

President's Report

David Douglas

This year has been a year of consolidation, organizational development and planning for the *Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/Fondation Canadienne pour la revitalisation rurale*. As a volunteer-based network organization we have secured some significant achievements and are better poised to address our vision and mission for the future.



David Douglas, CRRF President

I want to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues on the Board who dedicated considerable time, energy and effort over this short twelve months to strengthen our organization, to enhance our collaborative potentials, to improve our operational and communications abilities, and to underpin our strengths for the future. Singling out anyone for particular mention is always a mixed blessing in these instances, but I do want to thank George Penfold, our Treasurer, for patiently and conscientiously assisting us in getting our finances in order. I also want to thank Heather Clemenson, our Board Secretary, for helping us in a year that has been far more intensive in administrative activity than is usual for us. I believe that our year's work has been a worthwhile and a productive investment. But it is one that has required the commitment and dedication of an active Board.

I also want to thank from the outset our many partners. We operate and we make our contributions through a great variety of collaborative initiatives, many of them opportunistic and short term. They require trust, patience, enthusiasm and the commitment of personnel, financial and other resources. The Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) have been particularly active and supportive partners with us this year, as they have been for many years. We have continued our collaborative activities with Statistics Canada, the renamed Rural Ontario Institute (formerly TORC), the Leslie Harris Centre, Memorial University, CCEDnet, the Moneison Centre, Queen's University, the Rural Development Institute (RDI), Brandon University, the Canadian Rural Health Research Network/Société canadienne de recherche en santé rurale, and several others. We are especially pleased to have the RDI as our Annual Conference partners this year.

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A major outcome of our partnering activities this year has been the formal launching of the *Canadian Rural Research Network/Reseau Canadien de recherche rurale* (CRRN/RCRR), through the leadership of Dr. Allesandro Allasia (<http://rural-research-network.blogspot.com/>). This is an important development and provides a long overdue and powerful resource for all of rural Canada, as well as for the research, policy and community organizations sectors here.

***Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation/
Foundation Canadienne pour la Revitalisation Rurale***

We continue to work to enhance our communications, which are pivotal to our success. This year we are launching the CRRF/FCRR “E-zine” as a regular update on our activities as well as our *Annual Report*. We are committed to enhancing our website as a powerful and versatile tool for more effective communications. Our partnership with Concordia University has been helpful here. Board communications and effectiveness has been enhanced through our monthly conference call meetings. The network’s major activities, events and schedules are of course now posted on the CRRF/FCRR site.

This year we have developed and launched our first *Strategic Plan* (2010-15). This details our vision, mission, a set of goals and a complementary set of objectives. Most important this plan sets out a clear set of targets for us. These encompass our membership, information and communications, funding and financial management, Board management, networking, collaboration and partnering, advocating and facilitating rural research, advancing new research and researchers, identifying, communicating and networking with others on rural development trends, issues and priorities across Canada. They set out the core activities and the foci for our energies for the next five years. I would encourage all members and colleagues to examine our *Strategic Plan* and to join us in advancing the welfare of rural Canada’s residents and communities.

CRRF/FCRR itself, or through a variety of groups from within our network, has recently concluded or continues its collaborative research across a range of topics, from the vital issues relating to rural/urban interrelationships (Newfoundland & Labrador, Saskatchewan, Ottawa/Hull), a book on governance and rural and remote communities (2009), another book on rural planning and development policies, theory and practice across Canada (2010), and more recently a new project on regional development and planning policies and practices in Newfoundland & Labrador, British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario, led by CRRF/FCRR member Dr. Kelly Vodden, Memorial University.

CRRF/FCRR has recently entered into a partnership with the Alberta Rural Development Network, the Canadian Agri-food Policy Institute, the Rural Development Network (Government of Canada), Natural Resources Canada (Canadian Forestry Service), the Rural and Co-operatives Secretariat (Government of Canada) and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) to put on Canada’s first *Rural Research Workshop* (Ottawa, May 5, 2011), chairing the Programme Committee for this major event.

Among the priorities for our next year, as set out in our *Strategic Plan*, include core funding for the organization to support our website development, our major annual project, the *Annual Conference*, and other investments. They will also include expanding our networking activities with more rural research and development organizations, such as the research centres, and investing further in our current and new partnerships. These priorities, our collaborative research projects and the ever-pressing need to foster awareness of rural issues and opportunities, and the necessity of policy research there, will keep us busy. This busyness will be augmented by expanded efforts on the membership front - more younger members, more community organizations, more policy practitioners, and some formalization in our membership process.

Again, as your President, I wish to express my sincere thanks to you for your commitment, your enthusiasm and your support.

