



CSEB Newsletter Bulletin SCBE

VOLUME 71, ISSUE 4, 2014

CSEB Website http://www.cseb-scbe.org

Webmaster: Shawn Martin • Email: biol@shaw.ca

In this issue

National Executive & Regional Chapter Listings	1
CSEB Objectives/Objectifs de la SCBE	2
National News	
President's Report	3
Past President's Report	3
2 nd Vice President's Report	3
Treasurer, Membership & Newsletter Reports	4
Minutes of AGM	6

8
12
12
12
13
16

Date of Issue- Jan 2015

Printed in Canada ISSN: 0318-5133 ements in the May River, northern Alberta, related to pipeline crossing

Front Cover: Golder Associates biological staff Ashley Eckford and Carl Steenbergen using an ice auger for discharge measurements in the May River, northern Alberta, related to pipeline crossing assessment, Jan 7, 2015.

Back Cover: Golder Associates biological staff Ashley Eckford and Carl Steenbergen sampling water quality in the La Biche River, north-central Alberta, Jan 8, 2015

Photo Credit: Front Cover: Kent Nuspl, Golder Associates Ltd., Edmonton AB; Back Cover: Sarah Gagné, Golder Associates Ltd., Edmonton AB.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

President: Robert Stedwill (2014) (Home) 306-585-1854 (E-mail) rjstedwill@live.ca

1st Vice-President: Dr. William (Bill) Paton (2014) (Work) 204-727-9783; (Fax) 204-728-7346 (E-mail) patonw@brandonu.ca

2nd Vice-President: Anne Wilson (2014) (Home) 780-737-5522 (Cell) 867-765-8480 (E-mail) anne.wilson@ec.gc.ca

Secretary/Treasurer: Karen March (2014) (Home) 902-453-3115; (Fax) 902-454-6886 (E-mail) kmarch@dillon.ca

Past-President: Brian Free (2014) (Work) 780-427-7765; (Fax) 780-638-3187 (E-mail) bfree@cseb-scbe.org

Newsletter Editor: Gary Ash (Work) 780-930-8666; (Fax) 780-483-1574 (E-mail) gash@golder.com

Membership: Gary Ash (Work) 780-930-8666; (Fax) 780-483-1574 (E-mail) gash@golder.com

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Atlantic:
Patrick Stewart (2014)
(Work/Fax) 902-798-4022
(E-mail) enviroco@ns.sympatico.ca

Québec: Vacant

Ontario: Derrick Moggy (2017) (Work) 705-523-6680 Ext. 225 (E-mail) dmoggy@eastlink.ca

Manitoba: Vancant

Saskatchewan:
Joseph Hnatiuk (Acting 2013)
(Work) 403-524-1147; (Fax) 403-524-1148
(E-mail) hnaj@shaw.ca

Alberta: Joseph Hnatiuk (2016) (Work) 403-524-1147; (Fax) 403-524-1148 (Cell) 403-332-1455 (E-mail) hnaj@shaw.ca

Sheri Dalton (2016) (Work) 780-479-9262; (Fax) 780-474-1933 (E-mail) sdalton@concordia.ab.ca

British Columbia: Jim Armstrong (2016) (Work) 604-430-0671 (E-mail) jarmstrong@keystoneenvironmental.ca

Loys Maingon (2017) (Work) 250-331-0143 (E-mail) aardscanltd@gmail.com Territories: Anne Wilson (2016)

(Work) 780-951-8856 (Cell) 867-765-8480 (E-mail) anne.wilson@ec.gc.ca

Territories: Vacant
REGIONAL CHAPTERS

Newfoundland & Labrador Contact: Pat Ryan (Home) 709-334-2962 (E-mail) patrickr@mun.ca

Atlantic Chapter Contact: Pat Stewart (Work/Fax) 902-798-4022 (E-mail) enviroco@ns.sympatico.ca

Ontario: Vacant

Manitoba
Dr. William (Bill) Paton
(Work) 204-727-9783; (Fax) 204-728-7346
(E-mail) patonw@brandonu.ca

Saskatchewan Chairperson: Robert Stedwill (Home) 306-585-1854 (E-mail) rjstedwill@live.ca

Vice-chair: Contact: Jeff Hovdebo (Work) 306-780-8107; (Fax) 306-780-8722 (E-mail) Jeffery.Hovdebo@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Alberta

Contact: Sheri Dalton (Work) 780-479-9262; (Fax) 780-474-1933 (E-mail) sdalton@concordia.ab.ca

Contact: Joseph Hnatiuk (Work) 403-524-1147; (Fax) 403-524-1148 (Cell) 403-332-1455 (E-mail) hnaj@shaw.ca

Territories Contact: Anne Wilson (Work) 780-951-8856 (Cell) 867-765-8480 (E-mail) anne.wilson@ec.gc.ca

(•Term of Directorship)

CSEB NEWSLETTER 2014

Vol. 71, Number 4 Winter 2014

The Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists Newsletter is a quarterly publication. The Newsletter keeps members informed of the Society's activities and updates members on the current affairs and advances in the field of environmental biology. This publication draws together the widely diverse group of Canadian environmental biologists through a national exchange of ideas. Members are invited to contribute papers, photos or announcements that are of a national biological and environmental interest. Letters to the editor are welcome. This is a volunteer non-profit organization and we rely on your participation to make the newsletter a productive forum for ideas and discussion.

All business correspondence, changes of address, undeliverable copies and membership applications should be sent to: CSEB National Office, P.O. Box 962, Station F, Toronto, ON., M4Y 2N9. Editorial correspondence: Gary Ash, Editor, e-mail: gash@golder.com

Editor: Gary Ash Layout: Gary Ash

Printing: Lasertext Digital Print & Copy Centre, Edmonton, Alberta.

All original text in the Newsletter/Bulletin may be reprinted without permission with a citation to the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists.

