

Reaching the Summit

When world leaders sit down at unprecedented back-to-back summits in Muskoka and Toronto later this month, it will be a proud and poignant moment for Len Edwards, host-country Sherpa for both meetings. Edwards' attendance at the G-8 and G-20 summits will mark the culmination of more than two years of his efforts on the world stage. The summits, notes the recently retired Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, will also showcase DFAIT's fine work in areas ranging from organization to matters of substance.



photo: Mike Pinder/DFAIT

"It's in summitry where this department shines," says Edwards. He should know. Beginning in 1987, he has overseen the preparations for and agenda of some eight of them here, just one aspect of a 41-year career furthering Canada's multilateral relations in the world. "Summits bring to the fore one of our

fundamental responsibilities: bringing coherence, shape, frame and a strategic setting to our international presence and activities."

Organization is a key element of summits, he says, and it's something Canada excels at: "It's a bit of a culture for us." Each new summit's logistical challenges have been more complex than the last. Security and other concerns have made them more business-like and functional—and this will hold true even in the cottage playground of Muskoka. The substance of summitry is also more complex, and is an area where DFAIT plays an equally vital role, especially as host. DFAIT's international partnership with other departments—in the case of the upcoming summits, for example, with the Department of Finance Canada on the economy and with CIDA on the issue of maternal and child health care—is ever-more critical, he says. "It's a complex role we play."

As he retires, Edwards says that it has been a time of change and challenge for DFAIT, yet "I leave very enthusiastic about what we've been able to do over the last two or three years to reposition the department for a strong future." He commends those who've worked hard on the summits—and then confides, "These things are huge adrenaline rushes. They are events you'll never forget

Welcome

to the New USS

DFAIT this month welcomes Morris Rosenberg as our new Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs. Rosenberg has held many distinguished posts within the public service. Named Deputy Minister of Health in 2004, for six years prior to that he served as Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General of Canada. He began his public service career with the Department of Justice in 1979, later serving in senior positions in the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Privy Council Office. We look forward to hearing from him in future issues of *Our World*.



photo: Geneviève Houle/DFAIT

Career highlights: Len Edwards looks at a scrapbook he kept of the Toronto G-7 Summit.

as long as you live. They're highlights of your career and personal experience."

This issue of *Our World* celebrates DFAIT's shining role in summitry, explores its ties with partners and "co-locators" abroad, looks at Canada's commitment to multilateral forums such as the Organization of American States—where our mission turns 20 this year—and salutes everyone helping make the upcoming summits possible.

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