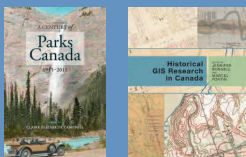


Update your Account, Win Books!

Update your NiCHE account before February 1st and be entered in a draw for the book prize. The prize includes the two books in the [UCP series](#) and the two books in the new [MQUP Wildland series](#).

*Canadian History and
Environment Series*
University of Calgary Press



*Rural, Wildland, and
Resource Studies Series*
McGill-Queen's University
Press



by Josh MacFadyen
NiCHE Project Coordinator
<http://niche-canada.org>

The “NiCHE 2.0” website committee is pleased to announce that that we have launched the new site (<http://niche-canada.org>). Please take a look around and share the announcement on social media, update your [RSS feeds](#), and let us know what you think in a message on the [contact form](#).

The WordPress theme we selected looks great on mobile devices, and the WordPress editor makes it even easier to post articles, images, events, media, and comments. The theme features large dynamic images on most blog posts and events, and it displays a carousel of recent posts across the header of the landing page.

All members of the NiCHE community are invited to set up an account and contribute environmental history news and content to the site. Your old user account has been added to the site and it will work just like any WordPress account. Thanks to those who replied to emails back in September, many of your accounts will be the same as your existing WordPress account. The first NiCHE member directory is being rebuilt and replaced by a brand new

Welcome to the NiCHE Website 2.0

directory. We will develop this soon, so if you are interested in being added to the directory please subscribe to the [news feed](#) and stay tuned for the directory announcement.

Two of our most popular features, *The Otter* and the *Qu'est-ce qui se passe* group blogs, are now combined as one blog: “[The Otter ~ La Loutre](#).” If you would like to contribute material to these blogs at any time, in French or English, please contact one of the blog editors (for French posts please contact Maude Flamand Hubert and for English contact Josh MacFadyen). We generally look for original research, methods, or opinion pieces related to environmental history. The target length is 1,000 words, and we strongly encourage the inclusion of high quality images.

Our multimedia content such as the [Nature's Past](#) podcasts and EHTV videos have a new look, and are featured on the Media page. Sean Kheraj continues to lead the podcast, and we can easily feature great video content embedded in posts and uploaded via EHTV – environmental cinematographers take note!

The website contains a new feature called [Digital Tools](#), which will highlight some of the best of the digital infrastructure project as well as new HGIS material being created by the project leads,

Help Build Canadian Environmental History

Want to follow the new site's content? Subscribe to the [RSS feed](#) or add your email to feedburner on the homepage.

Want to keep others updated on your research and social media? [Update your profile](#) and stay active on the website.

Want to contribute a post or event? Contact the editors of “[The Otter ~ La Loutre](#)” or [Log in](#) and upload it directly.

Want to comment on someone's post or page? [Log in](#) or simply use your Twitter or Facebook account to leave a comment.

Have comments about the NiCHE website, or can't find something you're looking for? Use our [contact form](#) or email (nichecanadawebsite@gmail.com)

Have a digital tool for environmental history? Share it with our [digital tools](#) team.

Bienvenue sur le site internet 2.0 du NiCHE

C'est donc avec fierté que le comité « NiCHE 2.0 » vous offre ce tout nouveau site internet et vous invite à en faire l'exploration, toujours à la même adresse (<http://niche-canada.org>).

Vous êtes convié à jeter un coup d'œil à ce nouvel environnement virtuel. Les abonnés sont aussi invités à mettre à jour le [flux RSS](#). Et surtout, transmettez-nous vos commentaires (en français ou en anglais) à l'aide du [formulaire de contact](#).

Tout d'abord, le concept choisi dans WordPress offre une meilleure performance sur les appareils mobiles. La publication d'articles, d'images, d'événements, d'objets multimédias et de commentaires sera dorénavant plus facile et conviviale. La publication des billets et des événements est bonifiée par des images plus grandes et dynamiques, et les plus récentes contributions sont maintenant affichées en rotation à l'en-tête de la page d'accueil.

Tous les membres du NiCHE sont invités à se créer un compte et à contribuer au contenu du site, à partager des informations et des actualités dans le domaine de l'histoire environnementale. Pour ceux qui possédaient déjà un compte sur l'ancien site internet, vous

recevrez (si ce n'est déjà fait) un message vous invitant à vous connecter et à mettre à jour votre mot de passe, votre profil et vos informations de contact. Vous pourrez alors ouvrir une session et participer en laissant des commentaires, en publiant des articles et en téléversant du contenu multimédia. Les autres usagers pourront ainsi prendre connaissance de vos réflexions et suivre vos liens vers d'autres sites de médias sociaux.

