

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The 60th annual meeting of the Eastern Snow Conference (ESC), held in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada, held true to the expanding scope and size of the organization: the conference featured 26 oral presentations, 11 poster papers, 68 regular attendees, and 14 student attendees. This year's theme, "Remote Sensing of Snow and Ice—The State of the Art," led the participants through sessions focused on the status of remote sensing in general, snow and soil interface issues, glaciers, forest impacts, and an insight into the validation process using ground-truth data. The traditional close-of-conference field trip led a large contingent to the Bombardier Museum in Granby, Quebec, to view the progression of over-the-snow vehicles that have played such an important role in snow sciences.

The preparations that go into making a conference of this style are rather extensive, taking months of coordination, communication, and planning. ESC Vice President and Programme Chair Miles Ecclestone and Local Arrangement Chair Hardy Granberg (with considerable support from committee members Ross Brown and Paul Gagnon) made every effort to plan a conference that would be true to the ESC tradition, complete with a much appreciated look into the local culture with a special presentation of Quebec music at the banquet. Special thanks are due to these very supportive individuals.

An uncompensated Executive that consists of many committees and their respective Chairs, who do all of the "behind the scenes" work that allows the organization to function smoothly, direct the ESC as a whole. Our most visible products are the *Proceedings*, co-edited by Robert Hellström and Susan Frankenstein, and our increasing Web presence, facilitated by Andrew Klein. The *Proceedings* are a significant resource and their professional appearance is a credit to the organization. Similarly, our Web page continues to mature as a valuable communication tool, directory of information relative to the conference, and the consistent preparation of oral and poster papers. As in the past, there will be a special issue of *Hydrological Processes*, co-edited by Janet Hardy, John Pomeroy, Kelly Elder, and Andrew Klein. Their efforts will continue to bring the work of the ESC to a broader audience.

The Research Committee is responsible for, among other things, the selection of the winner of the Wiesnet Medal, our prized student award. Over the years, the ESC has made a continued and increasing effort to involve the student population in research. Chris Derksen, Chair, with members Mauri Pelto, Newell Hedstrom, and Steve Fassnacht, had the difficult task of determining the best student paper. The five entrants in this category presented interesting research and put excellent effort into the preparation of their papers. The research committee awarded the Wiesnet to Alexandre Langlois, University of Sherbrooke, for his paper titled "Validation of the Snow Cover Variation of the Canadian Regional Climate Model (CRCM) Using Passive Microwave Satellite Data," a topic clearly related to the theme of the conference. Interesting students in the gathering of field data is becoming increasingly important. The Campbell Scientific Award to the student who shows innovation in the use of instrumentation in his or her work was awarded to Ryan Smith, Trent University, for his paper "Winter Net Ecosystem Exchange of CO₂ from the Mer Bleue Bog Peatland."

The Steering Committee, Susan Taylor, Chair, with team members Claude Duguay and Janet Hardy, continue to offer much-sought-after advice and direction, and our Treasurers, Derrill Cowing and Miles Ecclestone, carefully guide our income and expenses. Their continued efforts are much appreciated by all. Miles, unfortunately, also had the courage to submit his recent difficulties in accomplishing a field programme to the Sno-Foo awards committee. Needless to say, when the heretofore "anonymous" entry was awarded to Miles he was in a state of mild disbelief.

The ESC also depends heavily on the generous support of our corporate sponsors: Hydro-Quebec, Geonor, Campbell Scientific Canada, New Brunswick Environment, the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center—Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, and CARTEL/University of Sherbrooke. We are grateful for our sponsors' full range of support. Thanks also go to the Members of the ESC who work hard to complete the research that we see in the presentations, be they students or researchers with many years of experience. The sharing of information and experience between these two groups can only enhance our efforts in the future.

Ken Rancourt
60th President
Eastern Snow Conference