RDI and CRRF Co-host 2010 Conference

William (Bill) Ashton

On behalf of the Conference Planning Committee, welcome to *On the Bright Side: Rural Canada Works* conference.

Over the next three days, this national conference will examine rural communities, their potentials and their futures, highlighting approaches to development, policies, and projects that are making a real difference across rural Canada. The conference will feature a great variety of presentations, panel discussions and posters focusing on rural policy, immigration, education, food security,

communications, economic development, and many other issues affecting today's rural communities, and highlight innovative approaches designed to address these challenges.



The conference is being co-hosted by the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) and the Rural Development Institute (RDI), Brandon University. The planning committee for this conference and the staff at the Rural Development Institute have met regularly over the last nine months to design and develop this event.

We would like to extend our thanks to the partners and sponsors whose assistance made this conference possible: Rural Secretariat, Manitoba Agriculture (MAFRI), Food and Rural Initiatives, Natural Resources Canada, Heritage Canada, Manitoba Hydro, Brandon University, Nelson Education, Maple Leaf Foods, A. E. McKenzie Co. Inc., Husky Energy Inc., and the Riding Mountain National Park.

If you have any questions during the conference, please do not hesitate to inquire with any member of the planning committee. After the conclusion of the conference, submitted presentations will be posted electronically on the conference website at <http://www2.brandonu.ca/organizations/rdi/crrf2010.asp>

We are looking forward to your participation and hope that you enjoy the conference!

The CRRF Team/L'équipe FCRR

Executive

***President - David Douglas Past President - Mike Stolte
Treasurer - George Penfold Secretary - Heather Clemenson***

CRRF Board Members

***Bill Ashton, Bob Annis, Serge Gagnon, Ryan Gibson, Bruno Jean,
Bill Reimer, Kelly Vodden, Deatra Walsh***

CRRF-Related Projects and Activities

National Longitudinal Database Created

A national longitudinal database of census subdivisions from 1986 to 2006 has been created by a consortium of four Canadian institutions. This database is unique in that the census subdivision boundaries are constant for the full five years involved – they have been established using 2006 boundaries. The database was created for the Canadian Longitudinal Data Consortium – led by Concordia University and including Natural Resources Canada, the Rural and Co-operative Secretariat of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the University of Alberta.

This data will provide a valuable resource for rural communities and their analysis since the size of the unit best approximates municipalities, towns, and villages throughout Canada. Access to this database can be arranged using Statistics Canada protocols for consortiums. If you are interested in exploring this option, contact Bill Reimer via Bill.Reimer@Concordia.ca.

The Trajectories of Rural Communities in Canada

This three-year SSHRC-funded research project is examining the transformation of rural communities in Canada between 1986 and 2006. Population changes, economic performance, community health, and social cohesion will be the initial foci for the research – with particular attention given to the underlying processes that condition those changes. The analysis will be guided by a model of community capacity developed within the New Rural Economy project over the last 11 years. It highlights local economic, human, social, and environmental assets, the governance of those assets, and the institutional context in which the reorganization takes place. Four issues will be given detailed analysis: The importance of trade and globalization on rural community population change; the relative importance of human and social capital on those changes; the importance of municipal financial autonomy for population change, employment and health; and rural-urban interdependence. For further information about this project see: <http://reimer.concordia.ca/Research>.

Canadian Regional Development: a critical review of theory, practice and potentials

Co-investigators Kelly Vodden, David Douglas, Sean Markey and Bill Reimer received a three-year SSHRC Standard Research Grant in spring 2010 to: (i) undertake a critical assessment of the application and relevance of New Regionalism in the Canadian context; (ii) seek Canadian innovations in Regional Development (RD); and (iii) understand how these innovations are evolving and if and how they are being shared across space in networks of RD practice. The team, which also includes PhD Candidate and CRRF Board member Ryan Gibson and Masters students from each of the four partnering universities (Memorial, Guelph, Concordia and Simon Fraser), will address existing gaps in theory and practice by conducting an empirical assessment of Canadian RD, with a particular focus on four case study provinces (Newfoundland and Labrador, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia) as well as national-level initiatives and relationships. Multi-level, mixed methods approaches will focus on five key themes of New Regionalism: i) collaborative, multi-level governance; ii) integrated vs. sectoral and single objective approaches; iii) fostering knowledge flow, learning and innovation; iv) place-based development; and v) rural-urban interaction and interdependence.. For further information about this project contact Kelly Vodden at kvodden@mun.ca or 709-737-8981.