Deux de nos pages les plus populaires, *The Otter* et *Qu'est-ce qui se passe*, sont maintenant réunies dans un seul et même blogue : « [The Otter ~ La Loure](#) ». Pour partager vos résultats de recherche, vos méthodes ou vos opinions sur des sujets reliés à l'histoire environnementale, en français ou en anglais, n'hésitez pas contacter l'un des deux éditeurs du blogue (Maude Flamand-Hubert pour les publications en français, et Josh MacFadyen pour les publications en anglais). Vos textes doivent être d'une longueur d'environ 1 000 mots, et vous êtes vivement encouragés à inclure des photos et des images libres de droits en haute définition.

Toutes les productions multimédias, dont les balados *Nature's Past* et les vidéos *EHTV*, sont maintenant rassemblées sous l'onglet « Media ». Sean Kheraj continue son travail à la tête des podcasts. Avis aux vidéastes amateurs : il est maintenant plus facile d'incorporer du contenu vidéo sur le site via *EHTV*. Le site contient également un nouvel espace, [Digital Tools](#), où

vous retrouvez les meilleures infrastructures numériques de gestion de l'information pour les historiens. Vous pouvez aussi y découvrir le nouveau projet « HGIS » créé par Dan Macfarlane, Josh MacFayden et Jim Clifford, sur l'utilisation des systèmes d'information géographique.

Aidez-nous à bâtir l'histoire environnementale canadienne

Vous voulez suivre tout le contenu publié sur le nouveau site? Abonnez-vous au [flux RSS](#).

Vous voulez rester à jour dans vos recherches et auprès des réseaux sociaux? Mettez à jour votre [profil](#) (ou créer un nouveau compte) et restez brancher sur le site.

Vous voulez publier une chronique sur le site internet? Contactez un des deux éditeurs du blogue « [The Otter ~ La Loure](#) ».

Vous voulez commenter une publication ou une page du site? [Connectez-vous](#) pour laisser un commentaire.

Vous avez des commentaires sur le nouveau site du NiCHE? Utiliser le [formulaire de contact](#).

Vous possédez des outils numériques utiles pour l'histoire environnementale? Partagez-les en contactant l'équipe [digital tools](#).

Canadian New Scholars at the pre-ASEH workshop on Digital Environmental History

A [Digital Environmental History workshop](#) is being held at Stanford University on Wednesday, 12 March 2014, just prior to the American Society for Environmental History conference in San Francisco. As a sponsor of the event, NiCHE has been guaranteed a spot for a Canadian PhD student or postdoctoral fellow. If you are a Canadian new scholar attending the conference and are interested in claiming the spot, submit your application by 12 January 2014, as described on the workshop website, not only to Paul Hirt at paul.hirt@asu.edu but also to Alan MacEachern at amaceach@uwo.ca. Even if you do not receive the guaranteed Canadian new scholar spot, you may be selected by the organizers to attend anyway.

The Otter: Call for Book Reviewers

by Denny DeSerres Brett

As part of The Otter's goal of showcasing the research efforts of environmental historians, a monthly book review column is being created to review recent publications in the field of Canadian environmental history. Book reviews should be (750-1200) in length. Reviewers can be at any stage in their academic and professional careers (public historians, graduate students, associate professors, etc). In addition to having the opportunity to contribute to The Otter, all reviewers will receive complementary copies of the books being reviewed. Here is a selection from our list of possible books to be reviewed:

- Sean Kheraj. *Inventing Stanley Park: An Environmental History*. (UBC Press, 2013)
- Shannon Studen Bower. *Wet Prairie: People, Land, and Water in Agricultural Manitoba*. (UBC Press, 2013)
- Andrew Baldwin, Laura Cameron and Audrey Kobayashi. *Rethinking the Great White North: Race, Nature, and the Historical Geographies of Whiteness in Canada*. (UBC Press, 2011)
- Joanna L. Robinson. *Contested Water: The Struggle Against Water Privatization in the United States and Canada*. (The MIT Press, 2013)
- Clair Campbell and Robert Summerby-Murray. *Land & Sea: Environmental History in Atlantic Canada*. (Acadiensis Press, 2013)

If you are interested in reviewing recent publications in Canadian environmental history please contact Denny Brett at: dbrett@ualberta.ca

Denny DeSerres Brett is a Masters student in History and Classics at the University of Alberta. Denny is involved in researching and analyzing all things oil sand and energy policy. Follow Denny on Twitter: @denny_des_brett

Happy Returns: Representing New Scholars

By Peter Anderson

peter.anderson@queensu.ca

Back in September Josh MacFadyen invited me to introduce myself as the NiCHE New Scholars rep and to muse about the return to academia. Last week, with gentle prompting from Josh, I realized that it's end of term (I'm writing this after attending my last seminar) and I hadn't fulfilled my commitment to him. It is safe to say that the academic and work worlds have very different senses of time, each with its own rhythms.



