

Dr. Susan Markham-Starr

Dr. Susan Markham-Starr completed a Bachelor of Science (Geography) (1970) at the University of Saskatchewan; a Master of Science (Urban and Regional Planning) (1972) at Southern Illinois University; a Master of Science (Recreation and Leisure Studies) (1980) at Dalhousie University; and a Doctor of Philosophy (Recreation and Leisure Studies) (1988) at the University of Alberta. Interspersed with her academic studies were professional positions as a park planner for the Province of Saskatchewan and the Province of Alberta, and recreation planner for the City of Halifax.

She began her career at Acadia University in 1987. Over the ensuing 24½ year period, she was promoted through the ranks to Professor and served the Recreation Management program, the School, and the University in many roles including Recreation Management Program Coordinator, member of the Tides are Turning Fundraising Committee, member of the University Senate, and a member and chair of many university committees including the Committee on Students with Disabilities That Affect Learning.

Dr. Markham-Starr is a recreation, parks and leisure historian, a student of recreation delivery systems, and a planner. She has taught over 30 courses in the BRM and BKIN programs. She has served as a chair and committee member of several honours and masters theses at Acadia, Dalhousie and Waterloo universities. She is best known for her research on the Halifax Common, parks and playgrounds in Prairie and Maritime cities, the role of women “The Invisible Pioneers” in the profession, and the role of pressure groups and individuals such as the Canadian National Parks Association, Jan Eisenhardt and Mabel Peters as advocates for recreation services in Canada. She is the “go to person” in Canada for print and web based media about recreation/leisure service delivery systems and the history of the field.

Dr. Markham-Starr has served the scholarly and professional community in many ways. She was chair of the Canadian Parks and Recreation Association Editorial Committee, co-chair of the CPRA 50th Anniversary Publication Committee, chair of the 1999 Canadian Congress for Leisure Studies, president of the Canadian Association for Leisure Studies for two terms, founding managing editor of the online, open access journal *PHEnex*, and a commissioned author and delegate to the National Recreation Summit. In retirement she has accepted a position on the board of the Leisure Information Network, and continues to research and publish.

Dr. Markham-Starr was appointed Professor Emerita in April 2012.

