

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

API Workshop	2
Popular Writing Workshop	2
Quelques Arpents Meeting	2
NiCHE in Canadian Classrooms	4
Industrialization of Rivers Conf.	5
New Scholars' Reading Group	6
Banff Field Trip	8

3rd Annual Call for Projects

<http://niche-canada.org/node/8171>

contact@niche-canada.org

For the third annual "Call for Projects," we wish to make a special effort to target proposals that will take environmental history / historical geography research beyond the academy and communicate it to Canadian publics. To do so, we are setting aside \$50,000 to fund new, one-time projects with needs between \$2500 and \$10,000. Examples may include a public speaker series, educational resources, or digital initiatives. At least half of the "Call for Projects" funding will be directed towards public outreach projects.

Your application should be sent as a single file attachment to contact@niche-canada.org and consist of

- a proposal (max. 3 pages) consist-

ing of a brief description of the project, followed by a full description listing the objectives, methodology, and timeline, with special emphasis on whether / how the project will promote public outreach of environmental history / historical geography, involve matching funds and/or partnerships with groups beyond Canadian universities, and/or facilitate student training and involvement.

- a budget (max. 1 page) for the entire project, including how the NiCHE funds will be used.
- a curriculum vitae (max. 1 page) of each individual applying.

The deadline for submissions is 12 October 2009. Notification will

The Year of Living Publicly

be made on 30 October 2009. Successful applicants will be reimbursed for expenses on submission of receipts; all funds are to be spent by 31 December 2010.

Because most of NiCHE's funding comes via the SSHRC Strategic Knowledge Clusters program, which supports the mobilization and dissemination of research but not research itself, NiCHE maintains this distinction in deciding which projects it can support. If you have any questions, please email contact@niche-canada.org.

Nous encourageons des demandes qui attendront un public francophone, et les demandes peuvent être soumises en français.

Slidecast Competition - \$1000

<http://niche-canada.org/digital-infrastructure/slidecasts>

Prizes:

\$1000 First

\$300 Second

\$200 Third

NiCHE is sponsoring a slidecast competition to increase awareness of topics in the study of history and environment. Each slidecast is a five-minute audio presentation accompanied by fifteen slides, three per minute.

The subject matter is up to you as long as it has something to do with history and environment.

Submissions will appear both on the NiCHE website and on the "NiCHE Canada" YouTube channel. They can be in English or French. The deadline for submissions is 15 November 2009. All entrants must be 18 years of age or older.

Here's a contest where you get to leave your rank at the door. Pro-

fessors, students and members of the community at large are all encouraged to enter and help spread their knowledge of environmental history and historical geography. You don't have to be a world expert on your chosen topic to enter. Just do your best, be creative and have fun.

For more information, visit <http://niche-canada.org/digital-infrastructure/slidecasts>



Show off your oratory prowess and win lots of money.

API Workshop - Toronto

<http://niche-canada.org/digital-infrastructure/apiworkshop>

William Turkel
william.j.turkel@gmail.com

On 16-17 October, the NiCHE Digital Infrastructure will be hosting a SSHRC-funded workshop on Application Programming Interfaces for the Digital Humanities.

Historians and other humanists now have access to digital primary and secondary sources on an unprecedented scale, but almost all of these resources are delivered

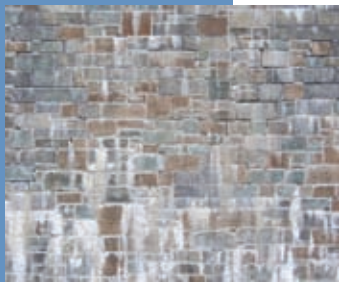
through web browsers with the assumption that a person will be plodding through them one at a time.

What we need now are ways to make these sources readily available to computer programs: intelligent agents, machine learners, adaptive filters, data mining packages, you name it.

We need to be able to recombine information from multiple sources in a way that supports the discovery of new

information. And we need to provide tools that allow networked collectives to work together and leverage the power and diversity of the individuals that comprise the group.

We've invited researchers and programmers from some of the key projects in Canada, the US and the UK to join us to discuss these issues. To learn more, keep an eye on our API Workshop page.



