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You can be the first to know about calls for papers, upcoming workshops, events, podcast episodes, and opportunities. See our website for details.

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



5th Annual Call for Projects Results

NiCHE received another strong set of applications and is pleased to announce it will be supporting the following seven projects in 2012.

Archiving and Mapping Environmental Change in Canada.

Don Lafreniere, Brian Luckman, Jason Gilliland, Chris Smart; UWO

The aim of this project is to digitize and begin creating an online platform to host collections of images related to environmental history.

Environmental History Writing Workshop.

Michael Egan; McMaster

The workshop will build off the success of the writing workshop that preceded last spring's EH+ meeting.

CoHearance Podcast Series

Catriona Sandilands, Peter Timmerman, Andrew Mark, Amanda Di Battista; York.

The CoHearance podcast project, begun in 2011 with a series of environmental history interviews, will continue and expand in 2012.

History for the Future of Food in Kingston.

Sinead Early, Tyler Masse, Hanna Johnston, Miguel Hahn, Shawn Rivoire; Queens and NFU

The project explores what happens at the intersection of action research and food as organizations work to rebuild the Kingston region's capacity to feed itself.

Oil, Ethics and Environment Canada

Darcy Ingram; U. Ottawa

This project will organize a public debate at the University of Ottawa in September 2012.

Mountaineers, Mapmakers and the Making of Mount Robson

Zac Robinson, Liza Piper; U. Alberta

This project will use a rich set of images, texts, and artifacts to display the early history and formation of BC's Mount Robson Provincial Park.

Under Western Skies 2

Robert Boschman, Joseph L. Anderson; Mount Royal

In October 2012, Mount Royal University will host its second interdisciplinary conference on the environment, building on the success of an event in 2010.

CHESS2012 in Guelph

Jennifer Bonnell

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NiCHE is pleased to announce plans for its seventh annual Canadian History & Environment Summer School (CHESS), to be held 25 - 27 May 2012 in Guelph, Ontario (prior to the annual

meetings of the Canadian Historical Association and Canadian Association of Geographers in Waterloo). This year's theme is "Bees to Beef: Farm(ed) Animals in Environmental History."

To apply for CHESS 2012: Send a one-page CV and a brief state-

ment (not to exceed 100 words), indicating the relevance of your intellectual interests to this year's theme and how you hope to benefit from participation, by email to Jennifer Bonnell no later than 17 February 2012.



<http://niche-canada.org/node/10230>

New Northern research network launches in Yellowknife

Arn Keeling
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A new international network of scholars examining the prospects and problems of resource development in the Arctic held its first meeting in Yellowknife, NT, Nov. 24 and 25. Drawing together scholars from Canada, the United States and Europe, the meeting aimed to set out priorities for the new network, called Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic (ReSDA).

ReSDA is funded through a newly awarded SSHRC Major Collaborative Research Initiative, and includes not only a

wide range of Arctic and northern scholars (including NiCHE-affiliated environmental historians and historical geographers), but also a number of institutional partners, including the University of the Arctic, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., the three territorial governments and their research institutes, the Labrador Institute, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, and the Conference Board of Canada.

ReSDA "seeks to establish a new research network that will bring together researchers from a broad range of disciplines and organizations representing communities, government, the private sector and nonprofit organizations to conduct

and mobilize research aimed at the sustainable development of Arctic natural resources in a manner that will improve the health and well-being of Canada's northern communities while preserving the region's unique environment."

The Yellowknife meeting focused on setting research priorities for the network and developing an organizational structure for managing the far-flung network and its \$2.5 million over 7 years. Hosted at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the meeting focused on making social science research more visible and relevant to the needs of Northerners.

<http://dl1.yukoncollege.yk.ca/resdal>

Fact:

Despite what the signage in Australia might suggest, Kangaroos are actually very poor skiers. They can jump like you wouldn't believe, though.

Oh Canberra!

Alan MacEachern
niche@uwo.ca

Australia National University's 6th biennial Environmental History PhD Workshop is being held 28 May – 1 June 2012 in Canberra, Australia. As part of NiCHE's commitment to graduate student training and international collaboration, we are offering a \$1500 travel grant for a Canadian PhD student to attend.

