville on September 3rd, 2002 after a long and productive life. Ken was without doubt one of the most distinguished geographers of his generation and was awarded numerous honorary degrees, medals and prizes. The Presidency of the Royal Meteorological Society from 1967-68, is one honour which he must particularly have appreciated. He always found time for students and was a splendid teacher of undergraduates and graduates alike. Yet all was not work: he was a gardener, he had a passion for music and was a member of choirs. Colleagues and friends, inside and outside academia, as well as his former students will remember him. Our sympathies go to Helen, his wife of 49 years, and their family.

He was born in Wylye in rural Wiltshire in 1919 and brought up in the western suburbs of London. In 1935 he began attending King’s College, part of the University of London. There and at the neighbouring L.S.E. he studied with the likes of S.W. Wooldridge and Dudley Stamp. Ken was forever grateful to King’s for providing him with the education and opportunities to pursue the career he did. During WW2 he was also provided with another opportunity: to work as a meteorologist.

In 1945 he joined the new Department of Geography at McGill; in 1950, at the age of 31, he became chairman. Axel Heiberg and the McGill Subarctic Research Station at Knob Lake (Schefferville) in the heart of Quebec-Labrador were the result largely of Ken’s initiative in seizing opportunities. Knob Lake, was financed in part through a contract Ken had signed with the federal Ministry of Transport to run a weather station. Ken became Dean of Arts and Science in 1962 but then made a decision in 1964 in which sentiment must have played a large part.

He returned to Britain to take up Wooldridge’s chair at King’s College. He moved on quickly to be Master of Birkbeck College in the University of London and then back to Canada in 1968 to serve briefly as President of the University of British Columbia. He arrived at UBC in the middle of very difficult political times and he realized the job was not for him. UBC’s loss was Toronto’s gain.

Ken came to the University of Toronto late in his career in 1969 to serve as Director of the Institute of Environmental Studies and later as Provost of Trinity College. In 1976 Ken was named a University Professor, a rare distinction for members of Toronto’s faculty.

I first met Ken Hare in September of 1956. I had just arrived at McGill. During the registration period I went to his office at the Geography Department, introduced myself and said I wished to become a geographer. “Well, then”, came the reply, “come on in”. I suppose I have been inside even since. I went to Knob Lake for two summers (if this word is appropriate for that place), to relieve graduate students from their observing duties. The weather was dreadful - I recorded snowfalls in both July and August.
Scholarship Opportunity Extended

The deadline for donation to the Ontario Graduate Scholarship program has been extended to December 31, 2004. OGS scholarships are awarded to students who maintain an A- average over the last two years of their study. Attracting top graduate students to the University is an important part of keeping the University of Toronto as the one of the most productive and respected institutions in the country.

The University has developed a matching program to maximize the number of OGS awards in the social sciences and humanities. A donation of $50,000 will be matched by the university on a dollar-for-dollar basis, creating a $100,000 endowment. The endowment will disburse a minimum of $5,000 per year in perpetuity. The Government of Ontario will contribute $10,000 annually, resulting in a $15,000 scholarship. The effect is a five-to-one match.

The University of Toronto and The Department of Geography and Planning can be proud to have some of the top graduate students in the country and indeed the world. Scholarship dollars allow the University to attract these scholars and further, gives the students and opportunity to attend one of the top rated schools in North America. Please consider contributing to this exciting opportunity!

A pledge form can be found on page 11

A Tremendous Contribution
By Susan Werden, B.A. 878

After a decade of exceptional and dedicated service, Dick Baine, UTAGA’s founding President has retired from the Association’s Executive.

In 1992 discussions between Dick, Professor Emeritus Don Kerr and then Departmental Chair, Professor Joe Whitney, led to the formation of an ad hoc steering committee whose mandate was to improve and formalize relations between the department and its alumni. This committee held its first event, an Open House and Annual General Meeting on November 6, 1993. Over 100 alumni, faculty and students attended. UTAGA was born and the ad hoc committee became the UTAGA Executive.

Dick’s contributions to UTAGA have been numerous and varied. He served as President until 1994, as Past-President from 1994 to 2000 and most recently as a member-at-large and committee co-chair. Passionate about geographic education, Dick was the driving force behind the preparation of UTAGA’s 1994 position paper on the Ontario Ministry of Education and Training publication The Common Curriculum: Grades 1-9, which was submitted to the Minister of Education. He was also responsible for the creation and implementation of “The UTAGA Geography Competition” a pilot project run in selected Toronto high schools during the 1997-98 school year.