Popular Writing Workshop - London

<http://niche-canada.org/popular>

Adam Crymble & Jason Young
acrymbl@uwo.ca

Fifty thousand screaming readers rush the newsstand to get a copy of your latest research. Okay, maybe they're not screaming, but the numbers probably aren't that far off.

NiCHE is sponsoring a graduate student workshop on

October 19, 2009 in London, which will teach participants how to sell an article about their work or experiences to a popular publication. The workshop will be hands-on and by the end of the day all participants should have a proposal finished and ready to submit to an editor.

Accommodation grants are available for out of town

participants. Priority will be given to students studying topics on Canada and the environment and those who are registered as NiCHE members.

Space is limited, so if you are interested please contact Adam Crymble at acrymbl@uwo.ca as soon as possible. Formal registration for the workshop to follow shortly.



"Ode to Jack Kerouac"
Oliver Hammond.

Quelques Arpents de Neige Annual Meeting - Kingston

<http://niche-canada.org/quelques-arpents-de-neige>

Beth Jewett
quelquesarpents@gmail.com

Calling for papers from anyone interested in presenting at the next Arpents meeting to be held on Friday, December 11th and Saturday, December 12th at the Kingston Yacht Club in Kingston,

Ontario.

Each Arpents two-day event involves a combination of 3-4 papers, shared readings, and networking sessions in an informal, workshop atmosphere. Open to all who wish to attend, Quelques arpents encourages the participation of anyone studying history from

an environmental perspective as well as those addressing contemporary environmental issues from a historical perspective.

Please email proposals and paper ideas to quelquesarpents@gmail.com.

Canadian Cultural Landscape and Architectural Image Repository

<http://www.mcgill.ca/urbandesign/projects/cclair/>

Nik Luka

nik.luka@mcgill.ca

Images are of central importance in environmental history. Slides and photographs provide direct evidence of artefacts, landscapes, and activities in ways that written accounts and other historical documents cannot.

A picture can indeed be worth a thousand words... and yet while several excellent public-access image collections now exist in local, provincial, and federal archives, an untapped wealth sits in obscurity in boxes and filing cabinets, unknown and inaccessible to all but a handful of users. Sharing the material in these private collections has been a preoccupation of the NICHE project from its inception.

An exciting project has been underway since the autumn of 2007 at the McGill University School of Architecture and School of Urban Planning under the direction of Nik Luka. With NiCHE funding, Luka has developed a project aimed at making this visual knowledge accessible to the public. The collaborative project has

been dubbed the “Canadian Cultural Landscape and Architectural Image Repository”—or CCLAIR for short—and its aim is to develop an online catalogue with a user-friendly interface so that anyone with access to a web browser can peruse the collections and retrieve specific images that may be of use for research, public events, local history associations, and so on. By creating high-resolution digital versions of the original slides, it becomes easier to store and maintain the images in large collections, and for a wide range of users to consult the images.

The team has already roved through several thousand images, using selections from the superbly-catalogued collection of Professor Tom McIlwraith (recently retired from the University of Toronto). The first phase of the CCLAIR project has focused largely on the logistical and procedural requirements for scanning and cataloguing large image collections. Now that a standard failsafe process had been developed, the research is expanding to the design and implementation of a functional web interface which would use the NICHE website as its main portal. It is anticipated that a trial version of this will be made available to NICHE participants by the winter of 2010.

The CCLAIR project is not only about environmental history. Given the obvious applications for architecture, urban design, and landscape planning, the CCLAIR project is dovetailed with initiatives are now underway at McGill’s Facility for Architectural Research in Media and Mediation (FARMM).

The team is working with local government and NGOs in the Montréal area, developing interactive tools useful for community engagement in the development of city-building projects. In addition to processing scholarly slide collections, the project could eventually integrate supplementary technical knowledge from architects, hydrologists, and geologists, or ‘soft’ knowledge from historians, writers, and artists, not to mention other media such as film and audio. Possibilities are already being explored to see how to use geographic information systems for more intuitive querying and spatial analysis (e.g., search-by-map). For the moment, the project is focusing on building a solid foundation for future expansion.

Svartárkot Recap

Will Knight

wknight@connect.carleton.ca

In late June 2009, five Canadian graduate students and two professors traveled, with NiCHE support, to northeast Iceland to participate in an eight-day environmental history summer school.