Applications are due by 1 February 2012. Only applicants registered in the NiCHE Member Directory will be considered. The student will be expected to write a short report



for NiCHE on the workshop's activities and format, and on how we might institute such a PhD workshop in Canada.

The student should be at the writing stage of a dissertation in environmental history, historical geography, or a related field; preference will be given to a student

working on a topic related to Australia, New Zealand, or the British Commonwealth/Empire.

Full details are available on the NiCHE website.

<http://niche-canada.org/node/10248>

The Otter: Environmental History Blog at a Glance

The Otter is NiCHE's newest group blog, written by NiCHE members about the field of Environmental History & Historical Geography in Canada, and has become a popular mainstay on the NiCHE website.

Next month is the project's first anniversary. In case you missed it, we thought we'd share snippets from some of our favourite posts in the past few months. Thanks to our many contributors who have made the project such a success.

Enjoy!

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

An Environmental Historian & Twitter

Shannon Stunden-Bower

Over the past year the number of environmental historians and historical geographers using Twitter continues to grow. Using the #EnvHist hashtag, scholars from Canada, the USA and Europe maintain an ongoing conversation.

We're happy to report that NiCHE members currently contribute at least half of the content to this conversation. Read Shannon Stunden Bower's recent article to learn more about using Twitter for academic networking and teaching.

<http://niche-canada.org/node/10275>



NiCHE Goes to India

Stephen Bocking

Tigers once roamed where buses and auto rickshaws now roar in Manipal, a university town in southern India. In December 2011 Manipal University's Centre for Philosophy and Humanities hosted an international workshop on "Sciences and Narratives of Nature: East & West".

Since the workshop was intended to focus, in part, on ideas about nature and history, NiCHE was invited to send a representative. I, a novice to India, was happy to play that role.

It was a fabulous experience. The workshop hosts were gracious, generous and well-organized, and the participants, mainly from India, Canada, and Australia, presented wide-ranging perspectives on the history and social studies of science and nature. The workshop, and the experience of India itself, also suggested many opportunities for environmental historians to connect with science studies scholars and with India's complex environmental history and contemporary politics.

You can read the full article on the Otter blog.

<http://niche-canada.org/node/10267>

Why Denmark is Awesome

Claire Campbell

Somewhat ironically, university history departments tend to group by geography: Canadianists, Americanists, Europeanists, and so on. But for the past three years, I've co-taught the introductory class in Dalhousie's Environment, Sustainability and Society program. Here I'm free to share stories not just from Canada but from across the North Atlantic: especially Scandinavia, and especially Denmark.

In a cluster on New World agriculture, I show a 1754 map of St. Croix, a classic example of the ecological legacies of a plantation colony. When we talk about urban water supply, there's the city of Århus's ongoing project of daylighting its Viking-era river. And in a class on energy alternatives, I share the story of Samsø, a small island that between 1997 and 2007 converted entirely to renewable energies and cut its carbon footprint over 140% in the process.

To find out how they did it, read the full article, along with many others, on the Otter blog.

<http://niche-canada.org/node/10193>



EH Mobile App Demo

Sean Kheraj
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After a year of fumbling our way through various efforts to produce an environmental history mobile application for iOS, Jim Clifford and I are finally ready to demo Environmental History Mobile 1.0 Beta.

As we mentioned in our previous update, the goal of this project was to create an iOS mobile application that would facilitate the dissemination of online content relevant to the environmental history community, including news, blogs, and podcasts. What you can try out using the live preview on the NiCHE website is a demo of our first attempt to aggregate all of that content into a simple application.

Please keep in mind that not all of the components of the application in the web demo (see the link at the end of the article) will function properly, as it would on an iPhone or iPod Touch. Nevertheless, you can click through most of the different sections of the application, including:

EH Top News

This top button on our first tab is our attempt to aggregate environmental history news sources and blogs from across the web. We built a new website, <http://envhist.com> as a way to bring together content from a collection of relevant blogs and other online sources of environmental

history content. We are currently looking for content for this section of the app and we invite all environmental history bloggers to contact us about adding their RSS feeds to <http://envhist.com>.

