

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NiCHE on Twitter	2
Gaspé Workshop	2
New Scholars Reps Needed	2
CHA Environmental History meeting	2
Graphic Novel	3
Quasimodo's Lover	3
Nature's Past, Episode 5	4
New to the NiCHE Website	4

CHESS in Ottawa

Canadian History & Environment Summer School
<http://niche.uwo.ca/chess>

By: Joanna Dean
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A panel on environmental history and the media, with Bob McDonald of CBC's *Quirks and Quarks*, and Rick Boychuk, the recently retired editor of *Canadian Geographic*, will kick off this year's Canadian History and Environment Summer School (CHESS) in Ottawa/Gatineau. The panel will explore ways in which environmental historians can make their work accessible to a wider audience.

CHESS 2009 will take place from May 22-24 and will focus on the role of the state in environmental history. Participants from across Canada will explore the diverse ways the state constructs

and is constructed by the environment.

Saturday's discussions will take place in Gatineau Park, and will conclude with a hike through the stone follies in the Mackenzie King Estate and dinner in the market area. On Sunday, workshops on agriculture and the state will be held at the Central Experimental Farm.

Participants will be housed at St Paul's University on the Rideau River. Previous summer schools in Toronto, Saskatoon and Vancouver have provided excellent networking opportunities for graduate students and faculty.

This year's CHESS has attracted an unprecedented number of applicants bringing a di-



verse range of interests including biotechnology, state environmental agencies, wilderness preservation and national identity, mega-projects and landscape change, wildlife conservation, and green governmentality. We are looking forward to interesting discussions in the workshops and over dinner.

The summer school will be bilingual, with papers and discussion in both French and English. ◊

The NiCHE website, open for Business

<http://niche.uwo.ca/backtotheisland>

By: Alan MacEachern
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Even before Ryan O'Connor and I officially launched our "Back to the Island: The Back-to-the-Land Movement on PEI" web project, it was drawing attention. A few PEI bloggers found it while we were still working out the site's kinks, and told others. CBC Charlottetown called next.

Public historian Christopher Moore gave us a blogpost (under the telling headline "Canadian History on the Web?"). There's an upcoming Saturday feature article about the site on the Island's main newspaper. And we've had about 1000 visitors so far.

Best of all, we've heard from back-to-the-landers who want to share their stories or just offer feedback.

I got involved in developing "Back to the Island" in part to show off the NiCHE website's potential to our community of

researchers. The web allowed us to present text, audio, and photographs – and to seek out more – in ways that we simply couldn't have done with a book or article.

NiCHE can help you develop an exhibit, a database, a catalogue, etc. of your research, utilizing text, photos, audio, and video, and we can host it on our server.

We can even write a letter to a granting agency, confirming this in-kind support for your work. Talk to us. ◊



Now you can receive
NiCHE "tweets!"

Environmental History
Group Meeting
2009 Canadian Historical
Association meeting

25 May 2009
12pm-1:30pm

ME 4342, Carleton University

There will be lunch! If you plan
to attend, RSVP
daniel.rueck@mail.mcgill.ca

Contact Dan if you wish to add
an agenda item, too.

Follow NiCHE news on Twitter / RSS

RSS Feed: <http://niche.uwo.ca/feed/nichenews>
Twitter: NiCHE_Canada

By: Adam Crymble
acrymb1@uwo.ca

Want to keep up to date with Canadian news about environmental history / historical geography without visiting the NiCHE website every day? Now you can.

NiCHE has established two subscription options: RSS and Twitter. These services alert you when a new article or resource has been posted to the site.

You can then choose to follow a link to the full text, or to ignore the message. Think of it as a "hey, you might find this interesting."

Both services are free and provide the same details. For those who prefer the ol' fashioned way, NiCHE will also continue to provide all content that you would find in our feeds on our site.

We're committed to pro-

viding our members with ever more efficient ways of staying up to date with what's happening in environmental history / historical geography.

You can learn more about how to use these services at <http://niche.uwo.ca/subscribe>.

If you are having difficulties, send us an email and we will be happy to help you set them up (no charge!) ◇

Bird Graphic by Matt Hamm

Patrimoine bâti et paysages culturels *in situ*

<http://www.arc.ulaval.ca/futursetudiants/insitu/>

By: Colin Coates
CCoates@glendon.yorku.ca

La professeure Tania Martin de l'Université Laval propose un cours d'été bilingue portant sur le patrimoine bâti dans un village gaspésien. Ce cours est offert aux étudiants avancés et aux professionnels.