As co-chair of UTAGA’s History of the Department Committee with Don Kerr, Dick has been particularly busy over the last four years. During this time this committee oversaw the publication of two books: Down to Earth: A Biography of Geographer Donald Fulton Putnam by Robert Putnam and Marie Sanderson in 2000 and The Art of Geography: The life and teaching of George Tatham by John Warkentin in 2002, as well as the creation of graduate scholarship awards associated with each publication. For both book projects, Dick volunteered countless hours in project development as well as in providing editing and proofreading services.

In addition to his committee work, Dick was also involved in the publication of GEOPLAN—writing articles as well as providing editorial and proofreading assistance, and over the years he helped to organize and run countless UTAGA events and activities. Always willing to help, Dick has not only given freely and generously of his time, but also of his insight, wisdom and expertise.

Although retired from the Executive and from his post as co-chair of the History of the Department Committee, Dick will continue to serve on the History of the Department Committee under its current Chair Marie Sanderson. Undoubtedly the Association will continue to benefit from Dick’s tremendous contributions.

Honoring Ken Hare
continued from page 1
- and there was a greater density of black flies per square metre than any other place I have ever visited, but the company was good and I enjoyed the frontier spirit. Climatology, however, was not for me. A summer at Bellairs gave me a lasting interest in the human geography of the tropics. I was only one of many students who found careers in geography through those research stations. Ken’s letters helped me obtain scholarships and acceptance by the graduate schools of my choice, and, for all I know, helped with my appointment to the University of Toronto. He wrote me notes of congratulations on the publication of papers and on promotions. This sort of encouragement and continuing interest was typical of Ken. I last saw him shortly before he died. He had made a remarkable recovery from a cardiac arrest. He was frail and complained of loss of short term memory but our conversation resumed where we had left off.

I have a copy of his book, The Restless Atmosphere, which, from a note I wrote inside the cover, tells me I bought it in Montreal in October 1958. I intend to continue to keep it as I have long kept it for sentimental reasons. I will take it home with me from my office when I retire.
Walking Tour: Toronto, September 2002
Professor Jim Lemon

As usual, incoming graduate students and new faculty learned something of Toronto’s past through a walk from Sidney Smith Hall to Queen Street West at the now defunct Bamboo. This year’s team was led by myself, Jim Lemon, Gunter Gad and Carlos Teixeira.

The route took us through six districts: the University, Southeast Spadina, Kensington Market, Alexandra Park Housing, Chinatown, Spadina garment cum office/condo, and Queen Street retailing. Spadina Avenue was the main constant reality of the trip. To orient walkers, it was explained that all these areas are within the original 1793 layout of arterial roads and parklots (farmlots) and subsequent privately laid out urban subdivisions. Through inertia, the street infrastructure and property lines impose constraints on subsequent occupance of the districts, usually so severe that most of the buildings old and new are within those bounds.

The university, being powerful, has altered the shape of properties more than other factors. A brief history of the university pointed to early 20th century and 1960’s redevelopments. And on walking down St. George we encounter the newest major structure—the Bahen Centre for Information Technology. Leading the brave new future?

Southeast Spadina, a large neighbourhood and planning area, runs from College to Queen and east of Spadina. We enter that storied district—the Bahen Centre for Information Technology. Leading the brave new future?

West of Spadina is the well-known Kensington Market. Originally residential, Jewish shopkeepers began to set up retail businesses in the early 1900’s. Various strands of Judaism established synagogues, such as the extant Anshei Minsk and Kiever. After 1945 most of Jews gradually moved northward; others from Europe were glad to settle there and most to continue businesses. Eventually, the Portuguese were the most numerous stores, but over the past two decades, the businesses have become more diverse as have those living around the area. The statue of TV star “King of Kensington” Al Waxman adorns Denison Square Park. Planning has always been a contentious matter—it is a district of “special identity”.

South of Dundas is the Alexandra Park Housing complex, one of five post-1949 public housing projects in the older areas of the city. In the 1960’s the city and Metro with federal/provincial aid “urban renewed” the site for about 300 low-income households, after 1965 owned by the Ontario Housing Corporation and managed by Metro Housing Authority. Leaders among residents have been striving to set it up as a self-managed cooperative, named after the now-deceased initiator, Sonny Atkinson. The largest of five in the Toronto region, Chinatown became fixed along Dundas east of Spadina after the war and was boosted by immigrants especially from Hong Kong. Chinatown businesses have spread from Dundas up and down Spadina. Double parking can make driving on Spadina frustrating, but the modern LRT streetcar line, with the highest ridership in the city, is a boon to all.