EH Tweets

Twitter has rapidly grown into one the best channels for environmental history content on the web. A large community of #twitterstorians have coalesced around the hashtag #envhist as real-time tool for sharing links and discussing environmental

history matters on Twitter. Wilko von Hardenberg recently posted a visualization of #envhist activity on Twitter. To tap into this active and ongoing online conversation, we've added this button to take you directly to a stream of tweets with the #envhist tag (unfortunately, this button currently doesn't work on the web demo).

NiCHE News

To keep users in the loop on all NiCHE activities, we've added a feed of all NiCHE news and announcements.

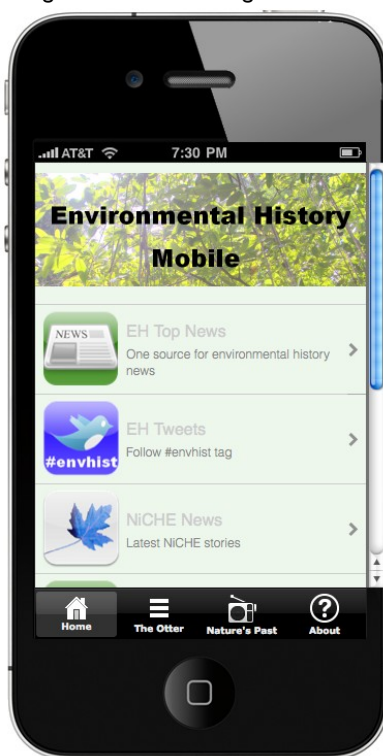
H-Environment

The H-Environment email listserv continues to be an active source of news, announcements, and occasionally debates about environmental history. This feed keeps an updated list of the last twenty posts to H-Environment.

EHTV

NiCHE's web video series EHTV has published ten short web documentaries about environmental history research. This button takes you to links to watch all of these videos in the app.

The remaining tabs take you to posts from The Otter and episodes of Nature's Past. Take and look and have fun. And send us your comments.



<http://niche-canada.org/node/10271>

\$1000 Western Canadian Studies New Scholar Conference Bursary

George Colpitts
colpitts@ucalgary.ca

NiCHE, through its Prairie Environmental Network (PEN), has announced the support of up to two awards of \$1000 for environmental history papers presented at the Directions West: Third Biennial West-

ern Canadian Studies Conference, University of Calgary, June 21-23, 2012.

Prizes will be awarded to papers presenting Masters, Ph.D. or Post-Doctoral research that will shape understandings of environmental history in Western Canada.

Up to two papers will be chosen for the award. For the conference CFP and more information, please visit [http://](http://www.dnswest.ca)

www.dnswest.ca. To be considered for the award, conference registrants will be required to submit an abstract and completed paper ready to be considered for publication by May 15, 2012. Winners' abstracts will appear on the NiCHE website.

<http://niche-canada.org/node/10092>

Atlantic Studies Travel Bursaries for Students

Claire Campbell

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The Historians of the Environment of Atlantic Canada, NiCHE's Atlantic regional network, is offering travel bursaries of \$500 to three Master's or senior undergraduate students interested in attending

the 19th Atlantic Canada Studies Conference in Saint John.

The conference's theme is regionalism, with an emphasis on the construction of cultural, provincial and regional identities, the contested nature of identities and the relation of region to nation. HEAR and NiCHE are sponsoring the keynote speaker, Richard Judd of the University of

Maine, who will be speaking on regional and transboundary environmental history.

For more information, see the original announcement on the NiCHE website.

<http://niche-canada.org/node/10256>

CFP: Beyond the Culture of Nature

Rethinking Canadian and Environmental Studies

Matthew Evenden

CNS-conference2012@geog.ubc.ca

Canadian and Environmental Studies are two fields in transformation. The fields have diverged and been complicated by shifting ideas about nation and nationalism, or the environment and sustainability.

This conference seeks to bring Canadian and Environmental Studies scholars together to discuss and debate the relations of their two fields.