LE BULLETIN de la SCBE 2014

Vol. 71, Numéro 4 Hiver 2014

Le Bulletin de la SCBE est une publication trimestriel de la Société Canadienne des Biologistes de l'Environnement. Le Bulletin informe les membres des activité de la Société sur événements courant ainsi que les progrès qui font en sciences de l'environnement. Par un échange d'idées au niveau national, cette publication intéresse un groupe très diverssifié d'environnementalistes Canadien. Les membres sont invités a contribuer des articles, photos (noir et blanc) ou des messages qui sont d'intérêt nationale en sciences biologiques et environnementales. Les lettres à l'editeur sont bienvenues.

Tout la correspondence d'affaires, y compris les abonnements, les changements d'adresse, les exemplaires retournés et les formulaires: CSEB National Office, P.O.Box 962, Station F, Toronto, ON, M4Y 2N9. Les lettres à l'editeur: Gary Ash, Editor, courriel: gash@golder.com

Rédacteur en chef: Gary Ash

Impression: LaserText Digital Print & Copy Centre, Edmonton, AB.

Tout texte originale peut être reprimé sans permission; veuillez l'accréditer à La Société Canadienne des Biologistes de l'Environnement.

The Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists



CSEB OBJECTIVES

The Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists (CSEB) is a national non-profit organization. Its primary objectives are:

- to further the conservation of Canadian natural resources.
- to ensure the prudent management of these resources so as to minimize environmental effects.
- to maintain high professional standards in education, research and management related to natural resources and the environment.

OBJECTIFS de la SOCIÉTÉ

La Société Canadienne des Biologistes de l'Environnement (SCBE) est une organisation nationale sans but lucratif. Ses objectifs premiers sont:

- de conserver les ressources naturelles canadiennes.
- d'assurer l'aménagement rationnel de ces ressources tout en minimisant les effets sur l'environnement.
- de maintenir des normes professionnels élevés en enseignement, recherche, et aménagement en relation avec la notion de durabilité des ressources naturelles et de l'environnement, et cela pour le bénéfice de la communauté.

Advertising Rates: CSEB National Newsletter/Bulletin

DISPLAY ADS• (4 issues)	Rate Per Issue	Annual Rate
Business Card Size (3.5" x 2")	\$ 25.00	\$ 85.00
1/4 Page (4"x 5")	\$ 55.00	\$ 190.00
1/2 Page (7"x 5")	\$ 100.00	\$ 375.00
Full Page	\$ 175.00	\$ 650.00

- · prices are for camera-ready ads
- ads are subject to our approval for acceptance
- · all ads are in black and white print
- payment due upon receipt of notice

Further Information Available Upon Request:

- sample of publication
- rates for preferred location
- special rates for repeat ads

Please Forward Submissions and Requests to: Gary Ash

8108 155 Avenue NW, Edmonton, Alberta T5Z 2S9 Phone: 780-472-0098• E-mail: garyash@shaw.ca

Vol. 71 (4) Page 2 2014 Hiver

NATIONAL News

PRESIDENT'S Report

By Robert Stedwill, CSEB President, given at Dec. 2014 AGM

This has been a year of some successes, and some cause for concern.

In terms of successes, we finally managed to develop a video describing what the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists is all about, and our hope is to get it out to universities and consulting firms. This would be for the purpose of recruiting biologists about to graduate and who are seeking to enhance their future careers by joining an organization that fosters working experiences with more seasoned biologists, which does not necessarily imply "old" biologists.

Further, many new biologists within the consulting community, or even within government, may be seeking opportunities to advance their skills, and hence their careers.

We also had an excellent workshop held in Edmonton in October on "Biological Monitoring – Are We Making Progress?" attended by approximately 40 individuals. Well done Anne Wilson and Gary Ash – co-chairs! The workshop was followed up by a field trip to Elk Island National Park. These workshops are critical to the success of the CSEB as they give us the opportunity to share work experiences and debate opinions in a friendly collaborative environment.

Of concern are two points – namely the apparent dismantling of legislation and regulations in the provinces and Ottawa, and the inability of our environmental brethren who have been muzzled to an extent, that even if research money was available, the data generated could not be shared. This to me is disturbing. Secondly, our membership numbers continue to fall, and much of the heavy lifting in the CSEB falls on a few shoulders. My hope is that with the new CSEB video referred to above, and renewed enthusiasm in our existing membership base, we can infuse the organization with new blood and commitment.

Finally, on a personal note, this will be my last report as the CSEB's president, and it has been an honour to serve in that capacity. Although retired, I plan to continue as a member, and hope you do as well, and seeking out others who may wish to benefit from membership in the Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists – Biologists who care.

Check out the CSEB Video at

http://youtu.be/J7cOuDbBf9c

PAST PRESIDENT'S Report

By Brian Free, CSEB Past President, given at Dec. 2014 AGM

One of the main projects I've pursued is the re-design of the CSEB web site. I've been corresponding with the re-design team in Edmonton and soliciting input from some other CSEB members. It is taking longer than expected, in no small part because I'm unfamiliar with the language of web design and it takes a few tries before I provide the right kind of feedback. I've tried to explain the "visual story" that will support our "brand refresh" and commented on "mood boards" that present the colours and fonts that reflect our organization. Does the red and black in our logo mark the bold essence of CSEB? Are we just another green? Is ours a bold palette or soft? I don't recall learning these concepts in Ecology 101!

Last year, I participated in a "Stand Up For Science" rally organized by "Evidence for Democracy" and I'm now on this organization's mailing list. I monitor this group's activities for opportunities that could be considered by CSEB, but have raised none to date. Generally speaking, I think their goal of increasing the influence of science in public policy is one that CSEB can support.

Of course, I've tried to support President Robert when I can and continue to submit reports for the CSEB newsletter. I enjoyed helping put together the recent Edmonton workshop and congratulate VP Anne on a job well done!

