

President's Message

Ewan Geddes, Toronto District School Board

As boards across Ontario open their schools for students and teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic, no one really knows what to expect. One thing we do know is that teachers will be doing their best to help support their students to be safe while they receive a meaningful education. To this end, OAGEE is here to support teachers with access to a variety of impactful lessons, activities, and evaluations, as well as best practices to ensure that students will be engaged in Geography - regardless of whether that learning takes place in person or virtually.

For years, OAGEE has supported meaningful geographic education that prepares students for life in a changing world. As many are already aware, a few of OAGEE's executives have been designated Esri GIS Ambassadors for their work in engaging students with industry-standard technology. Below you can see some of the things these teachers are doing in their classroom and are available for you to use.

Jonathan Fletcher - District School Board of Niagara

Jonathan started with having the students use the Geographic Inquiry Model to develop a question that they wanted answered and then went outside to collect live data using *ArcGIS Survey123*. After analyzing and interpreting the data the students then developed an action plan. Please use this link to see the results of their inquiries.

<https://resources.esri.ca/education-and-research/july-s-gis-ambassador-jonathan-fletcher>

Paul Hackl - Toronto District School Board

Paul used *ArcGIS Online* to engage the students in becoming global citizens to help make change regarding a particular global/national/local issue. Have a look at how he was able to engage his students and try some of his ideas in your own classes. The following link lets you see what Paul has been up to with his students.

<https://resources.esri.ca/education-and-research/junes-gis-ambassador-paul-hackl>

Claude Brun del - retired teacher

Claude is OAGEE's French Language specialist. She has been creating and translating geographic material for quite some time now. You will be able to find her work on the French OAGEE website <https://oagee.org/fr/>. Please have a look at the link to see what Claude has been up to as a retired teacher who does not stop working and contributing to geographic education.

<https://resources.esri.ca/education-and-research/august-s-gis-ambassador-claude-brun-del-re>



These great teachers have been working tirelessly since the COVID-19 lockdown was introduced to provide many other resources for teachers. These, and more, are available on the OAGEE website <https://oagee.org/en/>.

Another great way to access high quality resources and professional development is our OAGEE Fall Conference on Saturday October 17th, 2020. This year's committee, led by Ling Wong and Paul Hackl, is busy putting together what will surely be a new and exciting experience for all - our first virtual conference. Be sure to update your membership so you can participate in this conference for free. With your membership, you will also have access to all of the resources that have been created and placed on the OAGEE website.

For those of you looking to share resources that have been working for you, please feel free to drop off lesson and activity ideas on our website at oagee.org. As well, if you're finding yourself at a stuck point, please let OAGEE know -- if there is something specific you would like to see developed or have a need for a particular kind of resource, OAGEE's volunteers will do their best to support you.

Before signing off, I want to bring your attention to one of our particularly generous members. Since first joining us in 1994, Sue Hotte has worked relentlessly in a number of roles as a regional councillor for Niagara-Hamilton, Vice President of Curriculum and Membership, and Special Interest Councillor, in charge of merchandising and poster printing. Sue was also in charge of OAGEE Spring Conferences in Haileybury (2009), Niagara (2012), and Thornbury (2014). In 2020, Sue has decided to take a break from the many roles she has had at OAGEE to explore other opportunities that await her. Thank you, Sue, for all your contributions through the years at OAGEE!

Wishing you all the best as we move back into the classroom and start to engage our students once again.

Remember to stay safe and 2 metres apart!

Ewan Geddes