Led by faculty from the Reykjavik Academy, the course was called “Local Environments, Global Impacts;” it examined the environmental and agricultural history of Iceland over the long durée, from Norse settlement in the ninth cen-

tury to the boom and bust of the 21st.

The main focus for the participants was environmental history. The course was built around a large set of readings about Icelandic settlement and environments and was delivered through talks, seminar discussions, and field trips that looked at long and short-term environmental change in Iceland.

Throughout, participants sought to understand the dynamics of environmental adaptation - how people shaped their local environments to suit their ways of life and

how those activities changed the environment in

ways that required new adaptations and set off new adaptive cycles.

In the coming weeks, the NiCHE participants in the Svartarkot program will be posting an interactive map to the NiCHE website that will present photos and short texts teasing out some of the themes that the course outlined, and which student participants further explored in papers that were submitted to Dr. Júlíusson after the course.

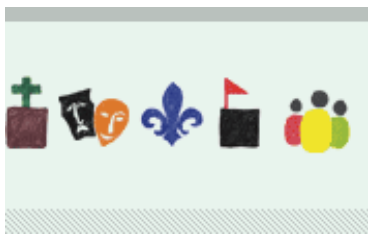


“Let’s go to the end of the earth and see what happens.”

Árni Daniel Júlíusson,

- June 19, 2009

Patrimoine Bâti et Paysages Culturel in Situ



Julie St-Onge

Par l'étude d'un ancien théâtre paroissial dans le village irlandais de Douglas-town, en Gaspésie, le cours appliqué « Patrimoine bâti et paysages culturels in situ » m'a permis de comprendre et d'étudier un paysage culturel régional et de développer mes compétences en interprétation d'un bâtiment patrimonial.

Plus concrètement, la formule recherche-travail sur le terrain m'a permis d'ac-

quérir des compétences non seulement en architecture (relevé architectural, photogrammétrie, GPS), mais aussi en développement communautaire et en histoire (histoire orale et patrimoine raconté). En tant qu'étudiante en histoire, ce cours m'a aussi permis d'étudier le bâtiment en tant qu'archive vivante, et à lire et comprendre son environnement paysage culturel) comme source d'information sur l'histoire locale et régionale, de même que l'analyse de son évolution (les modifications apportées au bâtiment, pour quelles raisons). Cela, afin d'être en mesure de mieux saisir son rôle passé et de mieux le comprendre comme un élément en interaction avec son milieu.

De plus, l'étude sociale d'un bâtiment, soit par la population locale, le rend vivant et permet aussi de saisir le rôle et l'importance qu'il a auprès d'elle. Ainsi, ce cours m'a aussi

appris comment travailler avec la communauté locale pour créer un terrain de discussion et l'aider, par la démonstration d'une maquette du bâtiment, entre autre, à ouvrir le débat sur l'avenir du théâtre paroissial et du paysage culturel et à réfléchir sur sa mise en valeur.

Également, le côté multidisciplinaire du cours, soit la collaboration étroite entre architectes, historiens et spécialistes du patrimoine bâti de différents pays est des plus stimulantes, chacun apportant son lot de compétences. Les différentes interprétations apportées par les étudiants et professionnels sont très enrichissantes pour le cours.

Ce cours fut des plus enrichissants et je tiens à remercier Tania Martin de l'avoir mis sur pieds.

UWO Public History Students, EcoKids to Collaborate with NiCHE

<http://ecokids.ca>

<http://history.uwo.ca/gradstudy/publichistory/>

Students in the UWO Public History program are working in collaboration with NiCHE to create curriculum based lesson plans with environmental history themes to be used in Canadian classrooms.

The plans will be featured on the EcoKids web-

site, currently subscribed to by over 12 000 teachers. EcoKids is a non-profit organization that is run by Earth Day Canada. Their website currently features a strong collection of lesson plans based on the science curriculum, but this will be their first set targeted specifically at

social science and history teachers.

We are looking forward to working with both groups towards something that can be used outside of academia.

New NiCHE Website

We've updated a number of features of the website and moved to a brand-new address:

<http://niche-canada.org>

Please change your bookmarks to point to our new URL. The old address will redirect here for a while, but this is our new permanent home.

