



## **IAH Vice President North America Report – February 2017**

**Respectfully submitted by Joanne Thompson**

I attended the 60 year celebrations and 43<sup>rd</sup> IAH Congress in Montpellier, France at the end of September 2016 and assumed my duties as VP North America. I was pleased to see a strong showing of North American delegates. In particular, there were many more Canadian participants as compared to previous international congresses. I believe that the increased interest in the international congresses may be related, in part, to the legacy of the success of the 2012 Niagara Falls Congress.

In North America, both the Canadian and United States national chapters of the IAH are doing very well with active and engaged executive committees and healthy finances. Some key activities and upcoming events are listed below. Residing in Canada, I have more knowledge of the Canadian chapter activities at this time, but will be working throughout my tenure to get more involved with the US organization.

### **Activities and Upcoming Events**

- There was a push to advance the membership renewal process in Canada to try to better coordinate payment timing with the IAH. Renewal notifications were sent to any current (2016 member) or lapsed (2010-2015 member). There has been a fair bit of uptake from lapsed members and more than 25% of the membership renewed early.
- The US National chapter recently completed a re-design of its website. This was done to provide ease of access to the website from mobile devices and to communicate member information in a variety of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. The site is hosted independently of the main IAH site primarily to accommodate the USNC use of these social media options.
- The IAH-CNC will be hosting a Symposium in Calgary in June 2017 entitled “Characterizing regional groundwater flow systems: Insight from practical applications and theoretical development”. This symposium is being organized by the IAH Commission on Regional Groundwater Flow in cooperation with the IAH commission on Groundwater and Energy.
- Preparations for the GeoOttawa2017 joint Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS) - IAH-CNC conference are well underway. The abstract deadline was extended to the end of January and I understand there were over 100 abstracts from IAH-CNC members – an excellent showing. This conference will be held in October 2017.

- The IAH-CNC is also a partner organization for the “Resourcing Future Generations (RFG) Conference (2018)” to be held in Vancouver, Canada. IAH CNC has submitted two session proposals and Diana Allen (President IAH-CNC) was asked to co-lead on the water theme.
- The IAH-CNC has sponsored an event entitled “Regional Scale Groundwater Geoscience in Southern Ontario 2017”. This is an event to be held in Guelph, Ontario in early March that is hosted collaboratively by the Ontario Geological Survey, the Geological Survey of Canada, and Conservation Ontario. The objective is to update groundwater practitioners on the activities of the respective agencies.

### **New Awards and Scholarship**

- The IAH-CNC Board has approved the creation of three new awards:
  - a Lifetime Achievement Award to recognize career achievements and which will generally be presented at retirement;
  - a Long Term Service Award to recognize contributions to the IAH-CNC; and,
  - an Early Career Hydrogeologist award.

The terms of reference for these awards have been developed and are to be approved at the next Board meeting. Details will be posted on the IAH CNC website soon.

- A Scholarship for Graduate Studies in Hydrogeology has also been established by the Canadian chapter. The scholarship has a value of \$5,000 and will be awarded annually to a Ph.D. student undertaking studies at a Canadian university. The scholarship was awarded for the first time in 2016.

### **ECHN**

- ECHN is active in Canada and the group was established in 2015. There is a new executive team since September 2016 that is lead by Olenka Forde (University of British Columbia).
- They have created a website (<http://iah-echn-canada.weebly.com>) with a database/list of universities and professors that teach/research hydrogeology in Canada with the objective to facilitate Canadian and international students to find M.Sc and Ph.D opportunities in Canada.
- The group has indicated interest to participate/help in the organization of regional conferences and scientific events, but lack funding.
- An ECHN group has also now been established in the United States and is led by Adam Milewski (University of Georgia). It is early days yet for the group as they just began organizing in August 2016. They held a kick off reception at the

GSA meeting in Denver in September 2016 and were very encouraged by the interest and support.

- The US group has recently created a website and social media accounts to identify, seek out, and encourage new members to IAH and the ECHN.
  - Website: <http://echn-usa-iah.org>
  - Primary Email: [echn.usa.iah@gmail.com](mailto:echn.usa.iah@gmail.com)
  - Facebook: ECHN USA IAH
  - LinkedIn: ECHN USA IAH
  
- They are constructing a jobs database on the website and working with the USA IAH on the mentor/mentee program.