

# Announcements

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## Dr. Tom Atkinson Retires

Dr. Tom Atkinson is retiring after a long and distinguished career as a mathematics teacher and educator.

Tom taught for five years before joining the air force during World War II. After the war, Tom returned to the University of Alberta for further training and then taught for 14 years with the Edmonton Public School Board, 11 of those 14 at Victoria Composite High School. Dr. Atkinson joined the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta in 1963 and has taught mathematics education and related courses for the past 19 years.

MCATA has benefited from Tom's expertise and energy. Tom was the second president of MCATA and later did some editorial work on Council publications.

A retirement party for Tom Atkinson is planned to coincide with the MCATA Annual Meeting. It will be held in the Papachase Room of the Faculty Club (University Campus) on Saturday, October 23, 1982, at 1930 hours. Tickets are \$25 each. This includes dinner, table wine, and a small contribution toward a gift for Tom and Dorothy.

Tickets may be obtained from Will Reese, Department of Elementary Education (432-5417) and will be limited to 90 participants. Make cheques payable to the Department of Elementary Education.

## PRISM-Canada Report Available

The Canadian Priorities in School Mathematics (PRISM) study surveyed lay people as well as educators across Canada to determine priorities for school mathematics in the 1980s.

The PRISM-Canada report highlights the findings of this study and states some implications for action in the 1980s.

The study was supported by the Alberta Advisory Committee for Educational Studies, the Faculty of Education, the University of Alberta, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and by the University of Alberta Humanities and Social Sciences Research Fund. Joan Worth, George Cathcart, Tom Kieren, Walter Worth, and Sharon Forth conducted the study.

Copies of the report are available for \$8 each from the University of Alberta, Faculty of Education, Publications Office, Room 4-116 Education North, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G5.

**MCATA 22nd Annual Conference**  
**October 22-23, 1982**  
 Terrace Inn, 4440 – Calgary Trail North, Edmonton

Theme: "Mathematics: Beyond Four Walls"

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Gerald A. Goldin  
 Coordinator, Mathematics and Science Education  
 Northern Illinois University

Accommodation: Please make your own arrangements.  
 Possible hotels and rates (subject to change):  
 Terrace Inn (1-437-6010)  
 \$45 single, double, or family  
 Relax Inn  
 \$28.95 single/\$32.95 double  
 Convention Inn  
 \$45 single/double

Conference Registration:	<u>Before Oct. 8</u>	<u>After Oct. 8</u>
MCATA members	\$30	\$35
Non-members*	\$40	\$45
Student members	\$10	\$10
Student non-members*	\$16	\$16
*Includes membership.		

Luncheon Ticket: \$9

Registration forms will be sent to members and schools at the beginning of September.

For further information, contact: Rod Anderson  
 3528 - 104 Street  
 Edmonton, Alberta  
 Phone (403)435-5580

**Alberta Society for Computers in Education**  
**Third Annual Conference**  
**October 28, 29, and 30, 1982**

Theme: "The Computer as Teacher's Helper"  
 Location: Chateau Lacombe Hotel, Edmonton

Preconference workshops will be held on October 28, with the conference taking place on October 29 and 30.

For further information, contact Dr. Gene Romaniuk, President, at 432-3802 or write to the Secretary, ASCE, 352 General Services Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2H1, or phone 432-4767.

## ASCE Programming Contest

It used to be that extracurricular school activities were predictable: history clubs, science clubs, "Reach for the Top" clubs, and the like. But times change. As a result, there are groups of students who are attracted, some would even say addicted, to a new branch of technology - computers. As a result of this interest, schools are forming computer clubs. These clubs, through the efforts of the Alberta Society for Computers in Education, are now competing among themselves. The winners of area and regional contests are invited to compete in an annual invitational computer programming competition.

This year on May 29, at the University of Alberta, 27 students from senior high, junior high, and elementary schools gathered at the Education Building. At the end of the day, one of them returned home \$4,000 richer, first prize being an APPLE computer with a disk drive, printer, and monitor. In addition to these prizes, a Commodore VIC20, a pocket computer, a programmable calculator, and a scientific calculator were also given away. A total of 20 different prizes and gifts were given out so that all students received at least four gifts, with 15 students each receiving prizes for his or her programming skills.

