

# Foreword

FOR THE EDITORS, WORKING ON THIS SPECIAL HISTORICAL JOURNAL has been a “labor of love” as well as a fascinating trip down memory lane—between us we have served 31 years on the Mathematics Council of The Alberta Teachers’ Association (MCATA) executive.



Preparing this issue has taken us much longer than we anticipated—many personal recollections were sent to us in 1993. What was particularly difficult and time-consuming was gleaning information from scattered bits and pieces of old MCATA files, and searching our own memories and those of our colleagues to fill the gaps in the written records. [We have some recommendations for the current executive regarding record keeping that might be started now, which would make the next issue—*Fifty Years and Still Counting(?)*—easier to put together.]

We focused on a mixture of personal recollections and the usual dates and events expected in a conventional history, partly because of the gaps in information available, but mostly because MCATA’s history is really a story about people.

One thing we have realized is that MCATA’s success and strength over the years have been a direct result of the calibre and commitment of the people who served on the executive and of those who took on special projects or wrote for the various publications. Although these people were mainly busy teachers, they devoted countless hours to MCATA. You might ask, “Why did they do it?” The rewards seem to have been a belief that their efforts would contribute to better mathematics learning for Alberta students, a personal sense of professional growth and, not least of all, a lot of fun!

So we dedicate this first history of MCATA to all those who have served the Math Council over the past 34 years. Your efforts have been successful—MCATA is one of the leading mathematics teachers’ organizations in North America. MCATA publications, because of the hard work of the various editors, have gained international recognition. We hope that recording the achievements of this lighthouse organization will challenge future executives and members-at-large to keep the Mathematics Council of The Alberta Teachers’ Association a major force in mathematics education in Alberta.



The editors of this special historical journal thank all those who submitted articles related to their own experiences with MCATA or reported on a particular historical area of interest.

We’d like to thank the many people at Barnett House who helped our idea come to life. A special thanks to Publications staff Lisa Pashniak, Kate Ballash, Penny Harter and Heather Parker, Designer Yuet Chan and Archivist Lisa Maltby. They tackled the difficult and challenging project with enthusiasm and dedication. Without their expertise and guidance, this special publication would have been impossible.

We hope you enjoy reading this historical document as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

—Joan Worth and Art Jorgensen