

*Don Gayton*

The world of scientific journals is a crowded one. Many of the recognized publications have been around for decades, if not centuries. The process of putting out a journal is laden with complexities – peer review, copyediting, fact checking, layout, proof-reading, subscription, and renewal; not to mention finding a vacant niche and an audience. So, to start from scratch and create a brand new scientific journal is truly an amazing act of imagination, courage, and determination. That is precisely what Chris Hollstedt has done: under her editorial guidance, the first issue of the Journal of Ecosystems and Management sallied forth into the world in the fall of 2001, and production has been rock-steady ever since. If my arithmetic is right, this present offering represents our 32nd issue of JEM.

It is with great admiration and regret that we bid adieu to Chris, JEM's champion, as she moves on to new challenges. In a recent note to me she had this to say:

I envisioned JEM as a new platform for sharing science and innovative management approaches in an interdisciplinary way. Utilizing the Internet and real-time publishing (we were one of the first), I wanted to stretch the comfort zone of traditional journals. My intention was to create timely, relevant, “open source” communication of issues and results, unfettered by political interference. Just telling it like it is. And if readers disagreed with conclusions, JEM is also a forum for rebuttal and dialogue.

Chris also takes this opportunity to thank Trina Innes, who first encouraged the FORREX team to move JEM online, Julie Schooling for both her organizational and editing skills, and Susan Bannerman for her dedicated attention to detail in all her work.

So, as JEM's new editor-in-chief, I have some big pumps to fill. And there are additional challenges: after more than a decade focusing on British Columbia, we are broadening our scope. While still providing an important and respected outlet for BC-specific research and news, we are now opening up to relevant, high-quality articles from across Canada and around the globe. Although our geography has changed, JEM's interests remain the same. Aimed at field practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and natural resource users, we will continue to extend research results, Indigenous knowledge, management applications, scholarly opinions, and socio-economic analyses. Even with the research articles, we work with authors to ensure the writing style is accessible to the broadest possible audience.

This is our last print issue of JEM; volume 13(3) of JEM will be a totally “virtual” issue of JEM. Putting out a journal is a very expensive process, and in these difficult financial

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times, eliminating the printing/handling/mailing component is a significant saving. Dropping the print version was a difficult decision since many of us, including myself, value and prefer “hard copy.” We hope our readers will adjust to reading articles online and/or printing out articles as needed. We also offer our subscribers the option of printing the entire issue with a single mouse click, or downloading to a memory stick or CD, and taking it to your favourite print shop. A typical cost for custom printing and binding an entire issue of JEM is \$25.00.

Looking back across those 32 issues, I am impressed by the variety, depth, and quality of the articles. Thanks Chris, for a great editorial legacy. I hope in my tenure to pay it forward.

