



## **Bees to Beef: Farm(ed) Animals in Environmental History**

7th Annual Canadian History & Environment Summer School  
25-27 May 2012, Guelph, Ontario

### **FINAL PROGRAM**

#### **Day 1: Friday, May 25**

<b>4:00 – 5:00 pm</b>	Check in at University of Guelph East Village Townhouse Residences
<b>5:00 - 6:00 pm</b>	Welcome reception at The Bull Ring Pub
<b>6:00 - 7:15 pm</b>	Dinner, The Bull Ring
<b>7:15 pm</b>	Welcome by Jennifer Bonnell and Stuart McCook
<b>7:30 pm</b>	Keynote: Dr. Gard Otis, “Honey Bees and the Environment in Canada”
<b>8:30-10:00 pm</b>	Social (cash bar)

#### **Day 2: Saturday, May 26**

<b>8:30 am</b>	Light breakfast, Rozanski Hall 105
<b>9:00 - 10:30 am</b>	Plenary session 1, Animal Health and Welfare, Rozanski Hall 105
<b>10:30 am</b>	Mid-morning break
<b>11:00 - 12:30 pm</b>	Concurrent plenary sessions Session 2: Breeding and Genetic Modification, ROZH 105 Session 3: Rural – Urban Relationships, ROZH 107
<b>12:30</b>	Walk to Ontario Veterinary College (OVC)
<b>12:45 – 2:00 pm</b>	Outdoor BBQ Lunch, OVC grounds (OVC cafeteria in event of rain)
<b>2:00 – 3:30 pm</b>	Tour of OVC by Lisa Cox and Brian Derbyshire
<b>3:30 – 5:00 pm</b>	Free time (we’ve provided some suggested activities below)
<b>5:00 - 6:00 pm</b>	Reception at MacDonald Stewart Art Centre (MSAC)

6:00 - 7:00 pm Dinner, MSAC  
7:00 pm Opening Remarks, Elizabeth Stone, Dean, Ontario Veterinary College  
7:30 pm Keynote by Sarah Elton, CBC Food Columnist and Author

### **Day 3: Sunday, May 27**

9:00 am Light breakfast, Rozanski Hall 105  
9:30 – 11:00 am Concurrent plenary sessions, Rozanski Hall 105 and 107  
Session 4: Animal Monocultures  
Session 5: Animal Bio-Products  
11:15am Pick up boxed lunch; board bus to Swackhammer Farm  
12:00 – 2:15pm Tour of Swackhammer bio-dynamic beef cattle farm, with proprietor Rob Swackhammer and Rowe Farms founder John Rowe  
3:00 pm Buses arrive back at University of Guelph campus  
4:00 pm Bus from University of Guelph to Waterloo Campus for Congress participants

## **Keynotes & Plenaries**

### **Friday evening keynote**

Gard Otis, Department of Environmental Biology, University of Guelph. "Honey Bees and the Environment in Canada"

After 38 years of involvement in research on honey bees, Dr. Otis has attained a broad understanding of the apiculture industry. Honey bees have assumed an ever increasing role for humans through their pollinating activities on crops. Consequently, factors that affect honey bees also affect our environment and our society. Dr. Otis will discuss the historical events that have dramatically affected the environment and shaped beekeeping in Canada, from the importation of honey bees from Europe, to the discovery of modern antibiotics, the evolving world of pesticides and herbicides, the arrival of Asian parasitic mites, and improved analytical chemistry techniques. His talk will underscore the importance of honey bees today and the severe challenges they currently face.

### **Plenary Session 1: Animal Health and Welfare**

Ian J.H. Duncan, Chair of Animal Behaviour and Welfare, Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Guelph, "Animal Welfare: What do the Animals Feel?"

This talk will trace humankind's acceptance of animal sentience through history, from Descartes to Darwin to Marian Dawkins. Animal welfare science has made great strides in the past forty years to develop techniques to "ask" animals what they feel about the conditions under which they are kept and the procedures to which they are subjected. Dr. Duncan will talk about his research in this area.

John Cranfield, Department of Food, Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Guelph, "Does size matter? Are Canadians willing to pay more for eggs from enhanced animal welfare production systems?"