The organizers seek proposals that touch on themes such as:

- The place of nature in Canadian Studies
- The place of Canada in Environmental Studies
- What's left of wilderness and the culture of nature?
- Understanding Canada, regions and places in a world of global flows and environmental processes

Proposal Deadline:

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

<http://niche-canada.org/node/10214>



CFP: Beyond the Culture of Nature

Matthew Evenden

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Les études canadiennes et les études environnementales sont deux champs en transformation. Ces deux champs d'études ont divergés et se sont complexifiés en même temps que les notions de nation et de nationalisme, ainsi que celle d'environnement et de durabilité, se recomposaient.

Quant au discours sur la durabilité, il a

transcendé la nature sauvage en tant qu'artefact culturel et linguistique, tributaire d'une vision binaire de la nature et de la culture.

Cette conférence s'interroge sur ce qui a remplacé la culture de la nature en tant que point commune des études canadiennes et environnementales ? Comment est-ce que les « area studies » et les études interdisciplinaires s'entrecoupent, avec quels bénéfices et quels problèmes ? Existient-ils encore des points de conver-

gence?

Cette conférence cherche à rassembler les chercheurs en études canadiennes et environnementales pour discuter et débattre de la relation entre les deux champs d'études et d'imaginer un avenir commun en études canadiennes et environnementales.

Date limite: mercredi, 1er février 2012

<http://niche-canada.org/node/10214>

A Field Trip to Ivvavik National Park

Andrew Stuhl
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Ivvavik National Park is situated in the corner of Canada's Western Arctic, comprising the northern edge of the Yukon Territory. About 150 visitors each year relish the opportunity to explore its stunning terrain. Adventurous souls raft the Firth River, whose exposed bluffs and rocky shores never knew glaciation. Along their journeys, they admire the dramatic peaks and valleys of the British Mountains and the expansive, undulating tundra.

In June 2011, NiCHE member Andrew Stuhl helped lead twelve of those visitors through Ivvavik, to better apprehend its culture, history, and ecology. Teaming with Parks Canada staff, an Inuvialuit elder, and teachers from Samuel Hearne Secondary School (Inuvik), Stuhl co-facilitated stream studies, terrestrial plot investigations, interviews, hikes, and group challenges, among other activities.

This trip marked the seventh consecutive year Samuel Hearne students and teachers traveled to the park as part of the tenth grade biology curriculum. As a final project for the field program, the group designed and painted a mural, which is now displayed in Samuel Hearne Secondary School.

For more information on this project, please contact Andrew Stuhl.



Ivvavik National
Park, Yukon

The Joint Arctic Weather Stations (JAWS) Project

Daniel Heidt
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By the spring of 1946 the spectre of a Soviet threat to North America loomed large in the minds of American defence officials, evoking grave concerns in the Department of External Affairs about Canada's arctic sovereignty.

The Joint Arctic Weather Stations (JAWS) program (1947-1972) developed within this mental climate. Initially constructed to provide meteorological data for the high arctic, and jointly operated by Canada and the United States, these stations soon became hubs for diverse interactions with the Canadian arctic.

Dr. P. Whitney Lackenbauer, Daniel Heidt, and Peter Kikkert have all previously published on JAWS, and are co-authoring a book-length study of this pioneering program. We also plan to create a portal where JAWS material can be shared to further interactions between northern communities, researchers, and JAWS veterans.

Our extensive research includes Cana-

dian and American archival material from across the continent, as well as over 20 interviews with JAWS veterans. The book will analyze the JAWS program's significance to Canadian sovereignty, civil-military relations, meteorology, science's understanding of the arctic, the culture of science, isolation culture, as well as the environmental impact of the stations and their inhabitants.

For further information please contact:

Daniel Heidt (dheidt@uwo.ca)
Peter Kikkert (pkikkert@uwo.ca)
Dr. P. Whitney Lackenbauer
(whitney.lackenbauer@uwaterloo.ca)



Please take a moment to update your details in our NiCHE Member Directory

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

Taking Urban Forest History to the Public



Will Knight

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Curating a museum exhibit is a new experience for both myself and Joanna Dean. In late January our exhibition – Six Moments in the History of an Urban Forest – will open at the Bytown Museum in Ottawa.

