

Thirty years of editing

THE THIRD DECADE: Milestones in EAC/ACR history

We've pulled together a selection of noteworthy events from EAC/ACR's 30 years of history. In our fall 2009 issue, we showcased events from EAC's first decade of existence. In this issue, we're pleased to showcase events from our second and third decades. (See "Thirty years of editing: the second decade" on pages 12–15.) —Eds.

2001 FLASHBACK: Certification and the G7 protesters by Lee d'Anjou

Anyone who has spent much time on EAC's Certification Committee has a wealth of stories. One of my favourites is from a working weekend in Ottawa in fall 2001 that coincided with a meeting of the G7 countries.

We had long planned to use the office of Peter Moskos, in downtown Ottawa, for our committee meeting. The news media were reporting threats of protests against the G7, but we weren't much worried because we had inside information: our coordinator had a sister on the Ottawa police force, and my daughter Alice, a freelance expert in communications, had a gig with the RCMP to handle its public information. Both these sources told us the protests were unlikely to occur in the vicinity of Peter's office.

We gathered in Peter's office near supertime. As Jonathan Paterson came in, he said he had encountered some very large uniformed cops just outside the Tim Hortons next door; others soon reported that the streets were full of soldiers in riot gear.

I immediately called my daughter on her private cellphone. Although she could not tell me where she was, she assured me that she could

see the front of Peter's building, and there was absolutely no protest activity. But, she said, she was sitting with at least a dozen RCMP officers in riot gear, and the head of the detail told her that he would send men if I said I was in trouble. Alice predicted the men would fight to be chosen to go to the rescue of her aged mother. (Did I mention that Alice is a very pretty young woman?)

We did not have to call Alice again because we had no trouble that night. But Peter decided to hold the next two days' meetings at his house. When I wrote a thank-you note to the RCMP officer who headed the unit my daughter had been with, he responded with a charming note, good wishes for the committee, and a tiny glass RCMP pin. ☑

2005 FLASHBACK: Eight years in the making ... EAC Saskatchewan is born

EAC Saskatchewan was the brainchild of Perry Millar. In 1998, Perry moved to Saskatoon from Vancouver, where she had been an active member of the BC branch. She became a member of the Prairie Provinces branch, but Edmonton seemed such a long way to go for meetings!

Missing the collegiality and professional development she had enjoyed as a member in Vancouver, Perry assembled a rudimentary

mailing list of local editors. In the fall of 2001, she called a meeting in a local library, and about 15 interested editors showed up. Perry described her experiences with the BC branch and the benefits she had enjoyed from belonging. Out of this meeting, a small core group emerged and began to meet monthly at the local Unitarian Church.

Among the early group were Michelle Boulton, Wilfred Popoff, and Jane Billingham. They formed the group's first executive.

Most of the early meetings had a professional development component—topics researched and presented by members of the group. The group was fortunate to have Jane Billingham, since she was a senior editor and an experienced workshop organizer. (The group also quickly recognized the artistic talents of Michelle Boulton, who put the group on the local map with her workshop posters and other promotional materials.)

Until 2005, this small group of editors remained a sub-group of the Prairie Provinces branch, which had provided \$400 seed money; but after its first workshop, the group was completely self-sufficient. Through word of mouth about its workshops and professional development at evening meetings, membership slowly grew.

The third decade: **March 1999** First association manager, Connie John, hired • **2000:** New French and English logo developed • **2000:** Revised edition of *Meeting Editorial Standards* published • **May 2000** EAC/ACR conference held in Vancouver for the first time • **May 2000** Second edition of *Editing Canadian English* launched • **Fall 2001** Certification Committee members encounter soldiers in riot gear in Ottawa (read "Flashback: Certification and the G7 protesters," above) • **June 2002** EAC/ACR conference held in Montreal for the first time • **June 2003** Restructuring vote passed • **June 2003** First EAC executive director, Lynne Massey, hired • **2004** Comprehensive membership survey conducted, supported by the Department of Canadian Heritage • **June 2004** EAC/ACR conference held in Calgary for the first time • **June 2005** Saskatoon branch established (read "Flashback: Eight years in the making ... EAC Saskatchewan is born," above) • **June 2005** First EAC *Rules and Regulations* passed • **2006** First administration of EAC certification tests (subjects: Elementary Knowledge of the Publishing Process and

ting

Another breakthrough for the group was the 2004 conference in Calgary. This was the first conference held in the west for some time, so a few group members jumped into a van and drove out together. They were impressed with the openness and warmth with which they were greeted. They came away with a strong feeling of belonging.

The core group now included Susan Bond Hurka, who joined after the Calgary conference, Peter Derbawka, and Nora Russell. Other active members over the years were Jen Pederson, Ursula Acton, Felicitas Egunyu, Mark Stanley, and Shirley Collingridge, who all served on the group's executive.

In 2005—8 years after Perry Millar first set foot in Saskatoon—with about 20 members, a stable income from workshops, and a bank account that could support the group, Saskatoon officially became a branch of the association: “EAC Saskatoon.” In 2008, following overtures from members in Regina, the branch executive realized the awkwardness of being called EAC Saskatoon, but having responsibility for Saskatchewan. Therefore, in 2009, it became “EAC Saskatchewan.”

In recent years, EAC Saskatchewan has become familiar with the fatigue that results from having a small membership. The branch has also struggled with how to support EAC activities in Regina. Development in Saskatoon benefited greatly from Perry's



Fall 2001: As the Certification Committee worked in a downtown Ottawa office, a G7 meeting was held in the city, complete with protestors.

previous experience with EAC, but the absence of that experience in Regina has made it more difficult there.

Regardless of the challenges, there is a commitment in Saskatchewan to

keep EAC activities going. None of the members are willing to give up the support and camaraderie they have found in this community of editors. ☺

Proofreading) • **February 2006** New association website launched (known as the “blue site”) • **June 2006** *Principes directeurs en révision professionnelle* adopted (the result of four years' work) • **June 2006** Membership categories restructured and passed, extending voting rights to almost half the membership • **2007** First Certified Proofreader designations awarded • **2007** First administration of Copy Editing test • **2008** First Certified Copy Editor designations awarded • **2008** First administration of Structural and Stylistic Editing test • **June 2008** EAC/ACR conference held in Edmonton for the first time • **Summer 2008** *New Online Directory of Editors* launched • **April 2009** Total active membership in EAC/ACR surpassed 1,600 • **May 2009** Revised *Professional Editorial Standards* passed in referendum vote • **June 2009** First Certified Professional Editor and first Certified Structural and Stylistic Editor designations awarded • **June 2009** Creation of the Claudette Upton Scholarship announced