Nature's Past Podcast Returns

<http://niche-canada.org/naturespast>.

Sean Kheraj

Sean.kheraj@ubc.ca

Nature's Past, the NiCHE podcast, returns this September with a new episode on graduate studies in environmental history. We sit down with Will Knight, the New Scholars in Canadian History & Environment representative to discuss the group's upcoming pro-

jects. We also host a round-table discussion with a group of environmental history graduate students from across the country to talk about major challenges to studying in Canada.

Be sure to subscribe and listen to new episodes at <http://niche-canada.org/naturespast>.



L'Industrialisation des Rivières / Industrialization of Rivers

<http://niche-canada.org/node/8124>

Stéphane Castonguay
Stephane.Castonguay@uqtr.ca

Matthew Evenden
mevenden@interchange.ubc.ca

24- 26 Sept, 2009: How have rivers been put to work? What technologies have transformed their flow regimes? In what ways do rivers serve as the sanitary systems of cities?

Stephane Castonguay will host a conference on the industrialization of rivers supported by the water history project and a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The conference addresses particular cases in North America and Europe and will build a broad comparative perspective.

Bringing together invited

participants from North America and Europe, the conference will travel to meeting sites and field locations in Montreal, Trois-Rivières and Shawinigan as well as places in-between. Following the conference, Castonguay and Evenden will edit the proceedings as a book. For further information, please contact the organizers.



Subsistence Relationship Workshop - Nipissing

Bruce Erikson
bruceee@nipissingu.ca

Event: October 2-4, 2009

Bringing Subsistence Out of the Shadows: A workshop on Subsistence Economies.

The Department of History at Nipissing University and the Canada Research Chair in Environmental History are pleased to announce a two-day workshop on subsistence relationships. Bringing Subsistence Out of the Shadows aims to bring together emerging scholarship on subsistence and mixed economies, both contemporary and throughout history. Subsistence relationships illustrate the complexity of not only economic exchanges, but also of human/

nature interactions, and discussions at the workshop will draw upon these complex networks to help understand the continuing significance of subsistence at different scales. 13 pre-selected papers will form the spine of the discussion and the keynote address will be provided by Colin Duncan, author of *The Centrality of Agriculture: Between Humankind and the Rest of Nature*. The workshop will take place at Monastery Hall, Nipissing University in North Bay, Ontario, on October 2-4th.

While the subsistence scale has often been seen as a stepping-stone to larger, more complex relationships of exchange, local and subsistence

economies have received a recent revival due to both environmental and economic crises. North Bay has a long history of vibrant subsistence and small-scale productions, including wild berries, fisheries, and forestry. On Friday evening (October 2nd) there will be a showcase of some of those involved in these relationships at the Kennedy Gallery in Downtown North Bay.

Please find the schedule of presenters and paper titles attached. If you are interested in further information, or are interested in attending, please contact Bruce Erickson at bruceee@nipissingu.ca

Book Draw:

Thank you to everyone who updated their membership profile in the past month. The contest closes on September 18, 2009 and we will announce the winners shortly.

Ressources Francophones en Histoire Environnementale

Olivier Craig-Dupont
olivier.craig-dupont@umontreal

(English follows).

Un nouveau projet intitulé « Ressources francophones en histoire environnementale » sera bientôt accessible sur le site Web de NiCHE. Ce projet vise à promouvoir la recherche et les autres ressources scientifiques en histoire environnementale de langue française. Il regroupera quatre sections où seront présentés les projets de recherche en cours, un bottin des professeurs et des étudiants et les descriptifs de cours en histoire environnementale; les offres de bourses, les colloques et les appels de communications; une activité de veille bibliographique, avec les parutions récentes en histoire environnementale et en géographie historique; une recension des fonds d'archives potentiellement intéressants pour l'histoire environnementale du Québec.

Cette nouvelle tribune se veut évolutive. Elle est appelée à suivre l'actualité de l'histoire environnementale francophone et à être mise à jour par l'apport direct des

chercheurs. Aussi, pour toutes suggestions ou commentaires, veuillez écrire à : olivier.craig-dupont@umontreal.ca. Il me fera plaisir de promouvoir sur cette nouvelle page toute information que vous jugerez enrichissante pour la communauté en histoire de l'environnement.

