Welcome from the Co-Presidents

Welcome to this edition of HazNet.

Ernie MacGillivray, CRHNet Co-president, and I extend to each of you our Board’s greetings and well wishes. We at CRHNet are proud to offer you our latest “newsletter”, which thanks to its editorial staff and contributors is once again a major tome.

CRHNet will soon deliver its 10th annual symposia - in Regina, SK. The symposium is once again linked to the National Roundtable on disaster risk reduction (DRR); it is expected to again broaden its coverage of topics as well as stakeholder involvement. We invite you to both events; learn more about them at www.CRHNet.ca.

CRHNet exists to promote dialogue, increase awareness, and advance collaboration towards disaster risk reduction in Canada. Our association’s continued growth is a reflection of the increasing importance of this area of practice or research, within all facets of life regardless of sector (i.e., public, private, NGO, or voluntary). It also reflects the recognition by a growing number of stakeholders of both the need and value of informed collaboration, which requires shared awareness.

In fact, the Board has taken steps to make participation and involvement in CRHNet easier, more welcoming, and more meaningful. During much of the last year, we have worked to establish a clear and engaging “Work Plan” that has guided our actions towards a number of key targets.

One of these targets involved the reorganization of the Board and the manner through which CRHNet would be operated and managed. The proposed Bylaws (see our website) will be presented at the 2013 AGM, scheduled to be held during the annual symposia. They suggest a smaller Board, a Management Team (under the Executive Director), and various standing committees that would be engaged more-directly in the affairs or issues of the Association. Our primary goal through these changes is to ensure the engagement of the membership in the Association, and allow for greater contribution to the growth of disaster resilience in Canada.

We are also pleased to report a new and more engaging website with its many opportunities to communicate and share information. It serves as a platform for discussion, engagement and collaboration and you are invited to contribute to its content. We are now engaged in an on-going project to develop and populate a searchable electronic library, focused on the many facets of emergency management and disaster risk reduction. This library is intended to complement our evolving E-book – the Canadian Disaster Management text, which is on our website.

CRHNet is proudly continuing as a “permanent member” of the Canadian Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). It is actively involved in Platform activities through its deliberations, committee work, and annual Roundtable activities. We are proud of our collaboration at that level and have continued our effort to connect with other associations or agencies that contribute to this field. To that end, we have expanded yet again our partnerships and organizational relationships with other like-minded associations and agencies.

In short, CRHNet has again made great strides this year. We want to thank those who belong and contribute to the Association, and welcome all others who are interested in enhancing emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction. Success in
this field of practice is based on “Team effort” and we are proud on the inclusiveness of our team.

Ron Kuban and Ernie MacGillivray, CRHNet Co-Presidents

Contents

Welcome from the Co-Presidents ............................................ 1
Note from Executive Director ............................................. 2
CATA Public Safety Advisory Board ..................................... 4
“Between Now and Then:” Tackling the Conundrum of Climate Change ......................................................... 5
Are Disasters Natural? ....................................................... 8
30 Years of Dissertation Trends in Disaster Studies ................. 11
SHOREline: A Youth Empowerment and Post-Disaster Recovery Program ......................................................... 15
Research Findings: Public Perceptions of the Mountain Pine Beetle in Three Study Areas in Northern Colorado and Southern Wyoming .... 18
Sexual Violence in Disasters: Resources for Prevention and Response ................................................................. 21
The Ten Commandments ................................................... 24
How To Communicate (Seriously) ......................................... 25
Profile of a Recovery Blogger ............................................. 26
Program Coordinators ..................................................... 27
High River Flood of the Century ......................................... 35
Faith in the Numbers: A Flood Engineer Experiences a Flood ................................................................. 37
Collaborative Disaster Training For Canadian Forces Bases And Civilian Partners ............................................. 40
Are the costs of Disasters Accelerating? ......................... 42
Assessing the Resiliency of Health Care Facilities in Canada to the Impacts of Climate Change ..................... 44
Someone made an interesting observation ........................ 45
Congratulations to Public Safety Award Winner ................ 45
Medical Issues Of A Possible Major Earthquake In Toronto ........................................................................ 46
The Emerging Importance of Social Media During a Disaster ........................................................................ 48
Warning Fatigue - Myth or Misunderstanding: insights from the Australian Bushfires . ........................ 51
Book Review ....................................................................... 55
Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (Special Report), ........................................................................ 55
Linked In Professional Groups of Interest ......................... 57
The Superstorm Research Lab ............................................. 57
Executive Board ............................................................... 58
Directors ............................................................................. 58

Note from Executive Director

Greetings and a warm welcome to current and new members of the Canadian Risk and Hazards Network to the 10th edition of HazNet.