The biggest change in returning to school is how work propagates itself. While gainfully employed, I was always able to sign off at 5pm and go home and think of other things. In grad school, on the other hand, work fills any and all time given to it. My office mates smile knowingly at the ever-growing stack of books on my desk.

Since completing my M.A. in Public History at Carleton University in 2009 I've worked for a couple of federal government departments. At the same time I stayed active in the history world through a small public history research consultancy and volunteering at the Bytown Museum in Ottawa.

As the 2012 federal budget cuts slowly snaked down to the opera-

tional level, I looked to return to school. Turning to a project cultivated during bike commutes to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, I applied and was accepted to undertake a social and environmental history of the Central Experimental Farm in the Department of Geography at Queen's University, working with NiCHE's own Laura Cameron.

I'm excited to continue working with the NiCHE New Scholars community—we've had two book review discussions this term (Cronon's *Nature's Metropolis* and Armstrong & Nelles's *Wilderness and Waterpower*) and we hope to discuss the research of members in the new year. There's also been discussions of another book and even a methodology session.

If you're interested in presenting, email me at peter.anderson@queensu.ca and keep your eyes turned www.twitter.com/NiCHE_NS for updates!

Oh Canberra!

[The Centre for Environmental History at Australia National University](#) is hosting its 7th biennial Environmental History PhD Workshop from 24 – 28 May 2014 in Canberra. As part of NiCHE's commitment to graduate student training and international collaboration, we are once again offering a \$1500 travel grant for a Canadian PhD student to attend. The student should be at the writing stage of a dissertation in environmental history or historical geography; preference will be given to a student working on a topic that has a clear Australia, New Zealand, or British Commonwealth/Empire dimension. The student will afterward be expected to write a short report of the event for the NiCHE website.

If interested, please provide the following to amaceach@uwo.ca by 1 Feb 2014:

- a max. 2-page CV,
- a max. 2-page statement describing the subject of your doctoral research and how your work would benefit from attending the workshop,
- documented support for your attendance from your supervisor (a simple email will do),
- and, if applicable, a commitment of any matching support from your supervisor or department to attend.

Notification will be made by 21 February. If NiCHE and the workshop organizers do not deem any applicant as suitable, no travel grant will be awarded.



Environmental History? There's A Map for That.

by Jim Clifford, Josh MacFadyen, and Daniel Macfarlane

You've probably noticed that more scholars than ever are starting to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and consider geospatial sources in their research. Some have [called it](#) "the spatial turn" in history, and the launch of a [new anthology](#) edited by Jennifer Bonnell and Marcel Fortin announces its arrival in the Canadian historical profession. University librarians, such as Fortin, have been diligently explaining the changing techniques of GIS to academics, but when you go looking for straightforward guides to the most basic mapping tasks used by historians you