Increasing pressure has led to discussion of changes related to animal production systems. The recent agreement between United Egg Producers and the Humane Society of the United States has led to proposed federal legislation in the U.S. that would mandate increased space allocation to laying hens. The U.S. is not alone in seeing such discussion and action, with similar events discussion occurring Canada. However, what is not clear is whether Canadians would purchase eggs from enhanced production systems. This presentation will summarize efforts to measure demand for such products and attempt to identify consumer valuation of eggs from such systems.

## **Plenary Session 2: Breeding and Genetic Modification**

Margaret Derry, Department of History, University of Guelph. "Modern Chicken Breeding: A Genetic Revolution?"

Modern chicken breeding, which involves heterosis breeding and resulting biological locks, should be seen in relation to the historic structure of the chicken industry (breeding methods, gender cleavage, breeder/producer cleavage, and the hatchery industry) in order to see how "genetic" and "scientific" it is - that is how different it has become. Perhaps the most critical feature of it has been the introduction of corporate enterprise. It is important to understand as well that "scientific" breeding does not necessarily mean genetic engineering.

Scout Calvert, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University. "Informational Animals: Standardization and Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Beef Breeding"

This presentation is about how beef cattle are represented using an informational surrogate called an EPD (expected progeny differences) chart. This chart is an abstraction of lucrative traits, made possible by data collection, information technologies, and algorithms. The EPD chart is also a key device for marketing frozen semen and embryos, as well as promoting the standardization of animal bodies.

## **Plenary Session 3: Rural – Urban Relationships**

Sean Kheraj, Department of History, York University. "Animals and the Urban Food Supply: The Central Public Market in Winnipeg, 1876-1908"

North American cities in the nineteenth- and twentieth-centuries were multi-species environments designed to facilitate asymmetrical symbiosis between humans and domesticated animals. The management of living and dead animal bodies through public markets was crucial to the establishment of cities as habitat for mass human populations. They were also an important physical meeting ground between rural and urban environments. This paper looks at the construction, regulation and operation of the central public market in Winnipeg, Manitoba from 1876 to 1908.

Alice Hovorka, Department of Geography, University of Guelph. "The Lives of Women and Chickens in Botswana: Intersections, Hierarchies, and Everyday Lives"

Women and chickens in Botswana are connected in a myriad of ways. Both have been traditionally marginalized; both have been contemporarily empowered. This is not a coincidence but rather a result of powerful ideas about where social groups (be they based on gender or species) belong, where they should go, what they should do, and what use value they have. Dr. Hovorka will draw upon a decade of empirical research experience to explore how the everyday lives of women and chickens necessarily intersect to shape Botswana society, economics, politics and the landscape itself.

## **Saturday evening keynote**

Sarah Elton, CBC Food Columnist and Author, *Locavore: From Farmer's Fields to Rooftop Gardens, How Canadians are Changing the Way We Eat*. "Feeding a Future in Balance: From Farmers' Fields to Rooftop Gardens, How Canadians (and others too) are Changing the Way We Eat"

We have witnessed the rise of a global sustainable food movement that is quietly building local alternatives to global industrial food. Journalist and best selling author Sarah Elton has traveled across Canada and around the world to report on the innovative solutions people everywhere are finding to big food problems. She will tell us their stories and make the case for scaling up these efforts.

## **Plenary Session 4: Animal Monocultures**

Jennifer Silver, Department of Geography, University of Guelph. "Humble bivalves and epicurean morsels: shellfish agency and the re-making of seascapes in British Columbia, Canada"

This talk will explore the history and political-ecology of Pacific oysters (*Crassostrea gigas*) and Manila clams (*Venerupis philippinarum*) in the coastal waters of British Columbia. Introduced from Asia in the early decades of

the 20th century, today these are the two most voluminously produced species by the province's expanding shellfish aquaculture sector. In a region renowned for environmental controversy, how has the sector and its flagship species come to be perceived by many as ideal inhabitants of intertidal and nearshore ocean space?

John Soluri, Department of History, Carnegie-Mellon University. "Refashioning Sheep in Patagonia: Technology, Environment, and Commodity Markets, 1870s-1970s"

My talk will discuss the history of sheep breeding in Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego as a form of industrial intensification. Many firms that invested in wool and meat production took a keen interest in changing the sheep themselves in order to increase production of high quality wool, improve lambing rates and lower mortality. I will discuss the evolution of ideas and practices related to sheep breeding in the region paying close attention to the entanglement of local ecologies and transnational market structures. In so doing, I'll discuss the prospects and challenges of integrating science, technology and society studies with commodity chain analysis and environmental history.