La date limite de demande d'inscription pour le cours

Patrimoine bâti et paysages culturels *in situ* qui se tiendra à Douglstown (Gaspé) Québec du 18 mai au 5 juin 2009 sera le 1er.

Le nombre de places est limité. Tous les participants au cours seront éligibles à une bourse grâce au soutien du Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF) et de la Nouvelle initiative canadienne en his-



toire de l'environnement. On trouvera les informations sur le site web du cours. ◇

'New Scholars' Group Looking for New Reps.

<http://niche.uwo.ca/new-scholars>

By: Sean Kheraj
sean.kheraj@ubc.ca

Are you a graduate student studying environmental history / historical geography? Are you interested in becoming involved with NiCHE? Join us at the Environmental History Group Meeting on May 25th at Carleton University during the Canadian Historical Association conference.

The New Scholars group is the graduate students' sub-

group of NiCHE. We represent Canadian graduate students who study environmental history / historical geography and we work on a variety of different projects to facilitate networking between graduate students across the country.

Some of our projects include a North American environmental history comprehensive exam reading list, a conference roommate matching system, and a monthly audio

podcast.

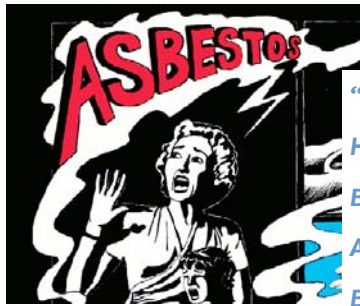
This year we'll be looking for a graduate student representative for the New Scholars group and a small New Scholars advisory committee to lead the group for 2009/10.

If you want to know more about the New Scholars in Canadian History & Environment, visit our website or send Sean an email.

We hope to see you at the meeting. ◇

Dissertation as Graphic Novel

<http://megaprojects.fims.uwo.ca/asbestos/index.htm>



By: Jessica van Horssen
jvanhors@uwo.ca

On 17 April 2009, “Asbestos, PQ: Un bande designee/Asbestos, PQ: A Graphic Novel” was launched as part of Joy Parr’s Megaprojects/Lostscapes website.

Based on the dissertation research of Jessica van Horssen, this graphic novel presents a history of the town of Asbestos, Quebec, from the perspective of the Jeffrey Mine, the largest chrysotile asbestos mine in the world.

Viewing history from this perspective offers a new angle from which to view how people and place grow, change and depend on one another.

Follow the triumphs and tragedies of this community. ◇

“Things Haven’t Always Been this Bad, And I Once Brought a Sense of Pride and Purpose to the People of Asbestos” -The Jeffrey Mine

Performance of “Quasimodo the Great Lover”

Laura Cameron and Matt Rogalsky will be directing Alvin Lucier’s ‘Quasimodo the Great Lover’ as part of the 8th edition of the Deep Wireless Festival of Radio & Transmission Art.

Whale and bird sounds are transformed by their passage through spaces and via the internet with dreamSTATE at the NAISA space, Gayle Young/Reinhardt Reitzenstein in Grimbsy, Laura Kavanagh/Ian Birse in Buenos Aires and Matt Rogalsky/Laura Cameron in Kingston.

The performance will be held at the Loop Studio Centre for Lively Art, Artscape Wychwood Barns (601 Christie St. #170, Toronto) on May 7. Doors open at 8pm. Tickets \$10/5.

Deep Wireless returns every May to bring people together from around the world who are continually pushing the creative boundaries of the world’s oldest electronic media as well as redefining radio and transmission through new technologies. ◇

Industrializing Rivers Conference: Montreal

By: Matthew Evenden
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This September, the Water History group will host a conference in Montreal on Industrializing Rivers. The concept of industrial rivers, coined by Swedish historian Eva Jakobsson, suggests the transformation of rivers into industrial drivers, dammed for power and water supply, and remade to fit the rhythms of industrial processes, not seasonal flow regimes.

The conference will bring together historians and geographers from Europe and North America working on the environmental history of rivers and will seek to build a comparative framework for understanding common problems of rivers in industrialization.

In addition to the water history group, The Quebec Studies Center at McGill University and the Canada Research Chair in the Environmental History of Quebec will co-host and sponsor the event. ◇

“Counter-Cultures and the Environment” Workshop

By: Colin Coates
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I am in the early planning stages for a workshop on “Counter-cultures and the Environment” that will likely take place in spring 2010. I would like to bring together different researchers who work on 1960s and 1970s back-to-the-land movements and their relationship to nature and the environment.