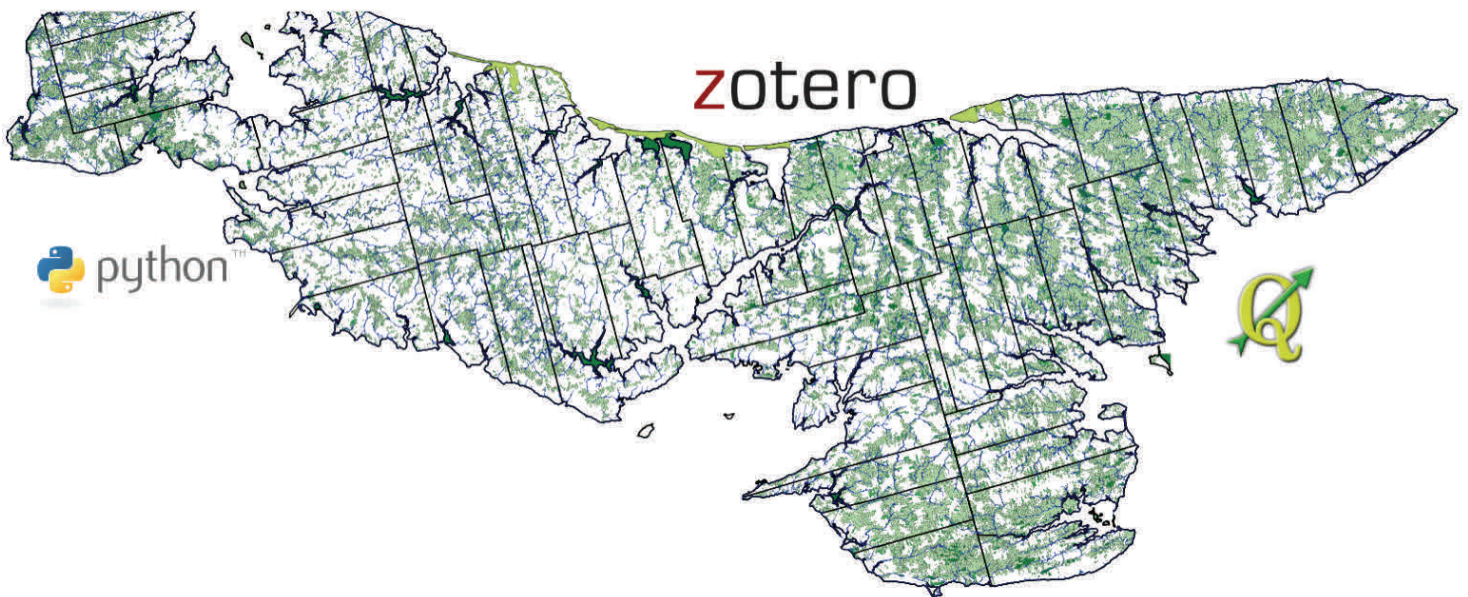
might be discouraged. Well, take heart!

You may remember a few past [blog posts](#) on The Otter about learning how to use digital mapping technology. These early efforts have grown into a much larger project, and together with NiCHE we have built a tutorial-based open access textbook, modeled on the *Programming Historian*, for historical scholars and digital humanists. It is designed to teach practical digital mapping and GIS skills that are immediately useful to real

research needs. We have released four introductory lessons to HGIS methods using open source or free platforms like Google Maps and QGIS, and we have more advanced lessons in the works.

NiCHE had already supported the very successful *Programming Historian*, and we proposed that with NiCHE support (thank you NiCHE!) that we do a sort of "how to" to show historians how to get into digital mapping and how to [find spatial data](#). We hoped this would also be included in the [Programming Historian 2](#).





We began by turning our assorted blog posts on entry-level Geographic Information Systems (GIS) into something more formal and coherent. As we all live in different cities, we held Skype meetings and sent many emails back and forth. Then we actually got together in person for a few days of concentrated writing and brainstorming at Western University's great [digital lab](#) this past February. We laid the basis for [4 lessons](#), which we then cooperatively improved from our respective locations in the following months. At that point we submitted these first lessons to the Programming Historian's [peer-review process](#) and revised the lessons based on feedback from two blind reviewers. With the whole process almost complete at the end of summer, QGIS released a major update, version 2.0, and forced us to rework three of the lessons.

We are pleased to announce the release of this WordPress website, which is titled *The Geospatial Historian* (click [here](#) to check it out).

Because the *Programming Historian* uses open source data so that users aren't required to buy expensive software, our initial

exercises are based on QGIS, which is free open source software. But we are planning to add additional lessons on the website that use proprietary software like ArcGIS. We also have offers for lessons in basic cartography and working with geospatial data in the statistical programming language R.

We've used a very practical, step-by-step format employing screenshots and interactive exercises. And the lessons build on each other, as maps created in one lesson are used as examples in following lessons, progressively teaching more advanced skills.

The first lesson aims to ease academics into using digital mapping by using Google Maps and Google Earth. Lesson two details how to install QGIS and start using and understanding layers. Lesson three shows you how to create new vector layers and use shapefiles. Lesson four focuses on georeferencing: a series of control points to give a two-dimensional object like a paper map the real world coordinates it needs to align with the three-dimensional features of

the earth in GIS software.

We also have a section on "[Finding Spatial Data](#)" which we hope will be useful since finding data is one of the biggest challenges when getting started in GIS mapping.

We are looking for people to serve as guinea pigs and try these lessons out, look for mistakes, and give suggestions on how to improve them. Furthermore, we are looking to move into more of an editor role, where other contributors add more lessons – and if you're so inclined, let us know!

geospatialhistorian.wordpress.com

Northern Nations, Northern Natures: Alliteration and the Arctic in Stockholm

by Dagomar Degroot

For Canadians, the far North is integral to our identity, although many of us are not always sure how, or why. We are the “true North,” and so distinct from our overbearing neighbours south of the 49th parallel. Still, the most populated centres in our heavily urbanized country lie below latitudes considered northerly in Europe. To borrow a sentiment penned by Stephen Leacock and quoted by geographer Graeme Wynn, we Canadians would feel lonely without our North, even if many of us have never been there. Polar bears, snow-capped mountains, icebergs and the Aurora Borealis are ubiquitous in our patriotic imagery. Hockey, proudly played despite the cold, is a national obsession.