Resiliency in Rural Settlements that have experienced Wildfires

This is SSHRC-funded project investigating the experiences, outcomes, and policy implications of communities that have experienced wildfires. It is led by Judith Kulig at the University of Lethbridge. The central focus of the research is on the conditions and processes supporting the resiliency of communities to cope with and improve their situation as a result of the fire. As part of this research we have been working with four communities in western Canada: those in the Crowsnest Pass region of BS; Barriere, BC; La Ronge, SK; and Coaldale, AB. Results of the study include dissemination to academic, policy, and popular audiences. Details regarding this project can be found via <http://ruralwildfire.ca>.

Social Dynamics of Economic Performance: Innovation and Creativity in City Regions (the “Wolfe Project”)

This is a Major Collaborative Research initiative (MCRI), funded by SSHRC. The project leaders, David Wolfe and Meric Gertler, are both based at the University of Toronto. Fourteen Canadian cities are included in this \$2.5 million project, with Rob Greenwood being the lead investigator for the St. John’s region. Additional funding has been accessed from the Industrial Research Innovation Fund (IRIF) and from the office of the Vice President (Research) to extend the research outside the St. John’s city region. The research consists of case studies to determine why certain city regions are able to generate competitive, innovative economies and how this depends on social factors not typically considered in studies of economic development. The research focuses on three themes: (1) the social dynamics of innovation, (2) creativity and talent attraction, and (3) governance and social inclusion. As part of the research, each theme has now had 25 completed interviews in the St. John’s city region, with approximately 25 across the themes in each of Clarenville, Corner Brook and Labrador West.

Rural-Urban Interaction in Newfoundland and Labrador: Understanding and Managing Functional Regions

As President of CRRF, Rob Greenwood initiated this national project, and he is still leading it to advance research on delineating the ways in which rural and urban areas are inter-dependent and to understand how current governance institutions and processes are able to address shared planning, taxation, decision making and related activities. This is a key initiative under an alliance CRRF has with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM). In Newfoundland and Labrador, the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) approved \$329,000 over 2½ years for CRRF. In partnership with the Harris Centre, Drs. Alvin Simms and Kelly Vodden with the Geography Department at Memorial, Craig Pollett with Municipalities Newfoundland and Labrador (MNL) and Dr. David Freshwater from the University of Kentucky (who last year was head of rural development with the OECD), are working to better understand the linkages between rural and urban communities using GIS, assess governance relation, develop a labour market attractiveness index and collaborate with other partners to exchange knowledge.

Celtic Rendezvous

From June 10-12th, 2010, The Harris Centre hosted a collaborative workshop, bringing together researchers from the Functional Regions Project, and the Social Dimensions of Creativity and Innovation in Canadian City-Regions Project, with regional developers from across the province. CRRF was a key proponent in the event. It was an opportunity for the regional participants to hear more about the projects' outcomes, and share their own experiences. There were two days of presentations and discussions, as well as a special evening session on Creativity in Newfoundland and Labrador featuring noted performers/creative organizers, Andy Jones, Jillian Keiley, and David Maggs. The proceedings of the event were published in a report titled, Local Governance, Creativity and Regional Development in Newfoundland and Labrador: Lessons for Policy and Practise from Two Projects. The event brought several high profile researchers to Memorial, leading to significant media coverage on both television and radio. We also made use of their talents through a series of associated events, including a Memorial Presents event, Synergy Sessions and industry meetings.

See <http://www.mun.ca/harriscentre/reports/research/2010/CelticRendezvousJune2010.pdf> for the report.

Le LabMIT

Le Laboratoire de modélisation et d'intelligence territoriale (LabMIT) est une initiative conjointe de l'Université du Québec en Outaouais et du CÉGEP de l'Outaouais, soutenue par le Ministère de l'Éducation du Loisir et du Sport du Québec. Il a pour mission notamment de promouvoir une méthode originale d'analyse des dynamiques territoriales et de développer des outils de gestion des territoires adaptés à différentes échelles spatiales. Les activités du LabMIT comprennent entre autres l'élaboration de méthodes et d'outils d'analyse, l'assistanat de recherche, la réalisation de projets d'intervention et la diffusion des connaissances acquises et des méthodes développées.

L'année 2010 du LabMIT a été particulièrement riche en événements à ce jour. Elle lui a permis d'accueillir en son sein deux stagiaires internationales pour une durée de six mois chacune. Elle a aussi été l'occasion de réaliser des interventions aux échelles micro et méso-géographiques. Elle est l'occasion de préparer un événement de diffusion d'envergure : une conférence internationale à Gatineau à l'automne 2011.

Les stagiaires

L'accueil de stagiaires au LabMIT est une occasion de collaborer avec des universités étrangères. Les stagiaires accueillies cette année proviennent d'une part de l'Université de Bretagne Occidentale (Brest, France) et d'autre part de l'Université de Liège (Liège, Belgique). Leur stage complète des programmes de formation de niveau de maîtrise en géographie et en développement local.