It has been a busy time since the last edition and a lot has taken place. My time has been spent on a number of items – mostly assisting the Board with moving ahead with its strategic planning initiatives and working with other institutions to enhance the profile of CRHNet.

The CRHNet Board, under the leadership of Ernie MacGillivray, has put in place a new task-oriented management structure, and work plan for 2013. The work plan has been populated with hard working
Board members as chairs of the various sub committees. This should energize, and in many ways revitalize the Board. As a result, there has been a major review of the By-Laws to cater to the new management structure. The By-Laws once presented to the membership at the AGM, and voted upon in November 2013, will be posted to the CRHNet web site.

As I write this we are anticipating a very successful 10th Symposium in Regina, November 2013 hosted by EMO Saskatchewan and the University of Regina, and I urge, those who are able, to attend.

Please see the flyer included in this newsletter for details or visit


We anticipate a number of high quality presentations will be provided by a great mix of researchers and practitioners and, as well, many social and networking opportunities will be realized. Many thanks to Saskatchewan EMO and the University of Regina Organizing Committee comprised of: Mieka Torgrimson, Murray Sanders, Patty Doroshenko, Sylvia Waterer et al. for taking on the challenge of hosting the 10th CRHNet Symposium in Regina - November 5th-8th 2013.

By the by, I enjoy getting new articles for HazNet – as it gives me an opportunity to link up with those I get to meet at various conferences and events and touch base to find out how people are doing. This year in particular, I am so pleased we have received such a great collection of articles by researchers, practitioners and students – including a number of book reviews.

In fact, yours truly was fortunate enough to attend the Natural Hazards workshop in Broomfield Colorado this past July and was able to obtain a number of articles for this edition from many of the delegates. Keep up the good work and keep the articles coming!

One of the major initiatives that CHRNet has embarked upon was to revitalize the CRHNet web site, which has been created on a Drupal 7 platform. In a large part this is thanks to Bert Struik, who, in his spare time, worked with the contractor Agentic to make it so. The new interactive site will be completed by mid-October 2013.

Also as part of the change to the new site we have partnered with Royal Roads University who has agreed to host the Drupal 7 platform on the Royal Roads Server. I would be remiss if I didn’t thank Royal Roads University – both Meghan Knauf and Robin Cox for their continued support of, and for CRHNet. Having said that, many, many thanks to the Justice Institute of British Columbia, who has been hosting our old site for many years and our appreciation to Acting Dean, Colleen Vaughan, Director of the Emergency Management Division for her support of CRHNet.

The National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) has, for the past three years, been an integral part of the CRHNet Symposium week, along with the Senior Officials Responsible for Emergency management (SOREM). Public Safety Canada has once again graciously considered holding the 4th National platform adjacent to, and in
the same location, as our 10th CRHNet Symposium in Regina. Please see the web site for more details.

Finally I wish to thank the CRHNet Board of Directors for their hard work and to our fearless leaders Ernie MacGillivray and Ron Kuban for their leadership. As a famous man said, “Effective leaders do not coerce others; they live their own advice, communicate their vision clearly and empower others to act.” Don’t miss out on this year’s great symposium! Be a leader, and come on down and join us in Regina!

Larry Pearce
Executive Director Email: larrypearce@shaw.ca

CATA Public Safety Advisory Board

I’d like to extend a warm welcome to this newly formed body of senior public safety leaders and their commitment to advancing CATA’s public safety mandate! As a result of our inaugural meeting last month, six key initiatives have been identified as priorities: 1) New Models of Community and Public Safety; 2) Public Safety Leaders of the Future Retreat; 3) Public Safety Technology Portal; 4) Tri-Services Technology Capability Assessment; 5) Public Safety Broadband Network – An Economic Engine; and 6) Next Generation 9-1-1.