The Spadina garment district is found mostly south of Dundas in factory loft buildings. Primarily devoted to making women’s clothing, businesses became fixed there by 1920. As described by Gunter, in recent times, many operations have left though; furs and showrooms remain in what is called the “fashion district”. Now developers have been altering many of the lofts into offices for planners, architects and consultants, and also into condominiums. Coincidentally, Queen Street moved upscale from its time as the haunt of second-hand dealers. Suggestive of some kind of change, CITY TV occupies the elegant former United Church Publishing House at the corner of John Street. On it goes....

All in all, the walk reveals a slice of juxtaposed often-disparate activities, but which I suppose makes Toronto interesting.
Department News

Carl Amrhein is a co-PI on a new major CFI grant that was recently awarded more than $5 million. The Canadian Century Research infrastructure (CCRI) is a comprehensive humanities and social science research project that is a five-year pan-Canadian Initiative to develop databases from manuscript census records for the 1911-1951 period. Geography has a major geocoding role in this effort lead by Byron Moldofsky and Mariange Beaudry. (Please see the article on page 9 of this issue of GeoPlan.)

Carl will also be the recipient of the Joan E. Foley award in recognition of his efforts to improve the student experience in Arts and Science. The Foley award is a university wide competition. Carl has worked tirelessly with ASSU and APUS to address important student issues.

Although Don Kerr has been retired for 17 years he is still producing and publishing. In December 2002 Don saw two of his articles published in Canadian journals. “A Gamble for Canada” appeared in The Beaver, and The Monitor, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives ran his article “The WTO and St. Vincent: Small Banana-Growing Island Latest Victim of Free Trade.”

Robert Lewis has been selected to receive an Outstanding Teaching Award in the social sciences from the Faculty of Arts and Science. Please congratulate Robert on this significant achievement!

Miriam Diamond and Brian Branfireun, along with Tom Harner of the Meteorological Service of Canada, received a NSERC Strategic Grant to look at contaminant fate and effects in the Greater Toronto Area.

Larry Bourne is also involved in the project, as are collaborators in Birmingham UK and Austin TX. The grant, which is highly competitive, is worth almost $0.5 million over 4 years.

Surprisingly little is known about total chemical releases and where and how chemicals move through urban environments. As such, the researchers intend to bridge the gap between physical science aspects of contaminant fate and potential health effects, and land use planning.

Remembering Lloyd Reeds 1917-2002

Lloyd George Reeds (M.A., 4T0, Ph.D., 5T6) died Friday April 19th at the age of 85. Lloyd was the founder of the Department of Geography, McMaster, and its Chair for the first 12 years. Most notably, he was a superb teacher and researcher.

Lloyd received his B.A. from Toronto in 1940, and was awarded the Canadian Geographical Society Scholarship. He continued on at the University of Toronto and received his M.A. in 1942. After teaching soils at the Ontario Agricultural College, he joined the Royal Canadian Navy and served for the duration of 1942-1945. Following the war he returned to Toronto to commence work on his doctorate. George Putnam assigned him the task of analyzing the agriculture of Southern Ontario, saying, “I’ve taken care of the geomorphology of Southern Ontario; now you handle the agriculture”. He was awarded his Ph.D. in 1956.

His service to Canadian geography was noteworthy. Among other great honours, he was one of the founders of the Canadian Association of Geographers and served as president in 1962-63.

Our sympathies go out to his wife, Marguerite, his son Gregory (Ph.D.), and his twin daughters, Barbara and Judith.

Book Release: Kirsty E. Duncan's

Hunting the 1918 Flu


Kirsty Duncan, B.A. 8T9 (Medical Geography) has released a book documenting her research of the mysteries of the Spanish flu epidemic which killed an estimated 20 to 40 million people in 1918.

Many medical professionals and researchers believe that the threat of another influenza epidemic of equal or greater proportion is very real. Kirsty recounts her efforts to organize a large scale, multi-discipline project to excavate the bodies of miners who died of the Spanish flu in Norway, in an attempt to uncover genetic material and find answers for past and future concerns.

While this is the story of an important study of medical history, it also uncovers the inequalities of age, gender and privilege in the international scientific community, raising nearly as many important social and scientific questions as it answers.

Book Review: Mercator, The Man who Mapped the Planet

By Fenton Chin B.A. 9T4


Gerardus Mercator (née Gerhard Kremer, born: Flanders, 1512, died: 1594), a Flemish cartographer and mathematician and the “father” of the modern map, lived during the Renaissance—the years of discovery, exploration, and invention which followed Europe’s Dark Ages. He was the son of an impoverished farmer and, despite being very religious, always praised the scientific principles of Aristotle. He had the privilege of studying at prestigious schools, living to the ripe old age of 82, which, at that time, was more than twice the normal human lifespan. He survived even imprisonment and the Inquisition. But perhaps most surprising of all is the fact that he produced so many original maps without ever having voyaged out to sea himself!