Resources in Francophone Environmental History

A new project is taking shape on the NiCHE website. Titled *Ressources francophones en histoire environnementale* (« Francophone Resources in Environmental History »), its aim is to promote research and scientific resources from Quebec and elsewhere in francophone environmental history. The project is composed of four subsections, namely Academic Resources, with ongoing research projects, a directory of faculty and students, and environmental history courses given in French; latest news in the field, such as call for papers, congresses or fellowships proposed in French; a bibliographic watch of recent francophone



publications in environmental history and historical geography; and a listing of potentially interesting archives for the environmental history of Quebec.

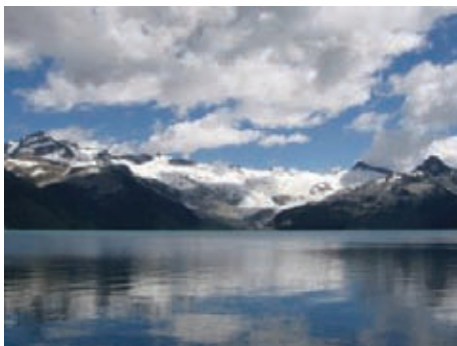
This new section is a work in progress. It aims to follow the growing field of francophone environmental history and will benefit from your intellectual contributions. For any suggestions or comment, please write me at olivier.craig-dupont@umontreal.

It will be my pleasure to post any contributions might deem enriching to the francophone community in environmental history.

Across Canada Photos

<http://niche-canada.org/image/tid/102>

Thanks to everyone who submitted photos to our "Across Canada" gallery. We were able to collect some pretty great images from across the country. You can take a look at the gallery at the address above. Here are some of our favourites.



Clock-wise from left:

Angela Kedgley: "Garibaldi Provincial Park" (BC),

Dave Neufeld: "Tough Tree Holding Down a Rock" (Yukon),

Claire Campbell: "Dock Street, Shelburne" (NS),

Jeremy Marks: "Milkweed" (ON).



Don River Valley Historical Mapping Project

<http://niche-canada.org/don-river-valley>

Jennifer Bonnell

jenniferbonnell@gmail.com

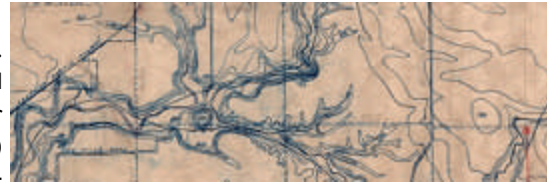
We're pleased to announce the completion of the Don Valley Historical Mapping Project. The project documents historical changes in the landscape of Toronto's Don River Valley. Drawing from the wide range of geographical information available for the watershed, including historical maps, fire insurance plans, planning documents, and city directories, the project uses Geographic Information Systems software to place, compile, synthesize and interpret this information and make it more accessible as geospatial data and maps.

The site is divided into four sections: Maps, Data, Points of Interest, and Resources. On the Maps page, you can access (and in many cases download) a wide range of historical maps images Toronto and the Don River watershed. The Data page provides access to the geospatial data developed over the

course of the project. Here you can download the data and metadata for the following datasets: 1) changes to the river channel and shoreline of Toronto harbour, 1858-1918; 2) industrial development in the Lower Don River Watershed, 1857-1951 (as points, and in some cases polygons); 3) historical mill sites in the Don River Watershed; and 4) land ownership in the watershed.

The Points of Interest page provides links to historical information and archival images for a number of historical sites in the Don River Valley. Finally, the Resources page includes a series of articles and presentations by project collaborators Jennifer Bonnell and Marcel Fortin, as well as some links to articles about our work in the press.

The project was conducted through a collaboration between Jennifer Bonnell, a doctoral student in the History of Education program at the University of Toronto's Ontario Insti-



tute for Studies in Education (OISE/UT) and Marcel Fortin, the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Map Librarian at the University of Toronto's Map and Data Library.

Financial and in-kind support was provided by the Network in Canadian History and Environment (NiCHE) and the University of Toronto Libraries. Valuable research support for the Points of Interest pages came from Lost Rivers, a community-based urban ecology organization focused on building public awareness of the City's river systems. Jordan Hale, a University of Toronto Geography student conducted much of the digitization and database work.