As my term as Past President will end with the election of a new President, I look forward to continuing to support CSEB as a member volunteer. And of course I'll see the website re-design through to completion.

SECOND V P'S Report

By Anne Wilson, CSEB Second Vice President, given at Dec. 2102 AGM

Working with the Board over the past year has been great. There has been occasional call to act in Robert's stead, and my role as Second VP has centered around participation in the monthly calls and helping organize the October workshop in Edmonton. The one day Workshop had a monitoring theme, which spanned all the disciplines, and we had some excellent speakers. A highlight for me was our field trip to Elk Island National Park (and a bonus stop at Beaverhill Lake) with Lu Carbyn as our knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide, in the company of some interesting and amiable biologists!

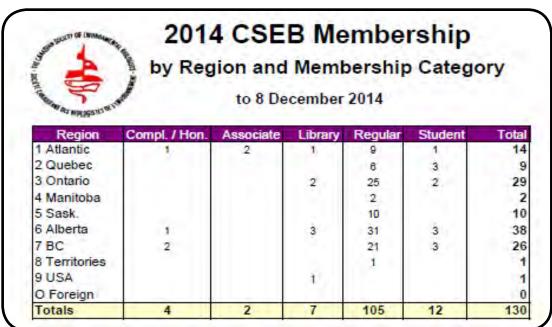
Over the next year, I look forward to working with the new and returning Board members.

TREASURER, MEMBERSHIP & NEWSLETTER Report

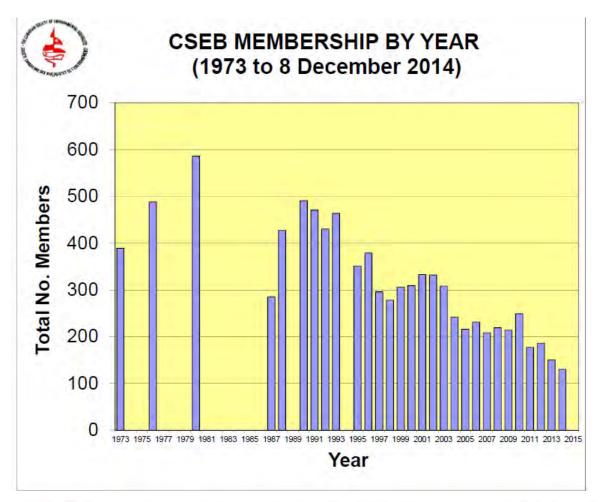
CSEB BUDGET FOR 2015 (Dec. 5 2014)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014*	2015
Receipts	Approx. from exp	endatures					Proposed
Membership fees	\$9,300.00	\$6,700.00	\$5,700.00	\$6,500.00	\$6,400.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,500.00
NRC Journals	\$2,900.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,400.00	\$800.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00
Publication Sales	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bank Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Conference Proceeds (incd. Sponsors)	\$3,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,600.00
Revenue Generation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total receipts	\$16,000.00	\$7,700.00	\$7,075.00	\$9,400.00	\$7,200.00	\$7,700.00	\$9,100.00
Expenses							
Corporate registration	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00
Newsletter Production	\$4,500.00	\$4,700.00	\$3,600.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,700.00	\$3,000.00
Board Meeting (travel subsidy)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Administration (conference call, misc.)	\$2,000.00	\$600.00	\$150.00	\$750.00	\$300.00	\$700.00	\$750.00
Web hosting, Update	\$120.00	\$70.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$650.00	\$150.00
NRC Journals	\$2,900.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,400.00	\$800.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00
Postage and Email Newsletters	\$1,250.00	\$1,300.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$700.00	\$800.00	\$1,000.00
Mail Box Rental	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$240.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Redirect Mail	\$1,000.00	\$300.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$500.00
Chapter Rebates	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership renewal, cards, postage	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$600.00	\$750.00	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$500.00
Bank Charges	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
Miscellaneous, Conference	\$350.00	\$30.00	\$1,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$30.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Total expenses	\$13,415.00	\$8,790.00	\$8,350.00	\$11,050.00	\$5,570.00	\$7,980.00	\$8,800.00

^{*} Estimated as outstanding items at time of print



Vol. 71 (4) Page 4 2014 Hiver





Canadian Society Of Environmental Biologist

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT

Prepared by Gary Ash

7 December 2014

- In 2014 to date, three newsletters have been published (Vol 71 issues 1, 2, 3).
- Newsletter distribution format is as follows:
 - Electronic Distribution 73
 - Hard Copy Distribution 57 (incl. two copies to National Library of Canada)
 - Hard copy distribution down but mailing costs per item up substantially in 2014
- Deadlines for Submissions for Newsletters:
 - Winter 2014 now
 - Spring 2015 15 Feb 2015
 - Summer 2015 1 May 2015
 - o Fall 2015 15 Sep 2015
 - Winter 2015 1 Nov 2015
- Currently looking for Guest Editors and submission for 2015 newsletters Contact Gary Ash
 The newsletter can only be as good as the input of content received.
- Currently looking for photos of Biologists in Action for upcoming newsletter covers

MINUTES OF 2014 AGM

Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists 2014 Annual General Meeting

7 pm EST December 8, 2014 Via conference call and web

Attendees: Robert Stedwill, Gary Ash, Patrick Stewart, Karen March, Brian Free, Joseph Hnatiuk, Bill Paton, Anne Wilson, Loys Maingon

Regrets: Derrick Moggy, Barbara Hard, Sheri Dalton, Jim Armstrong

1. Welcome

- Welcome from President R. Stedwill.
- Call to order and review of Agenda.