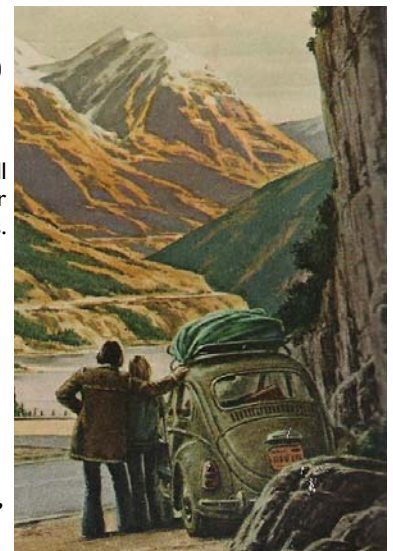
Papers will explore the environmental idealism of this movement, and the sometimes difficult environmental circumstances the groups faced.

In particular, communal ideas of property will be examined alongside counter-culture visions of nature and the environment.

Ideally, this will culminate in a publication. If you are interested in this workshop, please email me at ccoates@gl.yorku.ca.

A more formal call for proposals will appear in the next few months. ◇

Image:
Mark Vonnegut,
The Eden Express,
1975.





A monthly discussion about the environmental history community and research



"Milkweed"

- Jeremy Marks, UWO



"Fishing Stage"

- Arn Keeling, Memorial, NFLD

"Tough Tree holding down a Rock"

- Dave Neufeld, Yukon



Nature's Past: Episode 5 Available

<http://niche.uwo.ca/naturespast>

By: Sean Kheraj
sean.kheraj@ubc.ca

The fifth episode of NiCHE's audio podcast goes live this month with an interview with Wolf Read, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Forest Sciences at UBC, about wind and Vancouver's Stanley Park and a second interview with Professor Joanna Dean from Carleton University about the upcoming Canadian History & Environment Summer

School.

Listen and subscribe to the podcast at <http://niche.uwo.ca/naturespast>.

Remember to leave us a review on our iTunes page. If you have an idea for an upcoming episode of "Nature's Past" or you would like to promote an environmental history event in your community, please email Sean Kheraj at sean.kheraj@ubc.ca. ◇

Which Databases do you Use?

<http://niche.uwo.ca/ResourcesResearch>

By: Adam Crymble
acrymbl@uwo.ca

NiCHE would like to know which databases you use to research Canadian Environmental History. We're looking to grow our Research Resources page and need your experience and expertise to do it.

Examples could include data banks, map collections, archival networks, or audio archives. Please email us the name of the repository, a link and a brief explanation of how it is useful. ◇

New to the NiCHE Website

<http://niche.uwo.ca>

NiCHE has been busy adding new resources and projects in the past few months. Here is a snapshot of what you can find.

Across Canada Creative Commons Gallery:

<http://niche.uwo.ca/image/tid/102>

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos to our call for photos. You can see some of our favourites to the left, and the rest at the address above. We're still happy to receive more photos of places across Canada.

Audio / Video Archive:

<http://niche.uwo.ca/audio-video>

We've added a few dozen recorded presentations to our archive. If you weren't able to attend a conference, or want to find

out what someone had to say about a topic you're researching, take a look through our files.

If you're planning an upcoming conference or workshop and would like to have it archived by NiCHE, send an email to acrymbl@uwo.ca to find out how.

How to Write a Zotero Translator:

<http://niche.uwo.ca/zotero-guide>

Building upon Bill Turkel's successful "Programming Historian," this free online guide offers in-depth tutorials for those looking to extend Zotero to automatically recognize citation data on their favourite online database.

This is also an example of a format that NiCHE can use to help you post your own e-book or guide on our site.

The Petit Nord:

<http://niche.uwo.ca/petit-nord>

Peter Pope at the Memorial University of Newfoundland has created a photo exhibit of archaeological sites along Newfoundland's Petit Nord. These sites were used by early European fishermen to dry and prepare cod before sending it back across the Atlantic.

Submission Guidelines:

<http://niche.uwo.ca/submissions>

To make it easier for our members to contribute, we have created a set of guidelines that we encourage you to follow. Don't hesitate to contact us at niche@uwo.ca for more information or to propose an idea for a project. ◇