### **Plenary Session 5: Animal Bio-Products**

Jodey Nurse, Department of History, University of Guelph. "Make Mine Mink': The Evolution of Fur Farming and Fashions in Canada."

The importance of fur bearing animals in Canadian history is generally understood. Yet, while historians have examined the history of the fur trapper, they have largely ignored the existence of the fur farmer in the post-Confederation trade. This paper will trace the significant changes that fur farming underwent from the early-twentieth century to the post-war period and highlight how consumers increasingly turned to farmed fur, especially mink, and the new colour mutations of furs available.

Kendra Smith-Howard, Department of History, SUNY-Albany. "Pure Milk, Healthful Cows? Domestic Animals and Environmental Histories of Health"

In the twentieth century, farm people, food regulators, and consumers changed the ways they viewed milk's healthfulness. At the turn of the twentieth century, regulators voiced concern about milk's role as a vector of communicable diseases. After World War II, concerns about milk safety focused less on such biological threats than on the bioaccumulation of pesticide residues and strontium-90. Hence, Americans came from seeing natural variables like disease as a *threat* to milk purity that required technological intervention to viewing nature as a *source* of milk purity, endangered by technological change. Moreover, regulators and consumers increasingly judged milk purity from the properties of milk itself, rather than on the site in which it was produced, and prioritized threats to the health and safety of human milk drinkers over curbing veterinary disease. For many farm people, though, animal health remained of prime importance in determining food's wholesomeness. Examining how considerations of animal well-being intersected and sometimes parted ways with efforts to define and uphold pure milk, this paper suggests some of the sources of rural resistance to regulations on postwar agricultural technologies, and some of the shortcomings of a vision of food purity divorced from farm practice.

### **Suggested Activities for Saturday Afternoon**

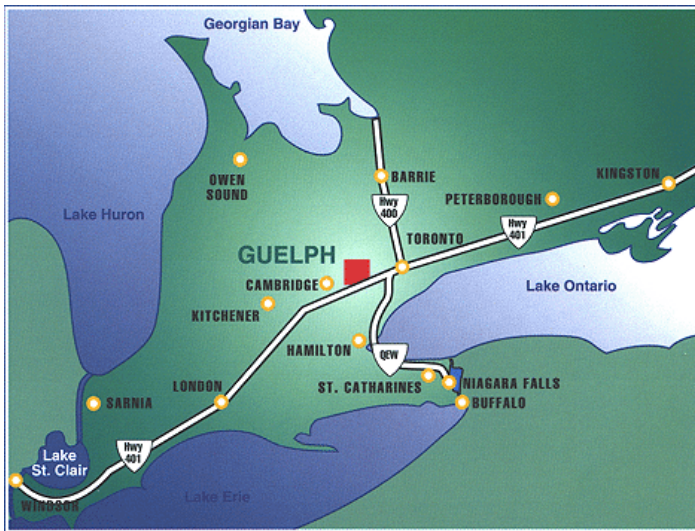
**Rent a canoe or kayak at the Boathouse** and paddle the Speed River. Speed River Paddling, open 10am to 6pm, rents out canoes for \$15/hr, and kayaks for \$12/hr. The Boathouse is located at 116 Gordon Street, about a 15-20 minute (1.5 km) walk from campus.

**Visit the Guelph Civic Museum** and tour "Ontario Veterinary College: 150 Years and Counting" exhibition. Open 1-5pm daily. Admission: \$3/student; \$4/adult. The museum is located at 52 Norfolk Street. From the university campus, walk north on Gordon Street (it turns into Norfolk); turn left on Cork Street; the museum will be on your left.

**Visit the University of Guelph Arboretum.** The Arboretum spans 165 hectares (408 acres) with 8.2 km of signed trails. It features almost every tree and shrub indigenous to southern Ontario. Follow Arboretum Road from the East Village residences onto the Ivey Trail and follow the signs to the Arboretum (a 1.5 kilometre/20 minute walk). See the Google Map here: <http://tinyurl.com/73hqcf6>.