The exhibit is based on Joanna's current research on Ottawa's urban forests from the 1850s until the present day. It explores the contested place of trees in Ottawa's urban history including early street-tree planting, the 1920s campaign to "control"

"Cookie" from a felled bur oak

urban trees, and the planting of commemorative crab apple trees for Canada's centennial in 1967. Through the exhibit we explore how urban trees have tested our repeated attempts to discipline them as we make them serve our changing ideas of the good and the beautiful.

Our showpiece is a cross-section or "cookie" of a 150-year old bur oak that was felled this past spring in Ottawa. Joanna carefully negotiated her way through the local controversy that surrounded this tree's demise—which came down to make way for an infill housing project—and retrieved this section.

The section introduced us to the labour required to prepare material artifacts: in this case hours of sanding and preservative application. The cookie is so large it has to be hauled around Ottawa in a trailer. The at-

tached photo shows Joanna posing with the cookie before we rolled it into a freezer in Carleton University's geography department. The section had to spend several days in and out of the freezer to kill potential insect infestations. It also visited a metal fabrication shop to work out mounting details.

Museum work is exciting and challenging. It is exciting to experience how an amorphous idea for an exhibition takes material and conceptual shape. It is also challenging to working out a historical narrative that will fit a given space and will engage visitors in the fewest words possible.

The exhibit runs from January 24-May 27, 2012 and is funded by NiCHE, a Jack Kimmell grant from the Canadian Tree Fund, and Carleton University. A vernissage will be held at Bytown Museum on the afternoon of Sunday, January 27, 2012.

Transforming Canada (Winter Term) Histories of Environmental Change

Graeme Wynn & Colin Coates

Members in British Columbia and Ontario are invited to a series of public lectures held throughout the coming term at UBC and York University.

- UBC: "Gender and the Nature of Canada," Joanna Dean (History, Carleton University), Thursday February 2 2012, 5:00-6:30pm, Geography building, room 130
- UBC: "Wilderness Culture and the Nature of Canada" Claire Campbell (History, Dalhousie University), Monday February 13 2012, 5:00-6:30pm
- UBC: "Communications and the Nature of

Canada," Ken Cruikshank (History, McMaster University), Wednesday February 29 2012, 5:00-6:30pm, Geography building, room 130

- York: "High Modernism and the Nature of Canada," Tina Loo (History, University of British Columbia), Monday March 5 2012, 1:00-3:00pm, 305 York Lanes
- UBC: "Cities and the Nature of Canada," Michelle Dagenais (Histoire, Université de Montréal), Monday March 12 2012, 5:00-6:30pm
- York: "Indigenous Knowledge and its Transformations: An Environmental Narrative," Julie Cruikshank (Anthropology, University of British



Columbia), Monday March 12 2012, 2:00-4:00pm, 305 York Lanes

- UBC: "Fish and Fur and the Nature of Canada," Stephen Hornsby (Canadian Studies Center, University of Maine, Orono), Monday March 19 2012, 5:00-6:30pm, Geography building, room 130
- UBC: "Climate [Change] and the Nature of Canada," Liza Piper (History and Classics, University of Alberta), Monday April 16 2012, 5:00-6:30pm

