



Changing of the guard at *CJRM*

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SEVEN “dog years” are said to be equivalent to 1 human year, so that at 2 years of age a dog may be considered to be an adolescent, and at 3 a young adult. With this paradigm in mind I would like to propose a similar structure for the age of a rural journal.

Twelve years ago *CJRM* was a mere twinkle in the eye — a rough sketch on a table napkin that did little more than outline what the cover might look like. That seed fell on fertile ground, however, and from its first issue it was clear that the journal had found a niche and a reason for existing.

That was its infancy.

In its early years it struggled to gain legitimacy, both financially (in the eyes of the SRPC) and academically in the eyes of its peers, and in particular in the eyes of Index Medicus, a stern master who failed it twice before giving it the necessary passing grade.

It graduated.

At 12 years it could now be considered a young adult (the ratio thus being about 2:1, journal years to human), testing new ground, meeting new writers and readers, broadening, perhaps, its base, and gaining confidence, but taking

nothing for granted. Most importantly, it is set to cut some ties to its infancy, much as parents need fortitude and wisdom to let their children loose to make their own way in the world.

As founding editor I find myself ready (like the metaphorical parent) to pass the role of Scientific Editor on to other hands. SRPC Council will conduct its search for a new editor in due course.

The editor is, however, only one small part of the team that must collaborate to bring each issue to fruition. The success that *CJRM* has enjoyed is in no small measure owing to the combined efforts and dedication of its Assistant and Associate Editors, its Managing Editor, and the crew at the Canadian Medical Association that pulls it all together. This team remains in place to guide and support the transition. I would like to thank them for the critical contributions they have made and continue to make. I would also like to thank all of *CJRM*'s authors and reviewers.

CJRM is an important anchor for rural medicine in this country, and, increasingly, beyond our borders. The future is promising. I wish it well.