Mercator first coined the term “atlas,” which was the name that he gave to a book he compiled from his collection of old and new maps, including a few of his own creations. By using projection, he was able to solve the old problem of representing the earth’s 3-dimensional surface on a 2-dimensional map, while minimizing distortion and retaining compass bearings. Mercator’s legacy is the transformation of our views of the world and navigation. Just about every map that everyone in the 20th century has ever seen is a Mercator Projection. It is the Mercator Projection that is currently being used now for the mapping of the planet Mars.

This newly published biography reads a lot like a standard history and geography textbook. Although it does have a somewhat Euro-centric view of history (for instance, there’s hardly a mention of any Middle-Eastern or Asian contributions to science), Crane, nevertheless, does a good job of compiling relevant information from many different sources.
In the summer of 2002 Cecil Houston left his job at the University of Toronto at Mississauga and took up the position of Executive Dean of the large Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Windsor. I wish to use this occasion to celebrate an outstanding scholar, inspirational teacher and colleague, and dedicated academic innovator and administrator.

Cecil’s scholarly work always put the people at the grass roots first. He communicated with, and researched, cultural minorities and rural communities in Russia, Asia, Japan, Ireland, and Canada. His widely acclaimed work on various groups of the Irish in Canada resulted in many articles and two books (co-authored with William/Seamus Smyth of the National University of Ireland, Maynooth). The Sash Canada Wore: A Historical Geography of the Orange Order in Canada was published in 1980 and in 1990 Irish Emigration and Canadian Settlement Patterns was finished. In 1996 Cecil Houston and Joe Leydon edited Ireland: The Haunted Ark, a volume of essays reflecting Cecil’s growing involvement in Celtic Studies. Cecil’s research and writing on the Orange Lodge and on Irish emigration was accompanied by an incredible number of scholarly and public lectures and media interviews. No audience was too small or too lowly placed in the social hierarchy; Cecil went everywhere.

After years of serving Geography students and colleagues as Discipline Representative/Associate Chair at Erindale, in 1993 Cecil became Associate Dean of the Social Science Division at Erindale College, which he quickly helped to reformat as the University of Toronto at Mississauga. As Associate Dean he set himself the task to improve what is now referred to as “the student experience.” After the end of the term as Associate Dean, Cecil continued his work in instructional and program development as Special Assistant to UTM Principal Robert McNutt. The result of this job was, among many other achievements, the interdisciplinary Communication, Culture and Information Technology program in collaboration with Sheridan College. A new building on the UTM campus and a new master plan for the campus were part of the package. The edifice is just rising out of the glacial deposits and maybe it should be named the Houston-McNutt Building.

Cecil has made an awful lot of friends – among students, secretaries, technicians, tutors and professors - who continue to appreciate the tremendous legacy he left at UTM. He was appointed to Erindale, and he served it loyally. He never liked grand theories and ideologies. His wide learning, sharp mind and eloquent speech quickly shredded discourses of any stripe. He was a humanitarian in our midst who practiced liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Alumni Bulletin Board

They say that bad news makes the best news, but the Alumni Bulletin Board is once again filled with the triumphs of our successful graduates. Please continue to send us the latest on your work and events of your lives.

Penny Henry, B.A. 6T9

Zaheer A. Karim Hon. B. Sc. 0T0 continued on to York University and graduated with a Masters in Environmental Studies in November 2002. He is currently a Planner with the Town of Ajax and his duties include counter work as the first point of contact for Planning and Development Services, Committee of Adjustment, Land Division and Building permits. He is also reviewing the town’s sign by-law and beginning to get site plan and zoning amendment applications. His interest in sustainable development and environmental planning underlies his approach to planning issues.

Doug McLeod 5T4 was selected as the 2002 recipient of the George J. Miller Award by the National Council of Geographic Education in the U.S. in recognition of his distinguished service to the discipline and the council. This council promotes the importance of geography in schools. Doug received the award in Philadelphia in October 2002.

Anita Toth, B.A. 9T8 completed a Master of Arts in Medical Geography at McMaster University in 2001 presenting her thesis “Historical and present-day Tuberculosis in Hamilton, Ontario: a Public Health Focus.” She has been working at the McMaster Institute of Environment and Health for just over a year.

Sharon (McNicol) Wallace B.A. 6T9 sends a hello y’all from Georgia where she is still teaching and will be until the stock market says that she can retire. Her youngest son is a senior in high school.

Gerry Barber, B.A. 6T9, is delighted to announce that he is a grandfather! His son Eric and wife had a baby boy in September. Gerry is teaching GIS and statistics at Queen’s where he and Moe are enjoying being empty nesters – at least for the academic year.