Marine Zoogeographies in the North Atlantic

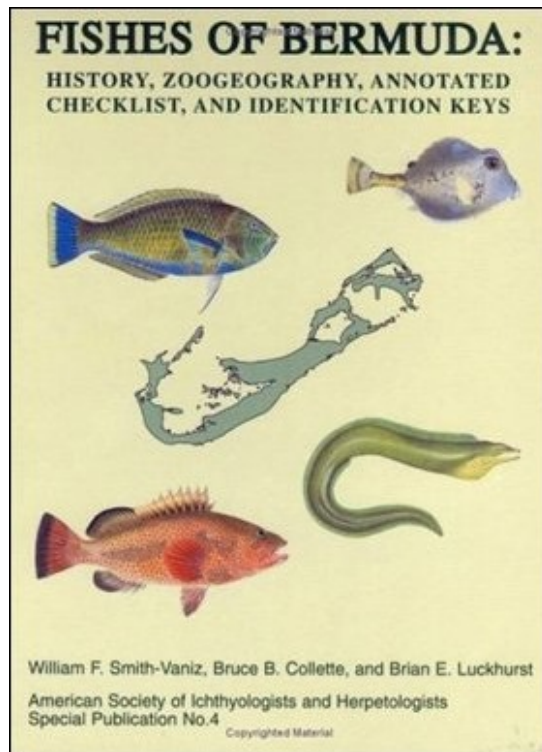
Kirsten Greer

In November 2011, I traveled to Bermuda to start a project, which aims to understand how natural history knowledge of Canada, Bermuda, and Britain helped to produce a militarized maritime bio-region in the 19th-century North Atlantic. During this period, Britain established an imperial defense network of fortifications and bases to secure economic and colonial control in the British Atlantic. The Royal Navy commanded the sea while the British military secured strategic ports and waterways, extending the imperial network from Bermuda to the Great Lakes of Canada.

From this network emerged the collection and documentation of marine flora, fauna, rivers, weather patterns, and seascapes by British navy and military officers who were patrolling and garrisoning the various sites in British North America and Bermuda. My primary concern is how the production, circulation, and reception of natural history knowledge and material culture by these individuals helped to constitute the British North Atlantic as a meaningful place and contributed to the production of ideas and practices of marine biogeography and the migration of species.

During my visit to Bermuda, I focused on materials available in the archives and museum collections, and explored some of the military and navy sites of the nineteenth century. I toured the historic Royal Naval Dockyard and the Commissioner's House, overlooking the vast Atlantic Ocean. Once considered the "Gibraltar of the West," the infrastructure located on Ireland Island served as the wintering grounds for the North America and West Indies Station. The summer station for the Royal Navy in the Americas, of course, was in Halifax, resulting in the relocation of naval manpower with the changing seasons in spring and autumn. How did these trans-imperial movements between Nova Scotia and Bermuda impact ideas of climatic regions and species migration in the "New World"?

While sitting outside the Bermuda Natural History Museum, I spotted a Great Blue Heron standing motionlessly on a small boat, waiting to pounce on its prey. My previous encounters with the bird involved observing it in eastern Canada, stalking fish in freshwater wetlands and rivers, amidst cattails, rushes, and willow trees. The heron I observed on this day occupied a different habitat all together, in the inland waters of Flatts Village, abounding with squid, tropical fish, and



seashells from the tidal ocean waters of the Atlantic. According to John Matthew Jones, John L. Hurdis, and John Walter Wedderburn in *The Naturalist in Bermuda: A Sketch of the Geology, Zoology, and Botany* the migratory Great Blue Herron was "a wary bird... not frequently met with on the shores or creeks of the Bermudas."

Interestingly, all three authors of *The Naturalist in Bermuda* lived in the maritime colonies of Canada. Jones fostered an extensive network of British military and Royal Navy officers, shipmasters, and colonists in his pursuit of natural knowledge, and contributed significantly to the natural history of Nova Scotia while a resident. Hurdis worked as Controller of Customs in both PEI and in Bermuda, which gave him access to information from ships travelling to and from the maritime colonies of British North America. As part of his trans-Atlantic military service, Captain Wedderburn served in Halifax and Bermuda, making a vast collection of North American birds now housed in various museums in the United Kingdom and the United States. Again, my fieldwork investigations sparked questions on links between imperial and "natural" connections, and the ways in which colonial environmental knowledge emerged from networked, mobile knowledges in the British North Atlantic.

At the Bermuda Archives, I had the opportunity to research watercolour albums and manuscripts. I was

drawn to Captain Henry Maurice Drummond-Hay's image of the Green Moray, which he painted vividly with different shades of green and very sharp teeth. I viewed a collection of watercolours of Bermuda landscapes and seascapes by Royal Navy officer Sir Michael Seymour, who served on HMS *Vindictive* in the British North America and West Indies Station, 1845–1848. Many of his British North America views are housed at the Musée du Québec. I also studied the watercolours of Edmund Gilling Hallowell, 20th Regiment, who later served in Québec City and Kingston, where his watercolour of Fort Henry is housed at the Queen's University Archives.

