

## From the President's Pen

In November '95, the MCATA executive met in Red Deer at the annual "Thinkers Conference." The main focus on Friday evening and all day Saturday was the "Changing Role of the Teacher: What Are the Implications for Specialist Organizations?" To help guide our thinking, we considered the effect on the following: mathematics standards; philosophy of public education; Alberta Education's new directions (accountability, governance, Western Canada Protocol, the quality teaching document); education as a learning community; identification of constituents in the learning community and their involvement; what we should maintain as "critical" to mathematics; and mathematics education and financial realities on teachers.

Following a productive discussion, two groups were established, under the direction of the vice presidents, to create strategies for working within these realities. One group related its work to communications, public relations and education. The second group related its discussion to conferences, regional activities and membership. Sunday was spent bringing the discussions and recommendations together into set action plans. Following this, an executive meeting was held.

The results of our discussions and the actions that follow will provide a number of benefits to members. Reaching all areas of our regionals and satisfying our responsibilities is not as easy as we would like. We desperately need input from all members. If you have any issues, suggestions, questions or comments, please contact a member of the executive.

*George Ditto*

## From the Membership Director

I would like to remind you to renew your membership as soon as possible if it is coming up for renewal. I would still like to hear about activities that members are performing to promote math education in their classrooms, schools or communities. Let me know if any fellow teachers have any innovative ideas to share. Drop me a line to keep me abreast of what is happening with math education in your school: 1826 51 Street NW, Edmonton T6L 1K1; fax 469-0414.

*Daryl Chichuk*