Perhaps it is no surprise that the Arctic looms large in our historiography. Moreover, the uniquely forceful agency of “nature” in the far North has increasingly inspired us to write histories of people *and* their frigid environments. Of course, we do not write in a vacuum. The Arctic has inspired a rich interdisciplinary scholarship in Greenland, Iceland, Scandinavia, Russia, and other places linked with the far North through economic, cultural or political entanglements. It was to forge new bonds between Arctic environmental historians on both sides of the Atlantic that NiCHE generously supported the Northern Nations, Northern Natures workshop in Stockholm this November.

I must confess: I had some misgivings when workshop organizers Tina Adcock and Peder Roberts accepted my application this summer. I am a historian of climate change, which is now inextricably connected with the study of the Arctic. All the same, for five years my focus had rested on the Low Countries, which I hardly considered “northern,” despite their high latitude. Admittedly, the explorers and entrepreneurs of the Dutch Republic had certainly discovered and exploited new resources in an Arctic under the influence of an early modern “Little Ice Age.” Accordingly I had written an article about relationships between climate, weather and the Dutch quest for a Northeast Passage to Asia in the 1590s. I argued that the climatic expressions of the Little Ice Age rippled through Arctic environments in complex and occasionally paradoxical ways, interacting with Dutch culture to shape the quest for a Passage. But was my argument, and the research that informed it, sufficient to make me an environmental historian of the Arctic?

I leave Stockholm relieved, enlightened with the knowledge that more research is connected to the far North than I had previously imagined. At the workshop, graduate students and senior scholars explored topics ranging from the meaning of boundaries in discourse to the contested identity of indigeneity; from the transformative and politicized deployment of technology to networks of exchange that spanned the globe. To apply these themes to the Arctic they used diverse methodologies and media that encouraged us all to ask some very basic questions. Is environmental history essentially a history of humanity? Where do we draw the borders of the Arctic, or is that effort futile? Are our histories inherently political, and can they be primarily visual? How does one transport [a muskox in a box](#), anyway?

I won't provide our answers to such questions, in part because our disagreements were more fruitful than our consensus (one exception: nobody questioned Dolly Jørgensen's expertise in muskox transport). I was excited to find that my paper stimulated vigorous discussion, which culminated, for me, in one particularly intriguing question. Can we link climate change to weather events in ways that allow us to reconceptualize human history at an hourly level? I

argued that, given sufficient multidisciplinary information, historians can link local, daily nuances in the Arctic cryosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere to early modern climatic shifts and, in turn, to human history. This argument has particular relevance in light of the past week. To phrase the question that informs it in more immediate terms: is the [Antarctic iceberg](#) that now threatens shipping lanes a consequence of global warming? Was Typhoon Haiyan a [reflection of climate change](#)? How can we find out, and how does that inform our understanding of connections between humans and shifting climates? As with all of the most interesting and important questions, there are no easy answers.

As the world warms in coming decades and centuries, the Arctic will not disappear. All the same, it will change. The cultural consequences of environmental transformation will, in turn, affect northern peoples, and much that we take for granted will be irrevocably lost. The histories that help us contextualize and respond to these changes will consequently grow in importance. It is therefore no surprise that, to paraphrase Tina Adcock, the environmental history of the North is already a very big tent. Thankfully, it has plenty of room to grow, and the conversations sparked by the Northern Nations, Northern Natures workshop will nourish that growth for years to come.



Stockholm. Photo: D. Degroot, York University

New Zealand and the Protection of Endemic Species

by David Neufeld

New Zealander settlers are practical. Progress – generally understood as economic gain – remains a paramount value. Even so there was an early interest in the protection of the impressive and unique array of endemic flora and avifauna which continues in the present. While the earliest work on endemic species preservation looked to scenic views which might translate into tourist dollars and the establishment of island refuges for selected species, a deeper and broader appreciation of this natural heritage legacy has also taken hold.

The Department of Conservation's current *Conservation General Policy* notes that, "New Zealand's unique biodiversity is internationally important. High percentages of the country's indigenous species are endemic (they are found nowhere else on Earth)... [The] responsibility for their continued existence is entirely ours. [These] species and special places... are valued and enjoyed for their intrinsic values, for what they offer to future generations, and for their contribution towards our identity as New Zealanders."