My investigations at the archives also allowed me to learn about the politics of "race" in Bermuda, impressing on me the delicacy of dealing with such tensions. I viewed an original Slave Register, used to record all of the enslaved persons in Bermuda for the compensation of plantation owners after Abolition in 1833. While Bermuda's physical geography limited the formation of a plantation economy familiar in the Caribbean, a romanticized version of the slave past has emerged that has focused on the betterment of slaves as skilled sailors, pilots, and housemaids. Despite this version of the history, the fact remains that the island slavery existed in Bermuda, where enslaved peoples lived without freedom, were sold as commodities, and were placed in precarious situations.

The issue of "race" will continue to be a focus of my work. I learned that army-naturalist John Tavenier Bartram, sold his commission and left his wife in England to settle in Bermuda. He lived with a Black Bermudian woman, a behaviour viewed as "degenerate" by British middle and upper class in Victorian times. Some of Bartram's naturalist notebooks can be found at the Bermuda Archives, and a few of his avian specimens are at the Bermuda Natural History Museum. Bartram became a centre of naturalist activity in Bermuda, making connections with other British military officers such as Philip Savile Grey Reid, Royal Engineers, who published *Birds of Bermuda* (1884). In all, my exploratory work in Bermuda allowed me to make wonderful connections for future research on my project.

Kirsten Greer is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of History, University of Warwick, UK

Transnational History of the American Canoe Association

Jess Dunkin

In August 1880, a small group of men, called together by author and traveller Nathaniel Holmes Bishop, gathered by the shores of Lake George in New York State's Adirondack Mountains. For four days, those in attendance slept under canvas, discussed sailing and paddling techniques and technologies, and competed in canoeing races. In spite of the poor turnout (Bishop had predicted upwards of two hundred men would attend), the event was deemed a success, and the American Canoe Association (ACA) was born.

Despite its partisan name, from the outset, the ACA was envisioned as a transnational organization, open to Canadian and American enthusiasts. The organization used annual encampments to realize its goal of "unit[ing] all amateur canoeists for the purpose of pleasure, health, or exploration." Although the initial plan was to hold the meetings on Lake George, the site quickly became impractical and, in 1882, the decision was made to take the show on the road, so to speak. Between 1883 and 1902, the yearly encampments moved between out-of-the-way, if not entirely wild sites in New York, Ontario, and New England. Destinations included Lake Champlain, Muskoka, the Hudson River, the St. Lawrence River, and Cape Cod. Growing concerns about financing a mobile encampment prompted the organization to purchase an island in the St. Lawrence in 1900, and in 1903 the organization moved the annual meeting to Sugar Island permanently. Members of the ACA continue to gather at Sugar Island, a stone's throw away from Gananoque, ON, to this day.

My dissertation, which is being conducted at Carleton University under the supervision of John C. Walsh, is a postcolonial feminist examination of the annual meetings of the American Canoe Association from the organization's founding until 1910. This was not my original dissertation project. When I began the PhD, I was exploring women's varied encounters with canoes and canoeing between 1870 and World War II. However, as I got deeper into the research, I came to realize that it was impractical as a dissertation topic, not least because of its breadth. Around the same time, I was working on a chapter on the place of women at the annual encampments of the ACA, as well as a

paper on mobilities at the annual meetings for the Environments of Mobility in Canada Workshop at Glendon College. As I wrote, I began to see the possibilities of looking closely at a single event held over a number of years at a variety of different locations. Much like the Industrial Exhibitions that are the subject of Keith Walden's *Becoming Modern*, the annual meetings of the ACA were events with their own logics and rhythms. However, they were also deeply embedded in late-nineteenth-century middle-class culture. As such, they shed light on the important relationships between recreation, politics, economics, society, nature, and culture. That they took place at "natural" locations far from the urban centres that were at the heart of middle-class identity in this period made them all the more interesting to me.

The shape of the annual meetings provides the structure for the dissertation. In other words, I follow the organizers and attendees as they prepare for, travel to, and participate in the meets. The chapters are organized thematically, each focusing on a different practice that was central to encampment life: organizing, navigating, governing, inhabiting, competing, working, and documenting. My hope is that the final product will be a mediation on community, place, and the politics of everyday life in the Victorian era, with some snazzy photos of sailing canoes and "pimped out" tents thrown in!