Robert M. Woods, B.Sc. 9T7 wrote to touch base and thank a number of people (specifically Donna, Tony, Danny, and Damien) for making his time here memorable including “the field trips, the friends, and the stuff in between”. Robert is consulting in the computer field, in Network Security, Firewalls, Encryption, and Data Networks, currently at BMW Canada.

Congratulations!

Marcia Nation (Ph.D., 9T4) and Christopher Boone (M.A. 8T9, Ph.D. 9T4) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, David Nation Boone. Born on November 14th in Athens, Ohio, David was 7 lbs, 20.5”. Alexander, who just turned 4, is amused (and bewildered) by his baby brother. Marcia is off until the end of January then back to work as a Program Manager at the Institute for Local Government Administration and Rural Development, a research institute at Ohio University. Chris received tenure this year and was promoted to Associate Professor, Geography, Ohio University.
A night of recognition
By Jenny Lass & Jill Rooksby

On Thursday, October 10th 2002 the 8th Annual Awards Presentation and Graduation Reception for the Department of Geography and Program in Planning was held in Alumni Hall, Victoria College. Attended by over 100 faculty members, alumni, students and friends, this event was used as an opportunity to recognize accomplishments by our students and alumni.

This year a total of 27 awards were presented to 39 current or recently graduated students (see facing page for a full listing).

UTAGA also used the occasion to present its own special awards. The Outstanding Service Awards, which are presented to individuals who have made outstanding voluntary contributions to the U of T Department of Geography, its programs, its students or its alumni, were presented to: Nancy Mudrinic M.Sc.Pl. 9T7 and Michael Skelly, B.A. 9T1, M.Sc.Pl. 9T3. The UTAGA Honorary President Award, which is given to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the development of the department or its programs and its alumni, was presented to Tony Davis. The UTAGA Distinguished Alumni Award, which is given to alumni who have led a career of exceptional distinction and have brought honour to the department, was bestowed upon one of Canada's most distinguished artist's, Robert Bateman, B.A. 5T4. Following the presentations, Mr. Bateman gave a talk on his career, his time in the department, and on the dangers the environment faces from current thought and misuse.

Photos described left to right.

Page 6 - Left
Robert Bateman and the Class of 5T4.

Page 6 - Right
Top: Dean Carl Amrhein and Peter Walker.
Middle: Amrita Danciere and Angela Gibson.
Bottom: Tony Davis with Allison Reid, Robin Roff and Justin Ngan.

Page 7
Top: Jenny Lass (UTAGA Pres.) and Jane Macijauskas (UTAGA VP).
Middle: Peter Walker with Lesley Kinsley and Leah Birnbaum.
Bottom: Robert Lewis with Andrea Serink.

Photos by: Bob Sexton.
2002 Award Winners

Undergraduate Awards

Alpar Undergraduate Scholarship
Robin Roff

Canadian Association of Geographers Award
Katherine Myrans

Outstanding Performance Awards
GGR 220: Allison E. Reid; GGR 233: Robin Roff; GGR 240: Anne-Marie Marano; GGR 201/203/205/206: Ryan Wong; GGR 391: Justin J. Ngan

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award
Dawn Seetaram

Donald Putnam Scholarship
William Martin

Ben Shindman Scholarship in Geography
Dawn Davidson

The Edward Blake Scholarship in Geography
Allison E. Reid

Undergraduate Griffith Taylor Memorial Award
Katherine Myrans

Undergraduate Computer Applications Award
Sarah E. Pickering

Graduate Awards

Alpar Graduate Scholarship
Nicholas Luka

Geography Toronto Award
Alexis Morgan and Robert Penfold

Government of Ontario / William G. Dean Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology
Andrea Serink

Government of Ontario / ESRI Canada Graduate Scholarship in Science and Technology
Milica Kasanin-Grubin

Joseph A. May Scholarship
Valentine Cadieux and Deborah Cowen

The Neptis Foundation / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Yogandra Shakya and Steven Gammon

The Donald F. Putnam Graduate Scholarship
Tarmo Remmel

Graduate Griffith Taylor Memorial Award
Norma Rantisi

J. Michael Tomeczak / Ontario Graduate Scholarship
Jennifer Ridgley

Planning Program Awards

Benjamin Sonshine Urban Planning Award
Dawn Seetaram

Alan Tonks Planning Scholarship
Angel Gibson, Andrzej Pretrewicz, Zavchary Taylor, and Kate Zavitz

