

## **Award for Service to the Profession of Geography**

### **Dr John C. Everitt**

Professor John Everitt will retire from Brandon University in 2008. It is both timely and most appropriate that he receive the CAG Award for Service to the Profession of Geography in recognition of the dedicated and numerous contributions to the discipline he has made over his more than 35 years in Canada. Through John Everitt's stalwart efforts the discipline has been admirably served. Professor Everitt has promoted and advanced geography both within and outside academe, and both within and outside Canada. In particular he has made important contributions in terms of teaching, research, administration, as well as consulting and community service.

Professor Everitt has contributed to teaching at both graduate and undergraduate levels. He has been both an innovative and a successful teacher. Since 1973 at the undergraduate level he has regularly taught a "full load" of 18 credit hours from first-year introductory level to 4thlevels (in some twenty different courses), as well as assuming other duties and responsibilities. In total Professor Everitt has taught over 8,000 students at a University that has averaged less than 3,000 students total enrollment a year. Although there is no graduate program at Brandon University, Professor Everitt has served on many Undergraduate Honours Thesis committees, as well as geography graduate committees in BC, Ontario, and Manitoba. Professor Everitt has worked with graduate students in Geography (now Environment and Geography), Community Health Sciences, and the Centre on Aging at the University of Manitoba, where he is an adjunct faculty member. More recently he has been on several M.A. Degree supervisory and examination committees in the relatively new Department of Rural Development at BU in which he is a "Contributing Faculty Member". In total Professor Everitt has served on ten M A and nine Ph.D. committees.

Professor Everitt has given over 150 conference presentations and has more than 150 publications. He has rarely missed a meeting of the CAG or its Prairie Division. Although his research is not directly related to this CAG award, a considerable amount of Professor Everitt's research has been applied, or directed to the Manitoba community (and elsewhere) and consequently has had an impact on raising the profile of the discipline of geography outside the walls of academe. As recognition of his status in the discipline John has been involved on several Canada-wide grants of national status.

Professor Everitt is never reticent about calling himself a geographer when in public, and as a consultant-geography has been used by a variety of organizations in the Prairies. In this context Professor Everitt's research on aging, urban renewal, and heritage has been used in Brandon, and his co-edited book on the Geography of Manitoba has brought widespread acclaim to the Geography Department at Brandon University. This book, was instrumental in stimulating at least two other volumes on provincial regional geography in Canada. His work on Belize brought him international acclaim. Similarly his work on the grain trade in Canada has made him an 'on-call' person across the prairies on this topic for other authors, newspapers, and radio and TV broadcasts -at the same time boosting his profession and his department. Professor Everitt's recent research work on the quality of life, tourism and sustainability of Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico along with his research seminars to faculty at the campus of the University of Guadalajara in Puerto Vallarta have built and strengthened ties among geographers in Canada and Mexico.

He has contributed to the profession in a number of administrative roles. For example, he served as Chair of the Department for nearly thirteen years. Apart from the usual selection of university committees, he was selected as a geographer on several other committees related to the internationalization of the university and the promotion of rural studies. He is currently serving as the member responsible for 'geography' on the Editorial Board of the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Manitoba. Professor Everitt has always reviewed research papers for journals willingly and on time, and has refereed some two-dozen grant applications for groups such as the NSF and the SSHRC. In recent years, as a mark of John Everitt's status within geography he has been asked, by faculty and administrators in many institutions, to act as an external referee for tenure and promotion applications, and for decanal positions. He has served as an external examiner for a number of departmental reviews.

Professor Everitt has worked hard to increase the public profile of geography within BU as well as in his local region of Westman, Manitoba. He has been on a number of local Brandon committees as a

geographer, and has served as a founding Board Member and Vice President on the Neighbourhood Renewal Committee (NRC) of Brandon, and President (for five years) and founding Board Member of Riverbank Inc., a local environmental group. He was also instrumental in promoting the need for an urban geographer on the board of the NRC, written into its constitution. Professor Everitt was also a founding member and Executive Member on Marquis, a Third World Dev-Ed group in Brandon, also serving as its Vice President. He also used his professional skills in the Assiniboine Historical Society as a member and Board Member, and in various ethnic, aging, and women's groups in Brandon. He has been closely involved with the BU Local Committee of World University Service of Canada for over thirty years, being instrumental in bringing twenty-five refugee students to Canada. He has served on both the municipal and provincial heritage committees. Once again as a geographer, Professor Everitt has given guest lectures at a variety of local and provincial organizations, and many presentations to Brandon City Council and the Brandon and Area Planning District. In total, he has been exceedingly successful at enhancing the reputation of geography as an important and relevant discipline within the university and elsewhere.

Within the profession, Professor Everitt has served on the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (he is a Fellow of the RCGS) and NCGE committees, he has served on the executive of, as well as President of, the CAG, and has represented the CAG at both AAG and IBG meetings. He is active in a number of AAG and CAG speciality groups. Locally he is best known as a co-founder of (in 1976), and a driving force behind, the Prairie Division of the CAG. John served as both Secretary-Treasurer and President of this organization, edited its Newsletter, and received both research and service awards from the Division. He has also been active as a geographer in other academic groups, indicating his recognized value outside of the discipline. He was a Vice President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Names. He has been active in the Centre on Aging at the University of Manitoba, served for many years on its Advisory Board, is a Research Affiliate in the Centre, and is a part of national grant applications (Community University Research Alliance -CURA, SSHRC) with other members of the Centre. He has presented guest lectures and/or seminars at some twenty universities in Canada, the USA, the UK, Mexico, Austria, and Germany.

Professor Everitt has clearly served the discipline of geography in Canada in a wide variety of ways, and has continually demonstrated the importance of geographic issues within the contemporary world. He has been very effective in all aspects of our profession -teaching and research as well as service. John has been a true ambassador for Geography in Canada. He has been recognised by his university, his CAG Division and by the RCGS. I call upon the CAG to give him its own recognition. Honoring Professor Everitt with the CAG Award for service to the profession of geography will give him due recognition and invigorate his continuing contributions to knowledge to the discipline of geography.