To fulfill this mandate the department has an aggressive program of exterminating introduced "pests" where they threaten endemic species. Largely targeted on mammals (especially possum and rats) they include cash bounties, traps and poison. Last weekend my son and I hiked a portion of a 45 kilometre rat trap line in the upper Maruri River valley, one of the South Island's still indigenous forested valleys. A recent parliamentary review of the use of 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate, New Zealand uses 80% of world supply) concluded that the country was lucky to have such an effective and biodegradable poison at its disposal. Nevertheless debate over its use continues.

Public interest groups have also advanced projects to protect and advocate for endemic species. The Orokonui wildlife and native bush reserve (Otago) was initiated in the early 1980s with a focus on bird preservation. Little happened however until the mid-1990s when the opening of the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary near Wellington, on the North Island, revived the South Island proposal. The 307 hectare property with interpretive centre (2009) includes a kiwi nursery and several reptile refuges. The whole property is protected by a 1.9 metre pest proof fence (2007) "designed to keep out all introduced mammals such as cats, possums, rats, stoats, ferrets and even mice. It

Orokonui visitor centre with pest proof fence. Photo: D. Neufeld



uses stainless steel mesh that continues down to form a skirt at ground level that prevents animals from burrowing under it. On the top is a curved steel hood that prevents climbing animals like cats and possums from climbing over the top." Once the fence was erected an aggressive pest eradication program resulted in the shooting and trapping of goats and some 800 possums by ground-based teams. Bait poisoned with brodifacoum was immediately scattered over the fenced areas by aircraft to finish the job. They are very serious about protecting the refugium. An ambitious program of re-introducing endemic plants, birds and reptiles also includes guided hikes through the restored forest.

Interestingly the local Maori Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki became supporters of Orokonui. The cross-cultural element resulted in the establishment of an "archive" of over a hundred of the culturally important Indigenous flax plants from many Maori communities. The local iwi also uses the reserve as a place to demonstrate their traditional knowledge of place and profile their cultural interests and values. In a chat Sue Hensley, the reserve interpreter, acknowledged the significance of both the Maori knowledge contributions to the site and the value of working across cultural lines, not yet a commonplace activity in

New Zealand. Even so Canada has much to learn from New Zealand in this regard.

Despite the achievements of the reserve and its staff, partners and numerous volunteers, Hensley expressed concern over the public "blow back" to the investment of resources and sacrifices required to maintain this special environment. She suggested the increasingly urbanized and globalized New Zealand population was becoming less sensitive to the significance and importance of endemic species. People are less prepared to consider the environment, except on their own terms.

They especially don't like the idea that they should keep tabs on their pets. In January 2013 philanthropic economist Gareth Morgan proposed the eradication of cats in New Zealand. The responses were immediate and visceral, "I wish a wild cat would hunt you down Mr Morgan! Maybe a Tiger or Lion would be best!!!! ... There's a lot of reasons i like animals more than humans (ur a huge l) We should first look at ourselves and the damage we do to the planet before we blame everything else."



NiCHE New Scholar Travel Grants to WCEH, Portugal

Eleven new scholars are receiving NiCHE Travel Grants to participate in the World Congress of Environmental History being held in Portugal in July 2014. They are:

Postdoc, Geography, U Ottawa), **Chris Miller** (PhD History, Concordia U), **Dr. Mary-Ann Shantz** (independent scholar, Edmonton), **Dr. John Thistle** (Research Associate, Labrador Institute of Memorial U), and **David Zylberberg** (PhD History, York U). Parabéns a todos!

Dale Barbour (PhD History, U Toronto), **Daniel Bednar** (PhD Geography, & Environment & Sustainability, Western U), **Dr. Ben Bradley** (SSHRC Postdoc, History, U Toronto), **Melissa Charenko** (PhD History of Science, Medicine, & Technology, U Wisconsin-Madison), **Dr. Dagomar Degroot** (History, York U), **Sinead Earley** (PhD Geography, Queen's U), **Dr. Merle Massie** (SSHRC

PS: The early registration deadline for the conference is 26 January. For students, it's 15 March.

The Cold War in the Near North: Moosonee and the Pinetree Radar Line

By Sue Heffernan

Considerable research has been conducted on the Canadian North over the past few decades. This research has focused on resource development (mining and forestry), on small resource towns, and on mega-projects such as the James Bay Hydro Project. To date, little work has been produced on the relationship between military activity in the north and the landscapes, communities and people affected by such activity. Only in the past decade have historians and geographers, like P. Whitney Lackenbauer and Matthew Farish, opened the door to a broader discussion about how military operations and settlements/bases have affected northern people and northern physical environments.