Peter R. Walker Planning Scholarship
Leslie Kinsley and Leah Birnbaum

Ian D. Macpherson Award
Antoine Belaieff

Canadian Institute of Planners Award for Academic Excellence
Antoine Belaieff

Edie Yolles Prize in Urban Planning
Jason Mercer
Cool Websites for Geographers and Planners
By Fenton Chin B.A. 9T4

http://earthyouth.takingitglobal.org. This new site, established in August 2002, aims to encourage and inspire young people to foster a sense of leadership and take action in their communities to create a more sustainable planet. Essentially, it’s very much in tune with UTAGA! Why not join this group? Membership is free.

http://www.icolormyworld.com. Did you ever dream of travelling the world? Have you ever wondered what other people in the world think about? Here you can find out, with some accuracy, the “mood demographics” of certain peoples.

http://www.worldairportguide.com. Another helpful resource for travellers and geographers. Available in various languages, this site provides information on the services offered in airports and other facilities in many countries. Examine the network of interactions among the world’s major nodes—cities and airports.

http://www.cyburbia.org. For city planners and urbanists, this is the place to go.

http://www.wmfn.org. Urban structures, like natural habitats, need to be preserved and protected. On this page, the World Monuments Fund, check out and nominate “endangered” sites, and learn how to support them.

http://www.davidsuzuki.org. The world-renown Canadian environmentalist, geneticist, and ethicist, David Suzuki, has a website named after his foundation. Learn about climate change, forestry, ocean ecology, and so on.

http://www.ontariomaze.com. A clean, healthy environment is essential for agriculture. This Newton, Ontario farm, opened in July 2002, is not just any ordinary maize plantation...it’s a tourist site too, with an enormous maze, made from corn and sunflowers, shaped into a map of the world. Bus tours can be arranged to the site. Just don’t get lost in there!


http://astroboy.gsfc.nasa.gov/earthasart. For pictures of the earth that are truly out of this world, visit this page for photos of our planet’s surface, taken from orbiting satellites.

http://www.mercatormag.com. Once again, for those who prefer electronic - rather than paper - reading material, this is the online version of “Exploring Mercator’s World,” the journal of maps, geography, and discovery, named in honour of the famous 16th-century cartographer, Gerhard Mercator.

Bill Dean’s account of a trip down the Mississippi:
Installment #1

Dear Joe,

We have been sitting here in Demopolis, Alabama a week now (seems like a year), with hurricane Isadore to pass over us. We are in an enclosed, safe harbour. There has been nothing more serious than two days of torrential rain so far, but the river has already risen 5 feet! The “eye” did pass over us a few minutes ago and it looks as if all H#!! is going to break loose. It’s raising stink in Mobile Bay, 150 miles south, we hear. Then we have Lili right behind Isadore! Apart from these little disruptions we’ve had a wonderful trip so far.

From Penetanguishene we sailed to Lion’s Head on the Bruce Peninsula and the next day to Killarney, then Gore Bay and on to Drummond Island, U.S.A. U.S. customs here is very easy-going. The officer asked me what I wanted on my Cruising Permit! Next day it was off to the Makinaw City via the famous Mackinac Island (War of 1812 and late 19th Century “Grand Hotel” – Millionaires only!). A couple of days later we sailed “around the corner” into Lake Michigan to Charlevoix – imagine how the Americans pronounce that. We cruised down the west coast of the lake which was spectacular especially since the lake behaved like a pussy cat (i.e. no wind or waves). A succession of delightful ports is available to the mariner all the way down to a monstrous marina in Michigan City, Indiana. From here we crossed to Chicago where we enjoyed the marvelous waterfront park that was originally designed for Toronto. The next day we entered the Chicago Sanitary Canal on our way to the Illinois River on a Sunday and so missed the traffic and the people as we sailed under the bridges and past the huge buildings. Spectacular!

It was here we encountered our first serious air pollutio problem. It was so bad it almost stopped my breathing altogether and it only got worse as we cruised down the Illinois to the Mississippi and then up the Ohio River to Paducah, Kentucky. The pollution came largely from coal fired electricity plants along the rivers. These big rivers seemed more thick mud flows than proper rivers, moreover, the commercial traffic of “tugs” and barges (“tows”) mostly carrying coal was very heavy. Stopping-places and marinas for Pleasure Crafts, having a low priority, were few and far between. From Paducah we pushed upstream to the Cumberland River and its huge locks to get to the Tennessee River (its enormous TVA locks are clogged with tows). The Tennessee River became Pickwick Lake from which one can access the Tombigbee River. This runs south through twelve gigantic locks 450 miles through the “Bible Belt” to Mobile Bay on the Gulf of Mexico. Much extra beer was stored for that stretch of the cruise.

I am sorry I have to miss Awards Night on October 10th. If it weren’t for Isadore I could have made it, but there is no hope now.