Les projets : Quartier Deschênes et Lac Saint-Pierre

Les deux projets d'intervention que le LabMIT a pris à sa charge en 2010 consistent en des analyses des dynamiques spatiales aux échelles micro et méso-géographique. Dans un cas, le quartier Deschênes de la Ville de Gatineau a fait l'objet d'une étude originale. Foyer d'établissement humain dans la région de l'Outaouais, ce quartier est riche en faits géographiques et en événements historiques qui en font un lieu unique dont les perspectives de développement doivent être arrimées à la vision émergente de la population locale. Dans l'autre cas, le territoire de la Réserve mondiale de biosphère du Lac Saint-Pierre au Québec a donné lieu à une analyse à l'échelle méso-géographique des facteurs de mise en valeur de ce territoire à des fins écotouristiques. Elle a permis de valider l'importance de la coopération et de la prise en charge locales comme leviers de développement local et régional. Les rapports de chaque étude de cas seront publiés prochainement sur le site du LabMIT (www.labmit.org).

Un grand projet de diffusion : IT Gatineau 2011

Sous la thématique de l'intelligence, des communications et de l'ingénierie territoriales sera tenue la conférence internationale « IT Gatineau 2011 » à Gatineau du 12 au 14 octobre 2011. Participeront à cet événement notamment des chercheurs de France, de Belgique, de Hongrie, d'Italie, d'Espagne et d'Argentine. La conférence présentera une variété d'expériences dans l'analyse des dynamiques territoriales et dans les méthodes d'intervention en développement local et régional. À cet égard, il est utile de souligner que le LabMIT collabore depuis 2008 avec un réseau de chercheurs international désigné « European Network of Territorial Intelligence » (ENTI, <http://www.intelligence-territoriale.eu/index.php/fre/>). De ce fait, il constitue la porte d'entrée nord-américaine de ce réseau. D'autres développements sont à prévoir dans la prochaine année. À suivre.



Knowledge sharing requires both human interaction and impactful tools to act as reach extenders. Yaffle is a matchmaking tool for knowledge mobilization. It is unique in that it is the only live and operating tool providing a vehicle through which citizens, communities, and organizations can propose new research or propose ways to collaborate. Additionally, to our knowledge no other university has committed to link its research and expertise to society at large in such an accessible way.

Yaffle is an innovative, searchable web-based application, developed as an initiative of the Harris Centre as a knowledge mobilization tool. It provides access to: Research, teaching and outreach activities at Memorial University; collaborative opportunities identified by both faculty and community members, and faculty expertise. Akin to creating a social networking profile page, any user-populated element of Yaffle can be edited with a single page web form, accessible directly from the user's account menu. Additionally, Yaffle is built to be modular, allowing for future developments or additions whereby provincial, national or international partners can add their research-based information.

Visit Yaffle today at yaffle.ca.

Publications, Presentations and Links

Douglas, David (ed) (2010). Rural Planning and Development in Canada (First Ed.). Toronto: Nelson Canada.

Reimer, Bill (2010) "[Revitalizing Rural and Urban Relations: Seven Strategies](#)" Invited presentation to Newfoundland and Labrador Policy-makers, St. John's, June 14. <http://reimer.concordia.ca/research>

Reimer, Bill (2010) "[Attracting Immigrants in the New Rural Economy](#)" Invited presentation to the *Federation of Canadian Municipalities National Conference*, Toronto, ON, May 28. (Municipal Workshop "Vibrant communities in a changing country: How to attract new Canadians to your region". <http://reimer.concordia.ca/research>

Reimer, Bill (2010) "[Immigration in the New Rural Economy](#)" Invited presentation to the Welcoming Communities Seminar, Ottawa: *Metropolis Project*, Jan. 25. ([L'immigration dans la nouvelle économie rurale](#)). <http://reimer.concordia.ca/research>

Vodden, Kelly (2010)

<http://regionalismburinpen.wordpress.com/> (with Ryan Gibson)

<http://networkweavinggnp.wordpress.com>

<http://www.kittiwake.nf.ca/documents/community-research.htm>

<http://www.omrn-rrgo.ca/index.php?action=news.index&contentId=97>



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The Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation is a charitable institution committed to bettering the lives of rural Canadians. The Foundation's resources are directed toward funding research and seminars, as well as promoting the dissemination of research results and economic development opportunities.

CRRF's mission is to revitalize rural Canada and build mutually beneficial rural/urban relationships. Strong rural economies across Canada are needed by the rest of Canadians for the 2000s. CRRF achieves its mission through education and research for rural leaders in the community, the private sector and in government.

CRRF seeks to broker mutually beneficial relationships built on improved understanding of common interest at all levels, to advance the fortunes of all partners and reduce rural dependency.