NiCHE New Scholars: Environmental History Reading Group

Will Knight

williamknight1@gmail.com

The New Scholars group is happy to report that its new reading group has just completed its pilot run and is now ready to launch it for full participation by the new scholars community. The group is an online discussion forum facilitated by Google groups, which supports group email threads, file storage, and discussion. We tested the group in August with Will Knight's paper on bass introductions to BC in the early 20th century. Group members downloaded the paper from the

group site, read it and dispatched it back to Will with comments. Sean Kheraj then hosted a live discussion through Skype. "The comments and discussion were extremely valuable," said Will after the live discussion. "The group re-energized my approach to this paper, which has been languishing on my desktop. They've given me some great ideas to sharpen its focus and have encouraged me to revise and submit it for publication."

Next up for discussion is Lauren Wheeler's paper on "Chinooks." If you want to participate in the reading group, please email Will at williamknight1@gmail.com and he will 'invite' you to join, allowing you to download the paper. Participants can submit

written comments and/or participate in a live conference call discussion.

Written comments are due back to Lauren by October 16. The live discussion is scheduled for 11 a.m. Pacific time, 12 p.m. Mountain time, and 2 p.m. eastern time on Monday October 19. If you want to participate in the live group discussion, please email Sean at sean.kheraj@ubc.ca and he will add you to the conference list. Discussion participants can join the conference call using Skype or by telephone. We invite all New Scholars to participate in this project!

Annual Meeting of the CHA - Concordia, 2010

Storytelling is one of the oldest forms of communication. In telling stories about the past, historians, novelists, playwrights, teachers, museum curators, film makers, artists, illustrators, musicians, and public historians (to name just a few) engage in the task of making sense of “histories” that are often violent, always contradictory, and endlessly fascinating. These stories matter; for what is being told, how it is being told, and what is being left unsaid shapes our sense of place, community and nation, indeed our very sense of self.

What was the place of stories and storytelling in the past? To whom were these stories told, and why? Whose stories were they? How do people construct stories about themselves and others? In what voice are these stories being told? How are stories passed through the generations? Which narrative conventions govern the process of storytelling? How does storytelling draw lines of inclusion and exclusion? What is the relationship between story-

telling and collective memory? How does audience shape what is said and not said? How do we as historians tell stories about the past and to whom? In which



ways can stories of the past be told in art, documentary media and practice, performance, museum exhibition, classroom pedagogy, and other digital environments? When, and how, can the act of “telling stories” become a catalyst for political action and social change?

The 2010 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association invites proposals in French and English. In keeping with the Congress theme for 2010 “Connected Understanding/Savoir branché,” we are interested in connecting scholars working in different fields and in exploring the ties between university researchers and public audiences beyond the academic world. Panel proposals for sessions that forge connections

between disciplines are particularly welcome, as are proposals that embrace unconventional ways of “telling stories” about the past (such as historical displays, performances, storytelling circles, audioscapes, and memoryscapes) or bring together

scholars at different stages of their careers.

You are invited to submit a 250-350 word proposal and a one-page curriculum vitae. In your submission, please indicate if you are proposing an individual presentation or a panel session, or intend to communicate your research findings in another way. We welcome session proposals, but do reserve the right to break up panels. Prospective presenters are encouraged to become members of the CHA. Please submit your proposal at shc_cha@alcor.concordia.ca. The deadline for submissions is Friday, 30 October 2009. For further information, please contact Barbara Lorenzkowski, Co-Programme Chair, 2010 Annual Meeting of the CHA.



Photo: Jeff Moss

Banff Field Trip - Call for Applicants

<http://niche-canada.org/node/8090>

Liza Piper
epiper@ualberta.ca

The Department of History and Classics at the University of Alberta is organizing a field trip to Banff National Park on October 29 – November 1, 2009. This field trip is intended pri-

marily for graduate students and will be an opportunity for those studying Banff, the Rocky Mountains, or mountains or parks in general to visit and learn more about local and regional environmental history.

To help support the research and networking of emerging scholars, NiCHE will

sponsor two or three one-time travel awards to allow graduate students who currently reside and study beyond the Edmonton region to participate.

Graduate students from across Canada are invited to apply.