During the early years of the Cold War, three massive radar lines were constructed across the north: the Distant Early Warning (DEW) line, the Mid-Canada line, and the Pinetree line. The goal of the radar lines was to monitor Soviet plane traffic across the Arctic in order to intercept planes,

armed with atomic weapons, which were intended (presumably) to destroy North American cities. Most of the research on radar lines has focused on the DEW line and the high Arctic. Little research has been conducted on the Mid-Canada and Pinetree radar lines.

My research examines the impact of the Cold War on the near north, with the community of Moosonee, Ontario as a case study. Moosonee is a small northern Cree community located on the Moose River, ten kilometers south of James Bay. It was a Mid-Canada Line shipping center in the mid-1950's and it became the site for a Pinetree radar base in 1961.

My PhD research asks the question "What was the Impact of the Cold War on the community of Moosonee?" The term 'impact' refers to the consequences for the community of Moosonee of hosting a radar base. Impact(s) will be as-

essed at two levels: 'Personal' and 'Community' as follows:

1. "The Personal experience": This aspect will examine personal relationships and everyday life for women and men who lived in Moosonee and on the radar base, and
2. "The Community experience": This involves an assessment of how the construction of a radar base (adjacent to an existing town) changed the land uses, physical infrastructure, and landscape of the Moosonee area.

Kerry Abel links the concepts of personal and community experiences in her recent writing on Northeastern Ontario. She states that "The experience and symbolism of community continue(s) to play a major role in the human experience." My thesis research will attempt to make the same type of linkages by studying Moosonee.

The town site of Moosonee experienced little development until the Temiskaming

and Northern Ontario Railway (T. & N. O.) connected the town to Cochrane in 1932. By the mid 1950's Moosonee had become a shipping centre for more northerly Mid-Canada radar base sites, like Fort Albany and Winisk. Several Mid-Canada Line (MCL) articles referred to Moosonee as a Cold War construction and shipping center. For example, in the 1958 *Roundel*, Flying Officer S. G. French described the establishment of "marshalling areas at ends-of-steel". In Ontario, this meant Moosonee as the furthest north railway line or "end-of-steel". French then described how Moosonee, became "a new main base of operations." He emphasized the role of Moosonee as a central operations base by noting that when work was completed much further north, helicopters returned to Moosonee. French also described winter tractor train operations. He wrote that "During the winter of 1955-56 about 11,000 tons of materials were moved ...by tractor train. At their peak, these trains running out of Gillam, Manitoba and Moosonee, Ontario used over 400 sleds and over 40 heavy tractors." Clearly Moosonee was part of Cold War activities long before it hosted a radar base.

By 1961, Moosonee had its own military base—a Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) Pinetree radar base known as 'Sasakipao'. This base, constructed only a mile or so from downtown Moosonee, operated from 1961 to 1975 (see "Air Photo of Moosonee Pinetree Radar Base, 1962"). It became the home for 150 RCAF officers and airmen, their spouses and their dependent children. It also became the workplace for approximately 60 civilian employees from Moosonee.

This research conducted to date suggests that the Cold War affected the people and the community of Moosonee in both positive and negative ways. Cold War military planners

had a singular and immediate goal: to build and occupy defensive military sites in the north. My initial archival work suggests that the social and physical (landscape) impacts of such development were irrelevant to the military planners, and that local people almost seem to have been 'invisible'. However, interviews of current and former residents of Moosonee give quite a different picture of human interaction. Interviewees state that there was a lot of interaction between radar base and town residents. Almost everyone who has been interviewed so far has indicated that they not only worked at the radar base, but that they joined the mess clubs and took part in all of the base recreational activities—from curling and bowling to dances and carnivals. The common refrain is that people developed specific life-long careers, and recreational interests, because of their time at the radar base.

My initial research suggests that Cold War community development in Moosonee followed some of the "boom and bust" stages observed by land use planners in northern resource towns. That is; the initial 'boom' created construction jobs and the 'bust' phase — closure of the radar base — meant a loss of jobs and an immediate need to deal with abandoned infrastructure. However, the way that

Moosonee residents handled the 'bust' phase was impressive. Two examples, which deal with housing and education, demonstrate this. As soon as the base closed, the town pulled every second home from the crowded radar base subdivision and sold these homes to both local people and to residents of Moose Factory Island (across the river from Moosonee). At the same time, the town immediately converted radar base facilities, from the Officer's Mess to the Recreation and Maintenance Buildings, into a brand new high school. The creation of a high school meant the end of an era. It meant that local students no longer had to travel south by train to Sudbury, North Bay, or Timmins for five long 'away from home' years. Finally, the new high school was also available to students in Moose Factory Island who lived, during the school week, in the renovated radar base barracks. The creation of housing and the new school demonstrate how a local community exercised agency in dealing with Cold War change. Thesis research will continue to examine the changes that Moosonee experienced—both the personal and the community/infrastructure changes— and the related impacts.

