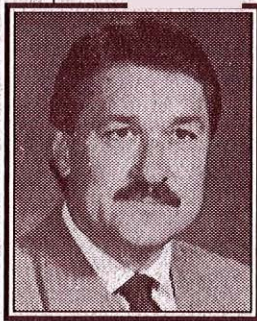


Richard Kopan

- 1977-80 *Vice President*
 1981-83 *Past President and 1983 Conference Director*
 1983-85 *Director*
 1985-92 *Treasurer*
 1992-95 *NCTM Representative*

I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH MCATA for a number of years. The main reason I have been involved all these years is the camaraderie of the people I have had the pleasure to work with. They are and have been a great bunch to work and socialize with. Many of these friendships will



carry on long after I am forced off the executive due to hearing problems. The other reason is that I feel MCATA has an increasingly important role to play in mathematics education in Alberta.

During the years, MCATA has been known as a strong organization, especially in the area of publications. With John Percevault as editor-in-chief, we were not given any choice as to when articles were required. He let us know in as many words as possible. I will remember John for his dedication, hard work and frankness. When John and Art Jorgensen got together, with the appropriate spirits, it was informative to sit and listen to the history of mathematics education in Alberta.

MCATA's focus has certainly changed in the years I have been involved. Initially, we would put out a few publications, have a couple meetings and plan our annual conference. Recently, it has become evident that we have to be more involved politically with curriculum, assessment and an increased focus

on inservice opportunities for teachers. I believe MCATA can play an important and influential role in the areas of curriculum and inservice sessions. We have taken the first few steps but have to continue to make our presence felt.

Executive members work hard when tasks are to be done and at times have been known to play hard. I recall Gary Hill driving a van down the sidewalks of Edmonton when the roads appeared too narrow. Another story has it that Bob Michie will never a cowboy make. One evening, he wanted off the chuck wagon because he was getting dizzy. The only problem was that the chuck wagon didn't have any horses attached to it. The wagon was in a bar in Lethbridge.

We are very fortunate that Joan Worth does not get to look at our books. In her day, any money in the bank had to be spent on projects or other activities. We could be very busy with projects and finding activities to fund.

I would not hesitate to spend another few years on MCATA. It has been very rewarding for me, and I believe we have had some impact on the math educators of this province. We do, however, have a need for "new blood" to keep the old-timers on task and provide the extra effort needed to increase our visibility in the direction math education is headed.