As a result of their leadership, be expecting to see much more activity in these critical areas, as well as continued support and growth of existing programs such as the revival of a monthly public safety webcast, the growth of the Vendor Outreach Forum sessions, and topical research initiatives.

Thanks to the following for their dedication to the cause!

Invitees

- Bill Moore, Deputy Chief, Halifax Police
- Cal Corley, Assistant Commissioner Director General, Canadian Police College & Senior Envoy to Mexico and the Americas, Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Dale McFee, Deputy Minister of Corrections and Policing, Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice
- Dan Elliott, Manager, Communication Systems, IOCC, Greater Toronto Airports Authority
- David Farnes, Executive In Residence, CATA
- Dennis Fitzpatrick, Vice-President (Research), University of Regina
- Ernest MacGillivray, Alignment Champion, Public Safety, Province of New Brunswick
- Gary Wilson, Regional Sales Director, Cassidian
- Jim Peter Safar, President, Inter-Op Canada
- Jordan Parsons, Director, Nterop
- Lance Valcour, Executive Director, Canadian Interoperability Technology Interest Group
- Michael Martin, Federal Lead & Ottawa GM, Motorola Solutions
- Mike Doucet, Executive Director, Security Intelligence Review Committee
- Norm Hrapchak, Director, HARRIS
- Pierre Poirier, Deputy Chief, Ottawa Paramedic Service
- Prithu Prakash, Chief Architect, General Dynamics
- Rick Turner, Director Strategic Industries, Alcatel-Lucent
- Steve Palmer, Executive in Residence - Public Safety, CATA

Thanks to the following for their dedication to the cause!
SHOREline: A Youth Empowerment and Post-Disaster Recovery Program

By: **David Abramson, Ph.D., MPH**  
Assistant Professor, Sociomedical Sciences  
Deputy Director, National Center for Disaster Preparedness  
Columbia University  

and  

**Lori Peek, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology  
Co-Director, Center for Disaster and Risk Analysis  
Colorado State University

Research on the effects of disasters on children and youth suggest three persistent themes: First, that the children and youth of the Gulf Coast have been exposed to more disasters over the past decade than any other group of young people in the United States. The most catastrophic of these events include, but are certainly not limited to, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Wilma, Ike, Gustav, and the BP/Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Second, that exposure to multiple disasters and other chronic stressors associated with poverty and environmental degradation has led to an accumulation of mental and physical health issues and educational and social challenges (Abramson, Park, Stehling-Ariza, and Redlener, 2010). Third, although they are among the most affected in disasters, children and youth are often excluded from the decisions and actions that can influence their health and recovery (Anderson, 2005; Peek, 2008).

SHOREline—which stands for “Skills, Hope, Opportunities, Recovery, and Engagement”—is a recently established youth empowerment program that seeks to provide an opportunity to make fundamental changes in the lives of disaster-affected youth, their families, their communities, and beyond. Our teams at Columbia University, Colorado State University, and the Children’s Health Fund created SHOREline with the support of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation to give youth a voice, and a platform, for encouraging their own recovery and the recovery of those around them.

The program, which is currently funded for the 2013-14 and 2014-15 academic years, will support SHOREline chapters in five high schools in communities across three Gulf Coast states. (It is worth noting that one of our long-term goals is to help these chapters become sustainable at each high school, so that the program will continue even after our initial two years of funding has ended. We also hope to work with additional schools in other disaster prone and/or disaster affected communities to help them build new chapters.) The present five focal communities are places where our survey research showed that parents expressed the greatest concerns about disaster impacts on their children (Abramson, Peek, Redlener, Beedasy, Aguilar, Sury, Banister, and May, 2012). The initial selected schools include South Lafourche High School, Grand Isle High School, and Benjamin Franklin High School in Louisiana; Gulfport High School in Mississippi; and Bryant High School in Alabama.