Bill Dean
Multidisciplinary project to reveal Canada’s “hidden” history

By Kim Luke

There’s the official story of the history of Canada. It is the one told by the famous and infamous – the likes of Louis Riel, John A. Macdonald and Wilfrid Laurier. Then there’s Canada’s “hidden” history – the story of this country as told by average Canadians whose names can’t be found in any history books. It is this hidden history that a cross-Canada multidisciplinary team of researchers, including U of T, hopes to unearth.

The Canadian Century Research Infrastructure Project involves historians, geographers, demographers and sociologists and is one of the most comprehensive humanities and social sciences projects in Canadian history. Over the next five years, scholars at U of T, the University of Ottawa, Victoria, Universite du Quebec a Trois-Rivieres, Memorial, York, and Laval universities will develop databases from census records for the 1911-1951 period.

These databases will then be added to other databases that cover the period from 1871-1901 and from 1961-2001. The result will be a new foundation for the study of social, economic, cultural and political change in Canada from Confederation on.

“By offering unprecedented evidence about Canada’s changing society, the census databases will bring individuals, families and households to the forefront of historical investigation,” says CCRI project leader Chad Gaffield of the University of Ottawa. “As a result, we can have better informed discussion about such key issues as the changing definitions of family, literacy, education, immigration, unemployment and ethnicity. It will also make possible more extensive studies of the changing characteristics of Canada’s immigrant population, the country’s economic evolution and such issues as labour, housing and religion.”

The key is that the team is looking at the changing nature of Canadian society from the point of view of everyday people. Looking at large scale social change, we can argue that change occurs as much from the every day decisions of people around the supper table as from large-scale policy, he explains.

Gaffield cites the fertility decline of the late 19th and early 20th century which resulted in a re-configuration of the demographic structure of Canada as one example. There was nobody at the time “officially” pushing in that direction, no church order, no government policy, but for their own reasons people started thinking about their families differently and having fewer children.

Geography professor Carl Amrhein, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science and U of T’s principal investigator for the project, says U of T’s contribution to CCRI will be primarily through its geography and sociology departments. “The cartography shop in geography is one of the finest in the world at creating large-scale digital maps,” Amrhein says. Led by Byron Moldofsky, the cartography group will be mapping the census variables and putting them into a geographical context. “We’re very pleased that this project has incorporated the geographic side because quite often social sciences research is limited to statistical analysis without looking at locational factors,” notes Moldofsky, manager of the cartography office. “At the end of this project, we’ll have a web site that will enable users to view the census variables they wish to see.

It will be an effective tool to communicate what the research has created.

“Some of the things we’ll be able to see on the spatial map, for example, are which parts of the city young families move into, concentrations of certain types of occupations. It doesn’t answer all of the questions, but it is a very good broad-brush start.”

A U of T sociology team, led by Charles Jones, will document the contemporary significance of religious, occupational, geographical and other categories of census variables, as well as how the policy concerns of the time created the conditions for including particular census questions.

“Essentially, we’re going after what you need to know about the data before you can make sense of it,” says Jones. In order to determine the social, political and cultural context, sociology students will look at archival sources, including local newspapers and House of Commons and Senate records to find out what was being written and discussed about these topics. Using these data, they will be able to see how the policy concerns of the time created the conditions for including particular census questions.

“This is a very ambitious project in its earliest stages,” notes Amrhein. “The censuses are a rich source of information. Over the next five years, we’ll find answers to a lot of questions about this country’s evolution. But equally as exciting, the data will raise questions that we haven’t even imagined asking yet.”

The 2003 Friends of Planning Spring Social

By S. Lue, B.A. 9T6 and M. Skelly, B.A. 9T1, M.Sc.Pl. 9T3

Building on the huge success of last year’s event, the 2003 Friends of Planning Spring Social promises great food, fun times and high profile speakers.

Presented by UTAGA’s Planning Alumni Committee, this year’s Spring Social will be held on Thursday April 10th, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Hart House. Mix and mingle with over 200 public, private, academic, and not-for-profit professionals who are expected to attend this annual cocktail party.

This year’s Featured Speaker is Christopher Hume, Urban Affairs Columnist for the Toronto Star.

This Spring Social is planned as part of the UTAGA Learning Project. In lieu of an admission fee, a $40 donation to the newly established University of Toronto Planning Alumni Graduate Scholarship is suggested. This unique opportunity to potentially take advantage of a five-to-one matching program and create a new OGS scholarship has been extended until December 2004.

