

## NORTHERN NEWS

*Sverdrup Stamp Unveilings*

On March 26 of this year, Norwegian explorer Otto Sverdrup (1854–1930) was commemorated with stamps jointly issued by Canada, Norway, and Greenland. Tom Charlton, VP Operations, Canada Post, remarked that this is the first time Canada has ever embarked on a multinational philatelic project. This collaboration speaks to the breadth of Sverdrup's explorations in the North: he achieved the first crossing of Greenland in 1888–89, captained *Fram* safely through its drift in the polar ice pack in 1893–96, and explored and mapped 260,000 square kilometres of new land in the Canadian High Arctic while leading the Second *Fram* Expedition in 1898–1902.

The Norwegian Ambassador to Canada, Ingvard Havnen, hosted an unveiling ceremony in Ottawa attended by Norwegian State Secretary Kim Tråvik and Canada's Ambassador to Norway, Shirley Wolff Serafini. The Norwegian and Greenlandic stamps were unveiled in Oslo, in a March 24 ceremony on board *Fram* (which, through Sverdrup's efforts, is now preserved as a walk-through museum on the Oslo waterfront). The CEO of Norway Post, Kåre Frydenberg, and the Director of Greenland Post, Søren Rose, presented the stamps after a speech by Per Egil Hegge, Sverdrup's biographer.

The joint issue was a complex circumpolar production. Designed by Morten Mörck of Norway, the three stamps were printed in Denmark. Each participating country has denominated different stamps on souvenir sheets and first-day covers that depict background scenes and sledging routes from the Second *Fram* Expedition. The Canadian covers bear the cancellation of Grise Fiord (Nunavut), one of many place names that are an enduring legacy of Otto Sverdrup.

Our thanks to Graeme Magor, who attended the Ottawa ceremony, and Arne Growen of Trondheim, Norway, who attended the Oslo ceremony, for providing this note on the stamp unveilings.

*New Gwich'in Website*

The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute has launched a new website, available in Gwich'in, English, and French, at <http://www.gwichin.ca>. The website includes virtual tours of significant places along the Mackenzie, Arctic Red, and Peel rivers, using Gwich'in place names, photos, and oral history; databases of Gwich'in photographs, publications, and dictionary entries; audio samples in both Gwichya Gwich'in and Teetl'it Gwich'in dialects; and video clips from the Institute's projects on place names and traditional skin clothing.

## AINA NEWS

*The Photographic Archive Research Project*

The Photographic Archive Research Project (PARP), under the direction of Constance Martin, AINA Research Associate and Principal Investigator, and Lars Christensen, Coordinator, has enlisted several sponsors in a partnership that will allow the Institute's valuable collection of more than 4000 photographs to be archived and researched for the first time. The collection will be placed in an online database from which the images can be accessed for future scholarly or public use. The photographs, which date from the late 1800s through about the 1950s, have important historical, cultural, and scientific significance pertaining to the Far North. To encourage community involvement in the project, the Yellowknife magazine *UpHere* will contribute by including photographs of Inuit people from the collection. It is hoped that these images will help families to trace their genealogies. In addition, the oil and gas community will find in *The Far North Oil & Gas Review* historical photos from expeditions pertaining to scientific studies of Arctic archaeology, glaciology, and geology. The Devon Canada Corporation and ATCO Frontec have spearheaded the funding of PARP. Other contributors are TransCanada PipeLines and Mackenzie Delta Integrated Oilfield Services.

For further details or sponsorship information, or if you have photographs that you would like to donate to the collection, please contact Constance Martin (403) 220-4048 or Lars Christensen (403) 220-4053, or visit AINA's website at [www.ucalgary.ca/aina/collections](http://www.ucalgary.ca/aina/collections).

*Online Journal Survey*

With the September 2003 mailing of *Arctic*, we printed an online journal survey on the back of the mailer to receive feedback from members on the value of producing an online version of *Arctic*. We also mounted the survey on our website, so that people could respond electronically. We received 267 responses to the survey. The survey results are shown in the table below, broken down into three categories: all respondents (n = 267), members only (n = 171; 64% of respondents), and non-members (n = 96; 36% of respondents).

About half of our members were interested in receiving an online version along with the print version, but less than one-fourth of members wanted only an online version. Almost three-quarters of member respondents would continue with a print version, even if the online version were freely available on the AINA website. Over two-thirds would drop their AINA membership if we no longer provided a print journal.

From the responses of members to the survey and from many of the comments, it is clear that the print journal is a highly valued component of membership in the Arctic Institute. We are currently working toward making back issues available, as we feel this will broaden the reach and

profile of the journal and encourage new readers to become AINA members.

won the AINA fleece vest that was offered as an incentive to participate in the survey.

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to fill in the questionnaire. Congratulations to Dr. Josef Svoboda, who

	Yes (%)	No (%)	No Response (%)
1. Would you be interested in receiving an online version of the journal along with the print version at the same membership fee?			
All Respondents (n = 267)	43.4	55.8	0.7
Members Only (n = 171)	52.0	47.4	0.6
Non-members Only (n = 96)	28.1	70.8	1.0
2. Would you be interested in receiving only the online version at a reduced membership fee (perhaps 75–80% of the annual fee)?			
All	30.7	67.0	2.2
Members	24.6	72.5	2.9
Non-members	41.7	57.3	1.0
3. If an online version of the journal were available for free on the AINA website, would you still wish to maintain your membership in the Arctic Institute at the regular fee and receive the print version?			
All	57.3	39.0	3.7
Members	73.1	22.8	4.1
Non-members	29.2	67.7	3.1
4. If an online version of the journal were available for free on the AINA website, would you still wish to maintain your membership in the Arctic Institute at a reduced fee (perhaps 50% of the annual fee) and not receive the print version?			
All	33.7	59.6	6.7
Members	26.3	66.1	7.6
Non-members	46.9	47.9	5.2