

Award for Service to the Profession of Geography

Dr Len Evenden



Dr. Evenden is a worthy recipient of the CAG Award for Service to the Profession of Geography. Throughout his distinguished professional career, he has actively promoted the particular insights that come from the geographical imagination. He has a stellar record of service within Simon Fraser University, which he moved to in 1966, and a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching and graduate training. His research has focused on Canadian urban geography – in particular, the suburban landscape, wartime housing and place identity. While his c.v. includes many independent papers, it is also noteworthy that many of his publications include collaborative scholarly projects, such as the historical atlas of Vancouver published in 1991, entitled ‘Vancouver: a visual history’, or his edited collection on Burnaby, ‘Suburb of happy homes’. An ‘old-school’ Geographer, possessed of a broad and integrative view of the discipline, Len’s MA (from the University of Georgia) was on drainage basins in the delimitation of geomorphic regions, while his PhD, from Edinburgh, explored urban settlement hierarchies.

Len has been tireless in his support of the discipline and the CAG, where he has been active, both nationally, and within the Western Division. While many scholars shrink from such engagements, Len has served on the National Executive of the CAG, while also acting as the CAG representative in the SFU Department of Geography. Within the WDCAG, he has served as President, Executive Councillor, Newsletter Editor, and on the Nominations Committee and on the editorial board of the Annual Papers. He also served as conference chairman when the Annual Meeting was held at SFU. In 1997, the WDCAG acknowledged his long service and support at a Divisional banquet. He has also served on multiple committees with the Social Sciences Federation, SSHRC, and the IGU, and has a strong commitment to, and involvement with Canadian studies, both at SFU and beyond. He has served on the national board of the Association for Canadian Studies as representative for the BC and Yukon regions.