Moosonee c. 1962.

Town and Moose River in foreground, radar base and domes in the background.

Source: Moosonee Postcards, [Paul Lantz](#).

Sue Heffernan, is a PhD Candidate in the Human Studies Program at Laurentian University.



Snapshot of the Field Photo Contest

by Claire Campbell and Graeme Wynn

One of the great things about being environmental historians is that we have to reach beyond texts, beyond archives; we have to raise our gaze from our desks and our laptops and actually *look* at the world we study. This summer, dozens of environmental historians from around the world submitted photographs and screenshots of where their journeys had taken them, from mountain trails to coastal seashores, from museums to mining sites, from New Zealand to Germany. And with these photographs came brief but eloquent descriptions about the scholarly, and personal, experience of these places. All thirty-two entries are posted on [Flickr](#).



S. Wilson Avenue, Cape Cod National Seashore, Wellfleet, Massachusetts, USA

(N 41.9223°, W 69.97761°)

Jackie Mirandola Mullen, University at Albany, SUNY

Grand prize winner of the collection of all 20 books in the Nature | History | Society series, donated by UBC Press, is **Jackie Mirandola Mullen** for her biography of one street on Cape Cod National Seashore. The composite is a thoughtful, coherent excavation and interpretation of landscape change, an example of what Cole Harris in *Geographical Review* called “archival field work.” Written with a sharp eye for detail, especially the almost imperceptible changes in vegetation and landforms that, once observed, remind us of the dynamism of nature. Well-chosen photographs are here cleverly integrated into an accomplished image, allowing the parts to relate their own stories and adding up to a greater whole.

Snapshot of the Field Photo Contest



Second prize went to **Daniel Macfarlane**, whose triptych of fine photography reminds us of the power of water to drown, drive and destroy. The ghostly allusions in the flooded highway and the ruins of the Ottawa River dam, coupled with the artistic view of an industrial anachronism, introduce a number of questions about our relationship to and impact on rivers and riversides. This is an understated but effective rumination on a theme.

Photo: Dan Macfarlane, Visiting Scholar in School of Canadian Studies at Carleton University

The third prize was a tie between **Dolly Jørgensen** and **David Neufeld**, whose submissions transcend the lines between inside and outside, public and private history, humans and nature. Both ask us to consider how we communicate our knowledge and experience of the environment; how effective these means are; and what happens when we explore other types of expression. Seemingly simple single photographs are layered with meaning and given resonance by the accompanying texts, which convey highly personal reflections about encountering our scholarly work in other places.

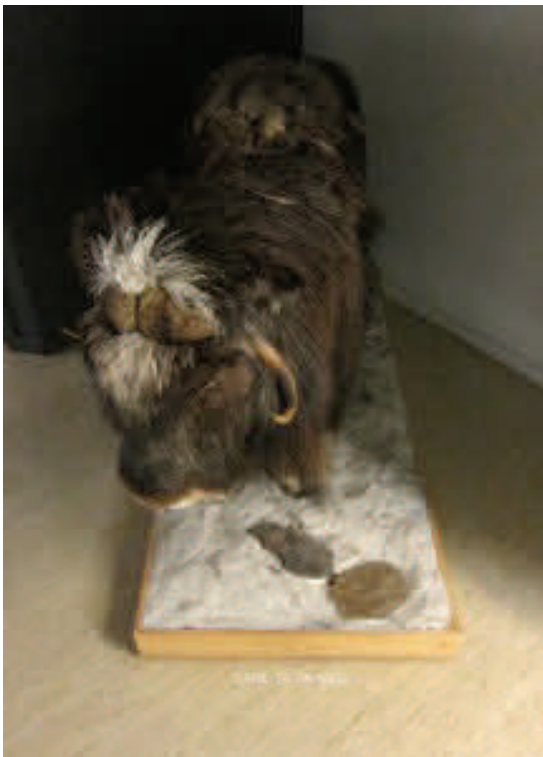


Photo: Dolly Jørgensen, Umeå University



Photo: David Neufeld, yukonrambles.blogspot.ca