In the spring of 2013, after identifying the five focal schools, we began working closely with school administrators to find one to two qualified “teacher-sponsors” at each school. In the late summer of 2013, we met with the selected teacher-sponsors to orient them to the program and to present them with
the SHOREline curriculum book. Also during this time period, we began recruiting students for the inaugural SHOREline chapters. We worked with a local teen, and recent graduate of Benjamin Franklin High School in New Orleans, to develop a recruitment video for SHOREline. We also developed a series of recruitment materials and an online application, which included four essay questions, that all interested students were required to complete. In August of 2013, our team, in collaboration with the teacher-sponsors, reviewed the applications and ultimately selected 16 students at each high school for participation in that respective SHOREline chapter. Thus, a final total of 80 SHOREliners were drawn from all grades from freshman to senior; they include a nearly equal number of boys of girls; and they generally represent the racial and ethnic composition of the school from which they were selected.

The SHOREline chapters at the five high schools began meeting during the fall 2013 academic year. They will all come together in mid-October 2013 for a regional Kick Off Summit to be held at the University of Southern Mississippi-Long Beach. This Summit, which is intended as a fun working meeting for all the students, will feature a variety of speakers who are experienced in project-based learning and youth empowerment.

Over the remainder of the academic year, the SHOREline students will be completing a series of project-based, service learning activities. The SHOREline curriculum is designed to foster an environment where the youth can focus their projects around four core themes: Identity (“Who am I?”), Community (“Who are we as youth in this place?”), Post-Disaster Challenges and Opportunities (“What challenges have we faced and how have we shown resilience?”), and Engagement (“How can we share our strengths?”).

The specific objectives of each SHOREline chapter are to engage in projects and activities that address the following:

- Learn what it takes for youth and their communities to recover from a disaster.
- Build the tools and resources to help other youth and communities recover from a disaster.
- Create a youth action network that can be activated when disaster strikes, in order to help and support youth in other communities. The types of assistance that SHOREline youth might provide could include (as illustrations, since each chapter will develop its own projects):
  - Mobilizing communication and information platforms, built around social media and internet technologies;
  - Developing the means and methods for mobilizing and distributing resources;
  - Supporting the emotional needs of disaster-affected youth by providing connections and sharing stories of disaster resilience; and
  - Serving as a voice for disaster-affected youth through creating a space for youth advocacy.

Although the SHOREline chapters will follow a common curriculum, the projects that the students ultimately complete will be of their own choosing and design. Each chapter has a budget to support their project-based work. The students are expected to work together to design and build a project that could then be deployed to help youth in other communities in the aftermath of disaster. These projects may be built around community asset maps, surveys of youth health and well-being, videographic or other documentary narrative projects, innovative web-based communication platforms for engaging other disaster-affected youth, or youth-run humanitarian aid strategies, for example. As the SHOREline youth develop their projects, they will also be investing in their own futures, in the following ways:

SHOREline will focus on enhancing skills such as critical thinking, leadership, communication, and
evaluation research, empowering youth to build confidence in these critical areas. The program will instill and reinforce hope for brighter futures among youth and their peers. It will provide pathways to healthier and more productive futures by offering youth opportunities to contribute to their families, schools, and communities and to serve as role models for other youth. And finally, the program is designed to provide avenues of positive post-disaster recovery among youth through building skills, fostering hope, and opening up new opportunities and through helping youth to engage in local, regional, and national networks to assist their own communities and other communities affected by disaster.

Over the course of the academic year, the SHOREline youth will chronicle their work through videos, websites, handouts, and perhaps even books that can then be shared with other youth affected by disaster, as well as with leaders and advocates who champion the needs of young people in disasters. Their work will be featured in a final Capstone Summit, to be held at another Gulf Coast college or university, as yet to be determined.

In addition to the SHOREline leads at Columbia University and Colorado State University, the project is being supported by two highly-experienced Gulf Coast-based project coordinators who have worked on several of our research efforts in the region; local advisory groups in each of the SHOREline communities, composed of community leaders and mentors; a youth advisory board, comprised of current and former leaders from successful youth advocacy and empowerment programs; and a national advisory group composed of cutting-edge thinkers, innovators, and leaders from the public and private sectors.

References:


