

**President’s Letter**

Wave. Eruption. Cleanup. Mass extinctions. It’s the reality of a changing planet. Questions of how we as a species adapt to a global pandemic. Fortunately, the Society did not experience foreboding events this year. It did, however, face the fundamental financial challenges that all not-for-profits have experienced during and following the pandemic. We at the Society are deeply grateful to all our members, volunteers and employees who have continued to support us in our efforts to fulfill our mission.

But perhaps the most meaningful news was the coming of spring. The spring of 2021 brought a banner year for the Canadian Geographic Society. We were able to reopen the doors to both the public and our members, with the opening of the Explorers-in-Residence. Our initially scheduled Mountaineering and Homelessness in Canada exhibitions were able to open and showcase critical scientific work on Mount Everest and homelessness in Canada. Our digital initiatives continued to grow, with the addition of the Canadian Geographic Annual. To conclude 2021, we were able to host a catalogue of events under the guidance of the Explorers-in-Residence, which culminated in the Inaugural Canada-China Geoscience Symposium.

Our challenges were many, but so was our success. We are confident that we will continue to lead the way in meaningful, high-quality, and impactful work for the coming year.


**Programs**

**AWARDS**

- St. Edmunds Bayley Medal awarded to Jenni Edholm, geologist and professor at the University of Saskatchewan for her contributions to the understanding of Canada’s geology.
- Robert Hall Medal awarded to Itai Arik and Stuart Motz for their contributions to the Canadian scientific community.

**COLLEGE OF FELLOWS**

- On Oct. 1, 2021, the College of Fellows and the Society's Board of Governors held its first meeting of the year. The College of Fellows is a group of distinguished individuals who have made significant contributions to the Society's mission.

**Advancement**

- The launch of the Come Walk With Us campaign was a significant milestone for the Society. The campaign aimed to engage the public in the exploration of Canada's natural wonders and raise funds for the Society's operations.

**TREK EVENT**

- Building on our success, the Society hosted the Come Walk With Us campaign, which was a major success. The campaign aimed to engage the public in the exploration of Canada's natural wonders and raise funds for the Society's operations.

**Policy and Planning Committee**

- Under the leadership of the Board of Directors and the President, the Society's Policy and Planning Committee worked to establish a clear and strategic direction for the Society.

**Research Grants**

- The Society continued to support researchers and scientists in their work to advance knowledge and understanding of Canada's natural wonders.

**Expeditions**

- The Society continued to support expeditions and fieldwork projects that contribute to the understanding of Canada's natural wonders.

**Financial Information**

- The Society's financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2021, are available at rcgs.org. The financial statements show a decline in revenue and an increase in expenses, but the Society remains committed to its mission.

**Society Committees**

- The Society's committees continue to work on various initiatives to support the Society's mission and operations.

**RCGS & CGE Leadership and Staff**

- The Society's leadership team continues to work on various initiatives to support the Society's mission and operations.

**Nominations**

- The Society's Nominations Committee continues to support the Society's leadership team in their work on various initiatives to support the Society's mission and operations.
TRAVEL PARTNERSHIPS

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Society continued to strengthen its ongoing partnerships with travel operators, with a focus on developing new and innovative resources, programs and packages that align with our educational priorities.

NEW PARTNER: CanGeoTravel

CanGeoTravel is an innovative travel company and a new partner to the Society. Their main focus is on providing educational travel experiences that align with educational priorities, including the Canadian Coast Guard, Parks Canada, the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, and the Orange Shirt Society. They believe in connecting students with the context of their learning and providing unique educational experiences that align with educational priorities.

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