2. Bylaw changes / Special Resolution

- Karen March summarized the two required changes of new federal Not for Profit Act resulted in modifications to several sections of CSEB Bylaws, e.g., timing of meetings, amending wording on classes of membership to match requirements.
- Many thanks to Karen for all her work on this!
- Action: Board to post, then give 60 days for voting, and once approved notify agency. Board to review option of sending application in now and noting Bylaw approval is pending
- Motion to post Bylaws as amended and take forward for voting in 60 days – Bill Paton; Second – Joseph Hnatiuk. Motion Carried.

3. Elections

- Status all executive positions available; 1st and 2nd
 VPs have completed one term and can go one more;
 Secretary Treasurer beyond term but will stay as
 interim until available candidate. Robert to be new
 Past President.
- President Bill Paton nominated by Patrick Stewart; Joseph Hnatiuk seconds. Bill accepts. Motion Carried.
- 1st VP Anne Wilson nominated by Brian Free; Joseph Hnatiuk seconds. Anne accepts. Motion Carried.
- 2nd VP Patrick Stewart nominated by Joseph Hnatiuk; Anne Wilson seconds. Patrick accepts. Motion Carried.
- Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor appointment – Gary Ash accepted remaining in position. Several noted appreciation to Gary in this role.
- Elections concluded.

4. CSEB Executive Reports

Editor's Note: See executive reports in this newsletter.

- **President** Robert Stedwill – Key points were the successful year; video; and terrific workshop (congrats to Anne, Gary, and Brian for co-chair and work—appreciated).
 - o Issues faced included dismantling of legislation and muzzling scientific concern.
 - o Membership numbers continue to fall video is expected to help. Of note Derrick Moggy is working with Barbara Hard in Ontario with particular focus on recent grad biologists.
 - o Noted it has been honour to be CSEB president, and look forward to working with and continue to bolster Saskatchewan involvement.
- Past President Brian Free Key points highlight web site redesign, which was a little slow as feedback with CSEB on-going and the draft web site is to be sent around prior to contract end; attended "Stand-up for Science" rally with a group also concerned about changes to Fisheries Act and muzzling of scientists; and will continue to submit to the newsletter.
 - o Comment that others would like to contribute to web content Anne, Loys, and Bill.

• 1st Vice President – Bill Paton

- o Bill has attempted to use academic biology contacts to build academic interest in society.
- o One of the issues is academic targets for refereed publications. A model that geographers have is for annual proceeding on-line, which includes appendices to provide additional information. Additional details will be provided to the Board.
- o Manitoba potential directors from Brandon workshop did not make it to membership list (workshop cost did include membership). Bill to follow-up with identifying those that applied.
- o Bill has the CSEB display and is currently using it.

Vol. 71 (4) Page 6 2014 Hiver

- o Comment from Patrick on list-serve it is not up to date. Patrick is updating based on information sent by Gary. Discussion of alternate email list and note that list-serve has changed due new laws requiring opt-in/out. Noted that consent is provided on membership forms. The current requirement to opt out must be on emails.
- o Robert commented on the need for Regional Directors to be elected by regional members. This requires the ability to contact members across the country. Brian is working with web design for blogging and other tools for membership contact. Noted that the web site needs to be dynamic.
- 2nd Vice President Anne Wilson Full text on attached

 Key points included that it has been great to work for the Board, including involvement in monthly calls and in the workshop. The workshop monitoring theme and field trip were highlights. Anne looks forward to working with CSEB next year.
 - o Robert thanked Anne for her leadership on the workshop.
- Secretary Treasurer Karen March See Budget.
 - o The budget was presented. As year-end financial data was not available due to the early December meeting, it was agreed that the financial report would be approved at a later meeting.
 - o Motion to approve budget Gary Ash; Second Bill Paton. Joseph Hnatiuk abstained as did not have access to report on web. Carried.
- Membership Chair Gary Ash Key points included addressing the need for new membership with a focus on new graduates and new biologists; and the need to include technological communication methods. In the past membership was helped by the focus on addressing issues. In recent years there has been less CSEB public exposure, and there is a need to do more. Noted that young members bring enthusiasm.
 - o Comment that there is a BC movement for a national professional biology organization with a different mandate then the issues aspect of CSEB. Ontario is also looking at certification for biologists. Alberta has approximately 1600 members in the professional biology society.
 - o Comment that there may be a shift in professional association from the college of biologists towards a more issues based approach— e.g. statement on climate change.
 - o Joseph commented on Alberta Wildlife Society success and that CSEB should partner with other groups, explore synergies and work together for common goals. Joseph issued a challenge to CSEB to figure out partnerships.
 - Patrick noted that CSEB needs to have members to offer.

- o Loys suggested that there is a need for conversation with provincial organizations around the national nature of CSEB, noting that CSEB has existing infrastructure to plug into.
- Gary commented on the problem with retaining members, and that CSEB needs to have something to offer.
- o Loys suggested provincial chapters may be linked to the national CSEB.
- o Comment that there is difficulty with on the ground workshops in a national structure particularly in light of travel budget cuts. There is however electronic options and opportunities for webinar development.
- Newsletter Editor Report Gary Ash Full text on attached Key points included completion of three issues this year and a winter issue is pending.
 - o Please send reports for the winter issue ASAP.
 - o There were 73 electronic, 57 hardcopies this year which is a good reverse of last year.
 - Deadlines for next years issues will be available soon.
 - o Looking for guest editors and submissions the newsletter is only as good as input of content.
 - o Thank you very much to those that have contributed and to the rest there is a need to contribute more.
 - o Any pictures, photos welcome.
 - o Discussion on newsletters on the web noted that web not up to date (issues for 2011 available). CSEB policy is for all except current version to be posted. Gary is updating. Loys noted that if a peer reviewed issue was completed, full accessibility is preferred to encourage more contributions, with the caveat that one would need to be member to contribute. The suggestion is for one peer reviewed issue a year initially, and ultimately inclusion of 2-3 per review articles in each volume for best publicity. Loys to investigate in the New Year an initial experimental edition and request comments. Robert suggested that two issues down the road there be a request for refereed papers. Bill to confirm memberships and determine if suitable papers might be forthcoming from of last year's workshop.
- Motion to pass 2014 Executive Reports as presented
 – Loys Maingon; Second Joseph Hnatiuk. Carried.

