

Dr. Barry Wellar Discusses  
Geography Awareness Week in *AAG Newsletter*

Dr. Barry Wellar, Director, Geography Awareness Week (GAW), Canadian Association of Geographers, and Professor Emeritus of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Ottawa, has taken Canada's innovative program into the international arena.

In an Op-Ed column in the September 2009 issue of the *Newsletter of the Association of American Geographers*, Dr. Wellar first outlines the components of Canada's imaginative and dynamic approach. Key features include the use of Theme Days (Weather and Climate, Water, Energy, Transportation, and Food and Health), an Applied Geography Showcase, and a GeoSkills Showcase. These innovations are all described on the website of the Canadian Association of Geographers, and can be viewed at: [http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/geography\\_week\\_2009.html](http://www.cag-acg.ca/en/geography_week_2009.html)

Dr. Wellar also uses the Canadian experience to outline a strategy for the international community of geographers as a means to work together to promote Geography Awareness Week.

His suggestions include: 1) developing an international session on Geography Awareness Week at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the AAG in Washington, D.C. which might be hosted by the (U.S.) National Council on Geographic Education (NCGE); 2) creating an international network of GAW coordinators and interested persons, to be hosted by the International Geographical Union (IGU); 3) sharing materials among GAW organizations through Internet postings; and 4) increasing the involvement in Geography Awareness Week activities by geographers in all areas and subfields of geography.

Congratulations are extended to Dr. Wellar, Distinguished Geomatics Scientist at LAGGISS, for his article, "Geography Awareness Week as a Public Domain Point of Entry for Geography". LAGGISS is pleased to provide online access to this important document.

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