**Tour the “Nature of the Beast” Exhibition at the MacDonald Stewart Art Centre (MSAC).** From 19th-century romanticized views of animals to more challenging contemporary perspectives, the exhibition includes painting, sculpture and works on paper showing how artists help shape our assumptions about connections between animals and humans. MSAC is located on campus at 358 Gordon Street (at College).

## Practical Details



### Travel to Guelph

The University of Guelph is located about 80 kilometres west of Toronto. The most direct route to the University from Highway 401, East or West is via the **Brock Road Exit 299 North (Regional Road 46)**.

- If driving from Toronto, do not exit at the Guelph Line, but proceed to the Brock Road Exit 299. Brock Road's name changes to Gordon Street once you are in Guelph.
- Proceed to the Gordon Street and Stone Road intersection.
- Turn **RIGHT** on to Stone Road, the entrance to the University will be on your **LEFT**-hand side.
- Take your first **LEFT** on to the university property.

For further details, see

<http://www.conferences.uoguelph.ca/directionsToCampus.shtml>.

For those arriving at Toronto’s Pearson airport, we have arranged for a discounted rate with the **Red Car Shuttle service to Guelph**. The shuttle stops at the Delta hotel, a 5-minute walk from campus. See the attached pdf for more details.

For those wishing to **carpool from Toronto**, or who can **offer rides to others**, please contact Jennifer.

**Bus to Congress in Waterloo, Sunday May 27th**  
We have arranged for a bus to leave the Guelph campus at 4pm Sunday afternoon, after the conclusion of CHES activities. There are still seats on the bus if you decide to travel on to Waterloo last minute.

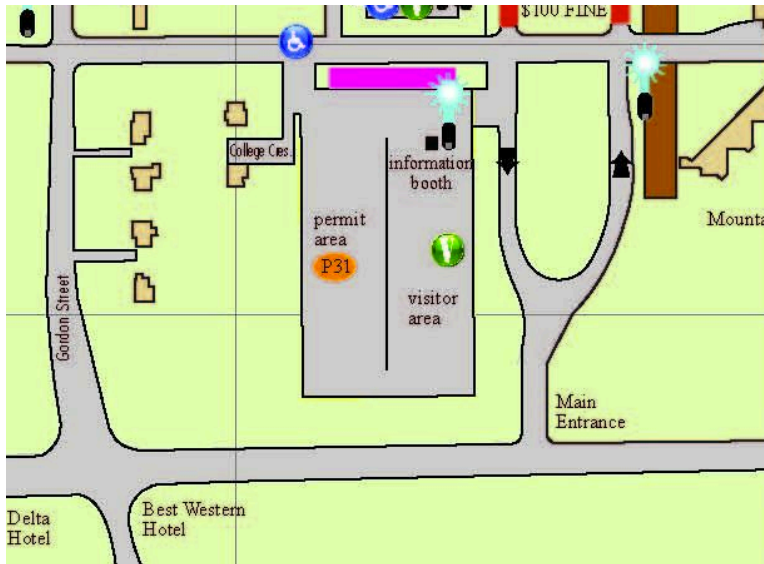


## Accommodation

Accommodation will be provided for all CHESS participants at the [East Village Townhouse residences](#) on campus for the nights of Friday May 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup>. Please see the attached map and information sheet for more details. Note: passwords will be provided for internet access, but you will need to bring your own **network cable**.

## Parking

Parking is included for all guests of the East Village Townhouses. If you are planning to drive but not staying the night, visitor parking is available in lot P31. The early bird rate, for arrivals between 8 and 9am, is \$10/day if you pay by credit card.



## What to Bring

Average temperatures in Guelph in mid-May range from 18-23 degrees celsius (65-73 Fahrenheit) during the day, with lows of 6-15 (43-51 F) at night. Prepare for a range of conditions by bringing a rain jacket, comfortable layers, and good walking shoes.

## Readings

Please review the four articles we have suggested to enrich our discussions over the CHESS weekend. PDF files of these articles have been distributed by email. If you have not yet received them, please contact Jennifer.

For any further questions, please contact Jennifer at [jbonnell@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jbonnell@uoguelph.ca). See you on the 25<sup>th</sup>!

**CHESS 2012 is sponsored by the Network in Canadian History & Environment (NiCHE) and the Department of History at the University of Guelph.**