### Prize winners were:

#### Senior High School

1st - D. Spitzer	St. Francis High (Calgary)
2nd - M. Tarrabain	M.E. Lazerte (Edmonton)
3rd - S. Bougerolle	Lethbridge Collegiate Institute
C. Mungan	Western Canada High (Calgary)
T. Tucker	Lethbridge Collegiate Institute
R. Sicclari	Lamont
D. Gilleland	Camrose Composite High
D. Hagglund	Ponoka Composite High
G. Teubert	M.E. Lazerte (Edmonton)
S. Slupsky	M.E. Lazerte (Edmonton)
P. Trevor	St. Francis High (Calgary)
G. McKenna	Western Canada High (Calgary)
D. Atkins	Western Canada High (Calgary)

#### Junior High School

1st - C. Anderson	Barnwell
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#### Elementary School

1st - R. Ohlhauser	Lansdowne Elementary (Edmonton)
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### Others who competed were:

C. Anderson	Lansdowne Elementary
R. Boker	Barnwell
C. Cathcart	Greenfield Elementary
G. Chow	Fort McMurray Composite High
P. Hagemann	Ponoka Composite High
D. Jones	Ponoka Composite High
K. Mah	Lethbridge Collegiate Institute
S. Morgan	Camrose Composite High
D. Pullor	Western Canada High
L. Tanne	Lethbridge Collegiate Institute
K. McAlpine	Lansdowne Elementary

### Prize donors were:

APPLE Canada .....	APPLE Computer and Diskdrive
Westworld .....	2 - \$20 Gift Vouchers
Gage Publishing Company .....	1 Subscription
Altel Data (AGT) .....	1 Subscription
Department of Transport .....	50 Alberta Buttons
Department of Education .....	Certificates
Computerland .....	Centronics 739 Printer
Radio Shack (Mill Woods, Edmonton) .....	Book
Digital Equipment of Canada .....	5 Clocks
TJB Microcomputers Systems (Edmonton) ..	VIC 20 Computer
Data General Limited (Edmonton) .....	Plaque
University of Alberta .....	Lunches and Facilities
Galactica Computers (Edmonton) .....	Monitor
ASCE .....	Programmable Calculator, Scientific Calculator, TRS-80 Pocket Computer, T-Shirts, Plaques

The competition and registration began at 0800 when the judges started their briefing. After this time, the students checked out their equipment and became familiar with the surroundings. Between 0930 and 1000, rules and regulations of the contest were presented and any uncertainties were clarified. At 1000, the first of four half-hour problems were given out as well as the major problem. The major problem was to be planned and thought about, but no computer work could be carried out until 1400 hours. For the next 30 minutes, the students programmed the computer for the solution to the first problem. In this case, they had to write their names a specified number of times both vertically and horizontally, left to right diagonally, and then right to left diagonally. The next three half-hour problems consisted of: (1) removing all vowels from any word entered, (2) calculating what the money paid for Manhattan Island would be worth today, using various interest rates, and (3) evaluating the total of a series of positive and negative fractions.

The major and last problem of the day was to write a program that had a title page, and a menu. Also required was input key protection routines, internal documentation, and a flowchart of the program.

The day finished at 1730. Everyone was tired and had gained a great deal of appreciation for the programming skills of the students. A few participants were happy to be major prize winners.

Each of the problems was evaluated by two different judges, and the results of both scores were recorded as the student's mark. Scores with wide discrepancies were reviewed by other evaluators. The evaluators were guided by Dr. M. Petruk who did an excellent job of organizing the evaluators and preparing the evaluation forms.

### **The evaluators were:**

Eugene Kozak (St. Rose School)  
Hans Kruse (Wetaskiwin)  
Dr. Milt Petruk (U of A)  
Orson Gadowsky (Lansdowne)  
Lyle Jubenville (Eastwood)  
Alf Bilton (Dan Knott JHS)

R.E. Busse (NAIT)  
Rick Roder (U of A)  
Dave Rand (ALPHA ONE)  
Judy Dobson (LTCHS)  
Dr. George Cathcart (U of A)  
Dr. Steve Hunka (U of A)

These people deserve our thanks, and all who worked with them appreciate their contribution to this exercise. They made the day a memorable occasion.

However, the people deserving the most thanks were those on the competition committee, as they spent weeks preparing for this event and spent many Saturday mornings huddled together working out the details. These people were:

Gloria Cathcart (Lansdowne Elementary)  
Ray Lautt (M.E. Lazerte)  
Eldred Stamp (Ponoka Composite)  
Ed Wiecek (Ponoka Composite)

Each person was responsible for a specific task and each fulfilled his task aptly and diligently. The result was that the day's events ran smoothly and without a major problem.

In closing, I would like to say that this competition would not have been so satisfying without the participation of the students, many of whom came over 500 kilometres to attend, without the able assistance of the evaluators, and without the efforts of the organizing committee. So, until we meet again at next year's competition, good luck and good programming. □