5. Regional Reports

 Atlantic – Patrick Stewart – Participated in meetings and management, and in the newsletter. Hope the small Atlantic membership can continue to support CSEB. Plans for actions in the New Year, including contacting Dalhousie and other universities. Needs the time to pursue.

- o Bill noted that universities have department "Careers for Biologists" web pages and career officers to put on events. CSEB could offer the video. Bill to follow-up with universities and posting the video on YouTube, which the new CSEB web site could have link to.
- Ontario Key points Derrick Moggy and Barbara Hard are focusing on new memberships based out of Sudbury and Mississauga.
- Manitoba- Key points were highlighted in the VP report.
- Saskatchewan Robert Stedwill Key points included highlighting that the province is very busy and it has been difficult engaging members. The goal for 2015 is to take the video to U. of Sask. and U. of Regina, and to solicit enthusiasm and share knowledge.
- Alberta Brian Free Noted that Alberta members Gary, Anne, Joseph, and Shawn Martin (web master) are all actively involved in society business and in the Edmonton Workshop. Joseph commented that Alberta is a dynamic province.
- **British Columbia** Loys Maingon he is focused on Vancouver Island, but notes the province is very busy with energy problems, changes with parks board management and other issues. Loys provided CSEB representation at the Association of Professional Biologists of BC (without display), and noted there is interest out there. The college system will be his focus next year.
 - o Gary thanked Loys for excellent newsletter reports.
- Territories Anne Wilson Key points included that the northern CSEB involvement was quiet this year. Paula Smith left in July so there is no Director, and additional on the ground support is needed. Anne has worked on newsletter reports. There is a lot going on in development in the Territories particularly with comprehensive annual monitoring requirements. There are lots of biologists present and should be contacted regarding CSEB. Anne will check on potential for regional directors next year.
- Motion to accept Regional Reports Brian Free; Second – Joseph Hnatiuk. Carried.

6. CSEB Representative Report

Joseph Hnatiuk noted the report was submitted. Joseph commented that he supports the BC initiative to get active, and would like to see the CSEB more active in partnering. He had a busy year maintaining CSEB profile and working with Alberta Wildlife. Joseph emphasized the need to get change now! It is critical.

- Joseph would like the video sent to him.
- Robert thanked Joseph for his comments.

7. Next AGM

Discussion on next workshop:

- Consider late September or October in BC so field trip can be included. Early December potential timing.
- Hold AGM with the workshop meeting if the executive can attend (difficult if one day event). If not, hold AGM later.
- Patrick noted regional workshops/events helps build local members.
- Can we partner with other group (e.g., Canadian Water Resources Association, Alberta Wildlife Soc.)? Jim Armstrong interested in BC and in partnering with the river restoration organization.
- Action: Robert to confirm ASAP.

8. Other

All thanked Robert for his service as President.

Adjourned 8:55 pm EST Minutes taken by K. March and A. Wilson.

BC News

By Loys Maingon, CSEB BC Director, given at Dec. 2014 AGM

In 2015, in BC environmental concerns have focused mainly on the impact of large energy projects.

Public concern has focused mainly on the provincial government's commitment to LNG (liquid natural gas) development, BC Hydro's "Site C" project on the Peace River, and concerns over Enbridge and the Northern Gateway pipeline and the Kinder Morgan Pipeline to the port of Vancouver. Here as in Quebec's Eastern TransCanada Pipeline project to Cacouna, the National Energy Board's role in the environmental assessment process has been the object of calls for public review.

The real difference affecting how governments will handle eastern and western energy transmission projects and all future environmental projects came from the land mark *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia* (2014 SCC 44) in June 2014. This landmark case, which has implications wherever aboriginal title claims exist in Canada, has particular force in British Columbia where treaties ceding title were never signed. As a result most resource development in BC will now have to meet First Nations approval, which adds another filter to the environmental assessment process.

Thus, while Site C has been technically approved by the NEB and has received certificates from both the federal and provincial governments, the future of the project still hangs largely on meeting First Nations claims and concerns. Similarly, the Enbridge project has been advanced by recent negotiation with First Nations groups in Prince Rupert and Nisga'a; however, much remains to be done to obtain development approbation for the entire line.

One of the issues affecting all transmission lines has been the passage of Bill 4, revising the *BC Parks Act*, to allow for development within the provincial parks and the re-definition of park boundaries to allow for major economic projects. This issue affects public attitudes towards all public lands. The matter hinges on the status of public lands, particularly the parks as "conservation areas," which becomes conflated with climate change concerns. Thus, the end of the year witnessed the successful protest against the future development of the Kinder-Morgan pipeline through public lands on Burnaby Mountain, which ended with a pyrrhic victory for Kinder-Morgan and the tacit legal support for the protesters.

Tied to all energy projects in the province is a growing concern for watershed conservation and for both freshwater and marine water quality. With shifting weather patterns, the summer water deficit period has been extended, leading to an increase in water quality advisories. Throughout much of the province environmental health boards have found that over 50% of public water supplies regularly fail Canadian Water Standards. Notwithstanding the new *Water Sustainability Act* much remains to be done to secure existing public water supplies. There is a growing demand that the government secure public watersheds from forest tenure holders.

CSEB has been active in promoting awareness of these issues through public outreach, mainly through BCNature, and has been active in professional discussions through participation in professional bodies, such as the Association of Professional Biologists of BC.

Why Hamilton Mack Laing Matters Today

Submitted By Loys Maingon, CSEB BC Director

There are many reasons why Hamilton Mack Laing, who settled in Comox in 1922 and built his house at Baybrook, near the outlet of Brooklyn Creek in 1923, should matter to Canadians in the twenty-first century. This note does not pretend to enumerate them all, merely to point out the importance of considering Laing's relation to the Geological Survey of Canada, and how it affects us today.

