



# Mathematics Council NEWSLETTER

The Alberta Teachers' Association

*Providing leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics.*

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## From the President's Pen

*This report was originally presented as an address at the MCATA annual general meeting, October 22, 1999.*

It has been a pleasure to serve as MCATA president during the last school year. The annual conference in Calgary in October 1998, the two Mathematics Leaders symposia, the publication of *delta-K* and the *Mathematics Council Newsletter*, and our Web site ([www.mathteachers.ab.ca](http://www.mathteachers.ab.ca)) were the main services and activities to members. MCATA continues to support the Calgary Junior High Math Contest, the Mathematics Education Trust, and teaching/learning materials through our NCTM liaison.

The executive met four times during the 1998-99 year. We established and worked on goals that we felt were imperative for the Council's successful operation. The Jasper conference is the first planned by our newly formed conference committee with representation from across the province. Klaus Puhlmann from Edson, conference coordinator; Sandra Unrau and I from Calgary, program; Elaine Manzer from Peace River, publicity and finances; and Daryl Chichak from Edmonton, registration; worked hard to make this conference a success. A direct result of our NCTM regional, held in Calgary last year, has been the new pricing structure for Canadian NCTM members, as well as the reorganization of NCTM conference planning involving affiliated groups. In addition, the passing of our metric resolution at the NCTM annual delegate assembly in San Francisco, presented by Klaus Puhlmann, was a wonderful success.

The opportunity to work with such a dedicated group of professionals has been personally rewarding. A number of individuals have been influential in the Council's success over the past year. My personal thanks to Dave Jeary, ATA staff advisor, who has provided needed direction and guidance when requested. Donna Chanasyk, secretary, and Doug Weisbeck, treasurer, continue to be totally committed to positions that offer very little in terms of profile, but

without their work and dedication the workings of the Mathematics Council would grind to a halt.

Vice presidents and directors responsible for assignments from professional development, publicity, publications and the NCTM include Gerri Lorway, Betty Morris, Rick Johnson, Elaine Manzer, Lorraine Taylor, Sandra Unrau, Graham Keogh and Bob Michie. They have given unselfishly of their time and talents and are true professionals in every sense. Our publication editors, Art Jorgensen and Klaus Puhlmann, have provided internationally recognized publications. Our Webmaster, Dick Pawloff, continues to forge ahead and bring us all into the 21st century.

Our conference chair, Klaus Puhlmann, has seen his vision of our mathematics conference set in the magnificent Canadian Rockies become a reality. Klaus continues to demonstrate his ongoing dedication to the professional development of our colleagues. Sandra Unrau's contribution to the program has been second to none. Her expertise, commitment and gentle spirit can be felt throughout this conference. Preparations are already under way for the Red Deer conference, and I know that with Graham Keogh's leadership, it too will be a success. Additional representatives and advisors, Dale Burnett, Norbert Sauer and Carol Henderson, PEC liaison, have contributed valuable input and guidance in our work over the past year. George Ditto, MCATA's longest standing past-president deserves special thanks. George, you are always there whenever any of us need advice, a sense of the past or a vision for the future. I am pleased to see that Florence Glanfield, past-president, whom we lost to Saskatoon, is able to be with us during this conference. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to keep us on track.

Executive members attended numerous conferences during the year. From the NCTM annual conference to the Technology Conference, Mathematics Curriculum Circle, Leadership Conference, Mathematics Symposium, ATA Annual Representative Assembly and Summer Conference, MCATA's voice could be heard. Thanks to all the executive members who gave up, in many cases, valuable holiday time to attend these



conferences on behalf of the Council.

In closing, I wish to thank all MCATA members and the MCATA executive. Our mandate—to provide leadership to encourage the continuing enhancement of teaching, learning and understanding mathematics—is a formidable one. We can all be proud of what has been accomplished and anxiously look forward to what still has to be done. ▲

—Cynthia Ballheim

## Red Deer Conference Update

After the success of the 1999 conference in Jasper, plan on attending MCATA's conference in Red Deer at the Capri Centre October 27-28, 2000. The conference theme is "2000: The World Math Year." We will have implemented the Western Canadian Protocol for Grades 1-12. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics will be announcing the new Standards 2000. Plan now to attend exciting sessions on these and other topics and share with your colleagues ideas to improve math instructions.

If there are sessions or themes that you would like offered, contact Sandra Unrau at [sunrau@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:sunrau@cbe.ab.ca). If you have suggestions for possible keynote speakers, contact Rick Johnson at [rjohnson@edmc.net](mailto:rjohnson@edmc.net). Remember to stay up to date by checking our Web site at [www.mathteachers.ab.ca](http://www.mathteachers.ab.ca). ▲

—Graham Keogh

## Jasper Math Conference

Over 600 registrants enjoyed Jasper Park Lodge and the annual conference, "Mathematics in Harmony with the New Millennium," October 21-23. The conference opened with a wine-and-cheese reception Thursday evening during and after registration. Friday started with a presentation by Carole Greenes, followed by a full day of sessions and displays. Saturday's sessions included lunch with Phil Rudomsky and closing speaker, Dale Burnett. Over 40 participants left with doorprizes.

The organizing committee thanks the speakers, displayers and games emporium organizers for contributing to a successful math conference. ▲

—Elaine Manzer

## CNS Esso Regional Math Camp

Twenty-eight students attended a very successful math camp held at the Rothney Astrophysical Observatory in Calgary, July 17-23, 1999.

Students participated in a variety of interesting and challenging mathematics activities, including several enjoyable field trips in the Calgary area.

Special thanks to Imperial Oil Charitable Foundation, the Faculty of Science and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of Calgary, and the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences for their financial contributions. ▲

—Bill Sands

## Grants

\$500 grants are available from MCATA. Deadlines for applications are December 1 and May 1 of each year. Criteria and application forms are available from Sandra Unrau at [sunrau@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:sunrau@cbe.ab.ca). ▲

## Be a Winner in the Year 2000

Year 2000 has been declared the World Mathematical Year (WMY). To promote WMY 2000, MCATA is looking for a unique, catchy mathematical phrase to be used on promotional items, such as mugs, water bottles, T-shirts and pencils.

### Rules

- ◆ The phrase must be simple and limited to two lines.
- ◆ The design with/without words must be simple and in two colors.
- ◆ Only original work is to be submitted; it will not be returned.
- ◆ Submissions must be on 8½-by-11-inch white paper.
- ◆ The entry must be accompanied with a separate sheet of paper that includes your name, address, phone number and school name.

### Prizes

Winning entries will receive \$100. Judges' decisions are final. All winning entries will be the property of MCATA.

### Deadline

Submit by January 1, 2000, to Sandra Unrau, 11 Hartford Place NW, Calgary T2K 2A9. ▲