Special thanks to our individual donors and our corporate sponsors from last year: Aird & Berlis; Cassels, Brock & Blackwell, Fraser Milner Casgrain, Hemson Consulting, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Urban Strategies; Bouseedfield Dale-Harris, Cutler & Smith, Lea Consulting, Naughton, Hermsen Britton Clarkson Planning; Fusken Martineau; the IBI Group and Wittington Properties. The Planning Alumni Committee also wishes to thank the Ontario Professional Planners Institute and the Faculty of Arts and Science for their promotional support of the event. For information about sponsorship opportunities for this year, please contact Antony Lorius at 416-593-5090 x34 or or alorius@hemson.com.
Sun, Surf, and Sand
(or is that Muck, Mosquitoes and Mayhem ?) The Department of Geography in North Central Cuba

By Matt Peros and Tony Davis

Balmy weather, endless beaches, and inexpensive beer – could anyone have picked a better field site? Since the summer of 2000, we, along with colleagues from the Anthropology Department here at U of T, the Institute of Archaeology at University College, London, and the Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology, and the Environment (CITMA), have been involved with archaeological and palaeoenvironmental studies along Cuba’s north coast in the Province of Ciego de Avila.

Our research is focused on how the coastal environment has responded to fluctuating sea levels, hurricanes, and human impact over the last several thousand years. This work supports the Los Buchillones archaeological project, directed by Dr. Jorge Calvera and Juan Jardines of CITMA. Los Buchillones is a submerged prehistoric site, occupied from AD 1220 to 1640 by the Taino, the largest indigenous group in the Greater Antilles at that time. Among other things, we want to know when and why the site became submerged, and how the Taino adapted to the changing coastal environment. Los Buchillones, one of the largest sites in the Caribbean, has exceptional preservation. The research will require a rewriting of Caribbean prehistory.

Our fieldwork involves coring in mangrove swamps and lagoons, and collecting water and soil samples. Back here, these samples are examined for pollen, foraminifera, tiny marine organisms, and various primary and secondary minerals. They provide valuable information about vegetation, salinity, and geomorphic processes. Radiocarbon dating – funded in part by the Geological Society of America – is then used to determine the age of various samples.

We’ve waded through decaying swamp muck up to our waists, fended off crabs by the thousands, battled mosquitoes by the millions, suffered weeks of diarrhea, and confronted Cuban customs agents who confiscate our field equipment and samples for no apparent reason. Of course, it’s not all work, work, work. There’s the occasional dip in the ocean (to wash off the day’s field grime), lobster lunches on our research vessel, a fiesta or two and interviews on the local radio station (in Spanish!).

The Department of Geography is signing a formal research agreement with the Centre for Coastal Ecosystem Research (CIEC) at Cayo Coco. This agreement will facilitate our present work and encourage the exchange of researchers between our two countries. We are also hoping to be able to bring senior undergraduate and graduate students on field trips to Cuba in the near future. If you have any questions about our research, feel free to contact Matt Peros (matthew.peros@utoronto.ca). Hasta Luego!

A Trip to Boston with Toronto in Mind

By Fatima Dharsee

Toronto’s new Official Plan, though promising, is not without its critics. Sarah Phipps, Lorenzo Nicolet and Marcus Siu recently took their questions regarding the Plan to Boston to both further their own personal research as well as to experience some real-life examples of ideas proposed in the new Official Plan.

Sarah and Lorenzo focused on the issue of Avenues in the Plan. They used Boston’s pilot “Mainstreets Program” as a case study and interviewed a city planner involved with the project. Marcus continued his own research at the Cambridge Research Park, studying creative living live and work spaces as is proposed for part of Toronto’s waterfront development.

After touring these target Boston facilities, they were able to recommend the use of some of the strategies that had been successful in Boston as part of their workshop course. The 4-day trip proved to be of great help in completing their research.

The students received financial support from the Friends of Planning Fund for their trip. They expressed their thanks to the Planning Alumni Committee, UTAGA, and the Department for helping to make the trip happen.
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If you have any questions in regards to the Department of Geography, please contact Donna Jeynes at 416-978-3375. Thank You!
A charitable receipt for income purposes will be issued by the University for all donations.
As hoped, we received a letter identifying the class pictured in the last issue of GeoPlan. Mr. John Reid identified the photo as being some summer students who worked at the Geographic Branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Services taken near Confederation Square in Ottawa in 1954. The persons pictured from left to right are: Len Swatridge (U of Western Ontario), Judy Nesbitt (now Reid, Carlton U), Eva Gaborska (McGill), Don MacLeod (MacMaster), John Reid (5T3), and Lynn McNeil (Carlton).

Memory Lane
Mary Chamerlain, Dorothy Ellis, Ruth Braffette, and Gwen Lutz on a 1945 field trip to Haliburton.