Mack Laing was, from the release of his first book *Out With The Birds* in 1913 to the death of his wife, Ethel, in 1945, an extremely productive and well-known Canadian nature and environmental writer, publishing over 700 articles, 22 of which are in peer-reviewed scientific publications of his day.¹ A closer scrutiny of these writings and of his contributions to science indicates that Mack Laing plays a pivotal role in the environmental history of Western Canada, for both his literary and scientific contributions.

B.C. historians such as Dr. Allan Pitchard, who grew up in Comox, knew Laing, and went on to teach at the University of Toronto, and Dr. Richard Mackie, who has written extensively on the history of the Comox Valley, have repeatedly pointed out the importance of Mack Laing for any person interested in the Comox Valley's history. However, Mack Laing's real accomplishments lie elsewhere. Specifically, they lie in the significance of the 10 now largely

forgotten, but important, expeditions in which he served the National Museum of Canada as a naturalist, much as Darwin had served on The Beagle's expedition in the time-honoured tradition of biological surveys.

While this is not the place to detail the importance of these expeditions, they continue to be important today because they were an extension of the work that Sir William Logan began in 1842 when he founded The Geological Survey of Canada. The expeditions associated with the Geological Survey laid down the foundations of Canada's ecological and economic heritage, by recording and collecting specimens of regional species and their variants and mapping Canada's potential mineral wealth. This work lies at the heart of Canadian environmental science. Without the work of the Geological Survey of Canada, we would have no first-hand long-term record of the environmental changes and impacts that the nation has undergone since Confederation. Without this key information, we would have little means to chart the implications of the ongoing environmental changes for our global future. To deny the importance of Mack Laing and his fellow naturalists is to deny the importance of the scientific work of the Geological Survey of Canada.

Mack Laing did not write only about ornithology and hunting, as is frequently thought. Early on, he tackled some new environmental issues such as oil pollution, which makes him particularly relevant today as British Columbians weigh the merits of LNG, Enbridge and Kinder Morgan. He was in 1928-1929 one of the first writers to discuss and document the impact of oil spills on the West Coast, and particularly in what he knew as Georgia Strait, the modern Salish Sea. His concern is as fresh today as it was in 1929, and in it today's environmentalists can trace the origin of their concerns.

In many ways, the literary and scientific facets of Mack Laing's personal life and writings make him a forerunner to the postwar generation of Canadian environmental writers. Notably, his realistic descriptions of faunal behaviour, concern for the fate of nature in the modern industrial world, and particularly his ground-breaking concern with marine coastal oil pollution impacts on the coastal birds, point to themes and concerns that the late Farley Mowat would meld into the Canadian psyche in the 1960s. In this respect, Mack Laing shared with Mowat important personal connections in the world of Canadian environmental biology. Mowat shared his name "Farley", with his uncle Frank Farley, an Albertan ornithologist who worked with Laing under Percy Taverner, as a well-known photo of the Taverner Party taken in 1920 at Vaseux Lake documents (Figure 1). It was Frank Farley who guided a young Mowat's early naturalist readings – and as a popular author easily accessible to Mowat in the 1930s, Laing was undoubtedly recommended reading.

Coincidentally, Mack Laing and Farley Mowat shared the same mentor in their first expeditions north, Dr. Francis Harper who worked for the Smithsonian in 1920. Just as Dr. Francis Harper took Mack Laing north to Lake Athabasca in 1920 with the Smithsonian Institute and the U.S. Biological Survey, in 1947 Harper took a University of Toronto biology student, called Farley Mowat, to Nueltin Lake in South

Keewatin, to the barrens that would come to be the scene of many Mowat stories. That Mack Laing may have had a hand in Harper's choice of assistant, is warranted by Laing's continued correspondence with Harper up to Harper's death at the University of North Carolina in 1972.³



Figure 1. Taverner Party at Vaseux Lake May 1922. (Top) Allan Brooks, Percy A. Taverner, **Frank Farley**; (Bottom) **H. Mack Laing**, George Gartrell, D. Alan Sampson

Mack Laing was much more than the "hunter-naturalist" that Richard Mackie's excellent seminal biography described 30 years ago. Mack Laing, like his contemporary Dewey Soper, was one of "The Collectors", for the National Museum. The Collectors were in the words of Soper's biographer, Anthony Dalton: "the quiet unpretentious men, who surveying for the Dominion of Canada, established the outline and substance of Canada". Laing was an unpretentious "collectornaturalist," and the National Museum considered Laing to be one of the best collectors in Canada. In Anderson's 1935 assessment, Laing was "The top field man in Canada."

Three decades on, since Mackie's ground-breaking biography of Laing first came out, our understanding of the historical context within which Mack Laing's generation worked and wrote has evolved considerably, together with the historical and contemporary importance of the institution with which Mack Laing was closely associated, the Canadian Museum of Nature.

The Canadian Museum of Nature first opened in 1915 as the Victoria Memorial Museum in Ottawa to house the natural

history collections of the Geological Survey of Canada. It came to be better known as the Canadian National Museum. In 1990, it was split into two new institutions, The Museum of Civilization and the Museum of Nature. The latter recently underwent major renovations and re-opened 2011.

The splitting of the National Museum in 1968 into the Museum of Man and the National Museum of Natural Sciences, and its subsequent series of re-organizations in the 1980s and 1990s culminating in the complete renovation and re-opening in 2011 reflect the changing focus of science, as well as the renewed interest in the collections and in the men and women who brought them together. These individuals were skilled field naturalists, skilled in taxonomy, the discipline of identifying species-level differences.