One of the best parts of my research experience thus far has been the opportunity to travel to archives off the beaten path, but close to water. In August 2010, for example, I spent a week in Mystic, CT (home of Mystic Pizza) working at "the Museum of America and the Sea," Mystic Seaport. When I wasn't in the research centre, I was usually off exploring the coastline on one of the town's free bicycles, watching the Bascule drawbridge or enjoying local seafood and beer. Another one of my favourite destinations is the New York State Historical Association Library in Cooperstown, NY. Not only does the reading room overlook beautiful Lake Otsego, but the local amenities include the Baseball Hall of the Fame, the Ommegang Brewery, and the Fennimore Art Gallery and Farm Museum. Add to these locations, Blue Mountain Lake in the Adirondacks, the Muskoka Lakes Museum in Port Carling, and the Antique Boat Museum in Clayton, New York, and you have one happy paddlin' scholar.

Jessica Dunkin is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at Carleton University.

<http://niche-canada.org/node/10206>



Photo Caption:
"Pug Boat" Rick Harris

Changes to NiCHE Expense Claims

NiCHE is administered by the University of Western Ontario, and some recent directives by the Government of Ontario mean some changes to how UWO, and in turn NiCHE, is administered. Complete information can be found here: <http://uwo.ca/finance/policies/bpsa.html>

For NiCHE members, the most critical changes are:

- "All reimbursement requests must be received by UWO Financial Services no later than sixty (60) days after the date of completion of the travel and/or date of in-

curring expense ... and receipts must be sent to UWO Financial Services within fifteen (15) days from approval of claim." So if you're seeking reimbursement from NiCHE, organize & submit your claim (including receipts) c/o Alan MacEachern as soon as the project or event is complete!

- There are maximum reimbursable amounts for meals: "...\$70.25 per day for meals in Canada and the United States. This rate is constructed from the following guidelines: Breakfast \$15.35, Lunch \$14.60 and Dinner \$40.30

per day. These guidelines include gratuities and taxes." This is for individuals seeking reimbursement; if you're organizing a lunch that costs \$14.70/person, this is "hospitality" & you should be reimbursed in full.

- The mileage rate has increased to 54.5 cents/km.

Although a new UWO Travel Expense Form is supposedly forthcoming, please use the old one until then. If you have any questions about any of this, email me at amaceach@uwo.ca



Seeking Authors: Canadian History & Environment Book Series

Alan MacEachern

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This series of edited collections on topics related to Canadian environmental history / historical geography, will be published simultaneously in print and as a free open-access version online.

If you're interested in developing a book for the series, take a look at the prospectus at the link below.

<http://niche-canada.org/lucp-nichel/guide>

Silent Spring Essay Contest

In commemoration of fifty years of Silent Spring, the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society is soliciting essays from junior and senior scholars which analyze the impact and reception of Silent Spring as well as the legacy of Rachel Carson. Prizes range from \$1000 to \$2000. The winning essays,

as well as those which receive an honorable mention, will be published in a commemorative edition of the RCC Perspectives series. Full details are available on the NiCHE website at the address below. Happy writing and good luck!

<http://niche-canada.org/node/10217>

The Otter: Seeking More Authors

Since February 2011, we've been hosting a group blog on the NiCHE website called the Otter: <http://niche-canada.org/otter>. Dozens of NiCHE members have contributed short articles on a wide range of topics. These 500-800 word posts attracted readership in the 100s, or even the 1000s, and the authors did not wait two or three years to see them in print.

Would you like to join the roster of bloggers by contributing an occasional post (2-4 per year)? We are looking for articles from the full spectrum of the NiCHE community: students, to members of the public, to senior faculty. Topics should address environmental history or historical geography and can deal with anything from your teaching and research to the historical context of current events or

reports on environmental history/historical geography workshops. If you have a personal blog, we are happy to let you mirror your Otter post on your own site.



Please contact me (jcliffo9@uwo.ca) to be added to our schedule.