

THE CANADIAN HYDROGRAPHIC ASSOCIATION

Web Site: www.hydrography.ca

OVERVIEW presented to the 2008 Annual National Forum of the Canadian Surveyors' Associations (facilitated by the Canadian Council of Land Surveyors (CCLS), September 7th, 2008, Best Western Charter House Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

What is the Canadian Hydrographic Association?

The Canadian Hydrographic Association, whose members are involved in private practice, industry, academia and government is a NON-PROFIT, SCIENTIFIC and TECHNICAL ORGANIZATION, that has been dedicated to advancing the development of Hydrography, Marine Sciences and associated activities in CANADA and INTERNATIONALLY for over 40 years.

It is a NATIONAL ASSOCIATION currently with four (4) Branches across Canada from the Pacific to the Atlantic and centrally in Quebec and Ontario. Its Board of Directors is led by a National President who is elected for three years and consists of four Directors, one each being the current Vice-President of the individual Branches. It also has a National Executive Committee which includes a National Secretary, National Treasurer and Immediate Past President, in addition to the Board of Directors. The CHA is formally affiliated with the Canadian Institute of Geomatics (CIG), constituting its Hydrographic Committee and representing Canada internationally through membership in Commission 4 (Hydrography) of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG). The CHA is also informally affiliated with the Friends of Hydrography and The Hydrographic Society of America (THSOA).

We work closely with the Canadian Hydrographic Service (CHS), a Department of the Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans, NOT to be confused with the CHA, who is the largest employer of Hydrographers in Canada.

What do we do!

We twice yearly produce a Journal "Lighthouse", one of only three journals in the world devoted exclusively to Hydrography. It is distributed worldwide (free to CHA members) to subscribers and to others.

The CHA with the strong support of the CHS, bi-annually (even years) organizes an International Conference called the Canadian Hydrographic Conference (CHC). Earlier this year, we partnered with the ACLS to have a successful Joint Conference in Victoria, British Columbia, themed "Bringing Land and Sea Together".

In the uneven years, we support "U.S. Hydro" the conference organized by our sister association, "The Hydrographic Society of America", which incidentally, will be held in Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.A. May 2009.

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In promotion of the training of Hydrographers, we also on an ad hoc basis, organize seminars on Multibeam, GPS etc.

The CHA also has several awards to encourage and support students in the Geomatics profession. In particular, our Annual National Student Award to the value of \$2,000.00 and Regional bursaries of a lesser value (\$500.00 each) to students at UVIC and BCIT.

World Hydrography Day – June 21st

The United Nations, in its General Assembly Resolution A/60/30 of 29 November 2005, “Welcomes the adoption by the International Hydrographic Organization of the “World Hydrography Day”, to be celebrated annually on June 21st, with the aim of giving suitable publicity to its work at all levels and of increasing the coverage of hydrographic information on a global basis, and urges all States to work with that organization to promote safe navigation, especially in the areas of international navigation, ports and where there are vulnerable or protected marine areas.”

Each year our Branches continue to expand their celebration of World Hydrography Day.

What are we about!

Like most professional Associations we need to stimulate and increase our membership base (which has been steadily declining). In this regard we are working with the CIG to develop a CERTIFICATION process that will find favour with our major employer of Hydrographers, the CHS. Our members benefit from reduced registration rates at conferences of our affiliates e.g. at CHC, U.S. Hydro, etc.

Presented by: George P. McFarlane
CHA National President

CHA-G. McFARLANE