In the postwar period, field biology, natural history, and taxonomic studies suffered a progressive and steep decline, making way for experimentation, quantitative biology, and micro-biology, which were of greater interest to industry and government than basic field research. The decline in support for field work was particularly accelerated between 1970 and 1990, when increasingly few students were trained in taxonomy. It was only in the late 1980s that the twin questions of species biodiversity" and "ongoing anthropogenicly-driven extinction" emerged as global concerns, well-articulated by Niles Eldrege's 1991 The Miner's Canary. When E.O. Wilson published his two great works: Ants and The Diversity of Life in 1990, he heralded the return of scientific and popular interest in taxonomic diversity, and in the importance of natural history museum collections, together with the articulation of a growing concern for the plummeting environmental health of the planet.

Throughout the 1980s, it had become increasingly clear that the rate of urban and industrial growth was outstripping the carrying capacity of the planet. One of the best indicators of the state of the planet's "health" was, and continues to be, the decline in species diversity. However, to measure that one has to be able to identify floral and faunal species, and have access to reference collections. Thus "biodiversity" studies became linked to the developing awareness and measurement of environmental impacts. Taxonomy became increasingly more important, at a time when untold species, and both taxonomic skills and museum collections, were on the verge of being lost.

The collection of the National Museum of Nature of Canada is an international treasure. It houses over 7 million specimens in geological, paleological, botanical, vertebrate, and invertebrate collections. As one of the top North American collectors, Mack Laing collected over 10,000 vertebrate specimens in his lifetime, the majority of which he collected for the National Museum of Canada.

The value of museum collections around the world has recently been borne out by Dutch research on sources of bee declines.⁶ To understand environmental changes that are driving wild bee population declines, these researchers turned to museum collections of bee specimens from 1872

to 2011 in the Netherlands. They examined 40,000 wild bee specimens and analyzed pollen from their legs. Not only did they find that wild bumblebee species diversity declined by 30%, and bee diversity declined 15%, but also that the pollen analysis revealed that preferred host plant diversity had also sharply declined with direct adverse consequences for bee populations, and bee species size. In other words, access to museum collections enabled these researchers to understand not only the historic diversity of bee species, but also what the preferred host plants of each extant and lost bee species were, what landscape—level changes had driven their decline, and the impact of changes in plant species composition.

All this information, from some minute pollen grains on the legs of stored museum bees! Museum collections are a vital source of yet untapped data to understand not just our natural history, but our present predicament, and the future we will chart. And if only for this, we owe our future to unassuming collectors like Laing.

In three expeditions funded by Canada and the United States between 1933 and 1935, Laing recorded and sampled marine bird populations. The species record and the specimens he collected then are a potential treasure house of information of the changes or "ecological health" of the Salish Sea, that could yet contribute to understanding present calamities, such as the recent death of an Orca and her calf off Courtenay.⁷ Tissue analysis of these samples could provide clues as to the state of the environment in 1935, when Salish Sea Orca and marine bird populations were not in imminent danger, as they are today.

Some may complain that Mack Laing – as most of his contemporaries, including his best-known student, the late Dr. Ian McTaggart-Cowan – hunted and killed the specimens they collected, and that the museums are distasteful necropolis. However unpalatable and unsavoury this may be to our innate squeamishness, no picture – no matter how good – will ever replace the information content of specimen collections. No picture will ever give us access to the histology and the genetic history of disease and climate changes that a specimen carries.

Mack Laing and his fellow collectors did not only leave a substantial written and photographic record of nature as they saw and recorded it between 1919 and 1945, they also left us an exceptional material record of scientific information that will undoubtedly prove increasingly important in understanding environmental changes in the coming "Age of Climate Change." To deny the importance of Mack Laing and his fellow naturalists today, is to deny the importance of the scientific work of the Geological Survey of Canada in every facet of Canadian environmental work carried out today.

Environmentalists and would-be "protectors of nature" who would deny the importance of Mack Laing and his fellow collectors and their own debt to these important predecessors, effectively deny the scientific foundation of the environmental work they claim to be doing. This denial of the museum collectors' scientific legacy is no different than supporting the current government's cutbacks to basic

government science. Both are denials of the value of basic science. What motivates it is best left unsaid.

All environmental science in Canada began with the establishment of The Geological Survey of Canada, whose first actual function was the determination of the Dominion's natural history. As F.J. Alcock noted in 1947, in the first history of the Geological Survey: "In fact, the Survey for a long time, although primarily geological, was in reality a natural history one." It is not just a case of the old adage, "they who deny history are doomed to repeat it." If one does not understand the value of the past, and respect the value of the natural history legacy left to us by men and women like Laing, then how can one claim to protect and hand or even understand, a legacy for future generations?

Special thanks for this article are owed to Dr. Richard Mackie (BC Studies at UBC) and Ms. Chantal Dussault (Museum of Nature, Ottawa).

References

- Richard Mackie (1985). Hamilton Mack Laing: Hunter-Naturalist. Victoria: Sono-Nis. (Remains the most comprehensive account of Mack Laing's life.)
- ² Hamilton Mack Laing. (February 1929). "Oil-Black Death of Waterbirds: The bird-world faces a new menace, oil-polluted waters, a tragedy on the West Coast." Forest and Outdoors.
- ³ Palmer, Ralph S. (1973). "Francis Harper." The Auk 90(3): 737-738. Norment, Christopher J. (2000) "Francis Harper (1886-1972)." Arctic 53 (1): 72-75.
- ⁴ Anthony Dalton (2010). Arctic Naturalist: The life of J. Dewey Soper. Toronto: Dundurn Press.
- ⁵ Richard Mackie, private correspondence.
- ⁶ Schepper, Jeroen et al. (2014) "Museum specimens reveal loss of pollen host plants as key factor driving wild bee declines in The Netherlands". Proceedings of the Academy of Sciences.
- ⁷ http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/necropsy-on-killer-whale-j-32-reveals-orca-had-full-term-fetus-1.2863303
- ⁸ F.J. Alcock (1947). A Century in the History of the Geological Survey of Canada. Ottawa: King's Printer, p.4.

