

Overview of the Canadian Remote Sensing Society

Background

The Canadian Remote Sensing Society (CRSS) is a fully independent, not-for-profit professional society that provides a focal point for leadership and excellence to advance the remote sensing field. These activities encompassed government, industry, and educational institutions. We maintain partnerships with other organizations in the remote sensing field, across Canada and abroad. Our annual Symposium and the Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing provide opportunities for our members to network and continue their learning about all aspects of remote sensing. We also recognize excellence among our members through our National Awards..

The Federal Government Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) was created in 1971 with Dr. Larry W. Morley as its founder and first Director General. Under Dr. Morley's leadership, the first Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing was held in February 1972 in Ottawa. CCRS has played a very active role in many aspects of the Canadian Remote Sensing Society ever since. In 2011, the Canadian Remote Sensing Society organized special presentations to celebrate the 40th anniversary of CCRS at the 32nd Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing/14ième Congrès de l'AQT held in Sherbrooke Québec.

The CRSS was formed as an independent Society at the second Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing held April 1974 in Guelph, Ontario. Dr. Morley was the first President of CRSS. In 1975, CRSS joined with the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute (CASI) as a constituent society, a partnership that continued until November 2012, when CRSS separated from CASI. CRSS has now returned to its original status and is incorporated as a fully independent, not-for-profit professional society.

The first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the new independent CRSS was held on August 28, 2013 at the 34th Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing in Victoria, BC. At this AGM, a proposed new structure was presented to promote further involvement of society members, as well as announcements of important new activities and opportunities. As the Society looks ahead to these new initiatives, CRSS will also continue to build on past traditions and activities such as the CRSS National Awards Program, the Canadian Remote Sensing Symposium Series, and the Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing

Mission and Vision

The Mission and Vision of the Canadian Remote Sensing Society is to:

- Provide a focal point for leadership and excellence to advance the art, science, technologies and applications of remote sensing and related fields;

- Facilitate opportunities for our national and international membership, including with partner Societies with related interests in Canada and abroad;
- Provide grassroots opportunities for youth interested in remote sensing;
- Recognize and encourage excellence in remote sensing in Canada through our National Awards Programs;
- Provide opportunities for networking and publications through our Conferences and Publishing programs;
- Provide a mechanism for interaction amongst different sectors including private industry, all levels of government, educational institutions, and non-profit associations;
- Link remote sensing and related interests from coast-to-coast-to-coast in Canada based on regional representation, local chapters, and partnerships with provincial/territorial associations

Activities in Remote Sensing

The Canadian Remote Sensing Society has a rich and lengthy tradition of excellence in staging remote sensing and geospatial conferences and events at national and international levels. The Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing is the longest running national symposium series in the world that is dedicated to remote sensing. CRSS-SCT has staged numerous conferences, either in partnership with other international, national or regional organizations, or on their own. This includes a series of co-hosted Canadian Symposia with the IEEE International Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium (IGARSS) in 1989 (Vancouver), 2002 (Toronto), 2006 (Denver) and, most recently in 2014 in Québec City, an award-winning international conference with over 2000 delegates and other participants that was extremely well-received by the world audience.

In addition to its legacy of world-class conferences, CRSS-SCT also provides leadership with the *Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing* (CJRS) that is published internationally by Taylor & Francis with a large global readership and worldwide subscription base. The Society also runs the prestigious CRSS-SCT National Awards Program, provides a focal point for leadership and excellence in remote sensing and related fields, partners extensively with national and international organizations through formal agreements, promotes youth engagement in science and technology, has a network of regional and local CRSS-SCT Chapters across Canada with their own events and activities, and promotes interaction and networking amongst different sectors including private industry, all levels of government, educational institutions, and non-profit associations.