ALBERTA News

By Joseph Hnatiuk, CSEB Alberta Director, given at Dec. 2014 AGM

The 2014 year was very active for me. The activities that I was involved with are noted below.

- 1. I continue to represent CSEB on the Ambient Air Quality Stakeholder Advisory Committee (AAQOSAC). The committee usually meets four times a year and the multistakeholder committee and includes representatives from Government, including Municipal, Industry, Agriculture and Non-Government Organizations. The main function of the committee is to advise Government on setting air quality objectives for the Province of Alberta. The compounds being considered include but not limited to Ammonia, Naphthalene, Hydrogen Sulphide, Methyl Mercaptan, and Sulphur.
- 2. In March, I attended at an annual conference of the Alberta Chapter of The Wildlife Society in Jasper National Park. The theme of the conference was "Protected Areas Inside and Out: Landscape Management for Biodiversity Conservation". The 2.5 day conference included discussions regarding protected areas management, transboundary conservation and management. The session also included two field trips, one to caribou habitat and the other to bighorn sheep and mountain goat habitat.
- 3. The Alberta Endangered Species Conservation Committee on which I represent Nature Alberta and CSEB required me to attend two meeting. The first one was at Handhills Lake that included a grassland field trip and the second was in Calgary. The meetings included topics such as the following:
 - Recovery Plan for Limber Pine;
 - Recovery Plan for Athabasca Rainbow Trout in Alberta;
 - Species at Risk From a Ranchers perspective;
 - Information about Alberta's Special Areas;
 - Current Status of Sage grouse in Alberta and Saskatchewan; and
 - Round Table Discussions.
- 4. Currently I represent the CSEB on a Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) Odour Management Team (OMT) that, through CASA, advises the Alberta Government on Odour Management in the Province. As a team member, I am also on an Odour Management Working Group that provides the OMT with technical advise that the OMT will use to prepare a Good Odour Management Practise Guide for CASA and the Province;
- I continue to represent CSEB on the Canadian and Alberta Environmental Networks.
- 6. I continue to be an alternate representative for AEN and CSEB in the multi-stakeholder group for caribou.
- 7. Currently, I am completing my first term of a two year term as a board member of Nature Alberta.

SASKATCHEWAN News

By Robert Stedwill, CSEB President, given at Dec. 2014 AGM

CSEB activities in Saskatchewan have, unfortunately, been nonexistent in 2014, due in part to the province being a very busy province with the growing economy and prosperity and busy biologists, as well as a declining membership in the CSEB. The latter, to me, is of concern in that our seasoned biologists are not in a position to share their experience and knowledge with younger biologists, in an environment that is very conducive to knowledge sharing.

In all of the work going on in the Province, what with new mines, oil field development, new transportation infrastructure, and new manufacturing industries, the government has introduced its new Environmental Code, which embraces a new regulatory approach that has environmental protection as its foundation. Basically, with the unprecedented growth in Saskatchewan, it allows municipalities and industry to keep pace with growth without being bogged down by government bureaucracy. The Code comes into effect in early 2015 in stages, and interestingly, can be amended without the need to introduce new legislation. Hopefully, new amendments will include dealing with greenhouse gas emissions which were glaringly absent from the current edition of the code.

2015 will be a year in which I will strive to pull together the biologists in the province, to have at least one workshop, and increase membership as I relinquish the reins of the CSEB presidency to Bill Paton of Manitoba. Taking on the role of a regional director has always been an objective of mine, to enhance the presence of the CSEB in Saskatchewan and to recruit young biologists to the organization. Saskatchewan has gone far too long without a regional director.

ONTARIO News

By Derrick Moggy, CSEB Ontario Director,, given at Dec. 2014 AGM

Membership has been quiet in Ontario, and there have not been any specific CSEB activities in 2014. Additional support will be gained from another Ontario director in order to advance the profile of the CSEB in Ontario, increase membership and use CSEB as a forum for bringing forward important issues in the coming year.

Efforts for the coming year will target increasing membership with new graduates and young professionals. This will be done by demonstrating the utility of the CSEB in keeping them informed of industry and professional news as well as providing an avenue for advancing issues of concern to the membership of CSEB. Social media and strategic events will be targeted in the New Year in order to raise the profile of the CSEB and allow for members to bring forward important issues, through two-way communication in a fun and interactive manner.

Vol. 71 (4) Page 12 2014 Hiver

TERRITORIES News

Submitted by Anne Wilson, CSEB 2nd Vice-President

This comes as the winter solstice arrives, and we will be exchanging the diminishing daylight for lengthening days. Even in the south, that brings a lifting of the spirits; in the North, even more so! Things slow down in winter, outdoor activities are harder to do, and hibernation seems like the best idea. Here's a sampling of the day lengths on Dec. 23rd: Yellowknife 4 hours, 57 minutes; Pangnirtung 2 hours, 40 minutes; Inuvik 0; Grise Fiord – 0 until mid-February (it is North America's northernmost community).

My winter philosophy is to ignore it until it goes away, and part of that strategy involves keeping active and productive! This season that has been ramped up by a very busy workplace, with deadlines and work travel leaving very little time to be grumpy about snow, ice, cold, and dark. An interesting trip to Cambridge Bay in mid-November reminded me it could always be colder and darker! The picture below was taken just before 1 PM, as the sun was setting over the sea ice.



Caribou have been in the news lately, and the news is not good. Herd numbers continue to drop, and I am very concerned about the trends.

Activity has slowed perceptibly in the NWT and Nunavut, with the price of gold slipping downwards, and the energy sector scaling back or cancelling projects. Existing new projects continue through the environmental assessment and regulatory processes though, and operating mines continue to do extensive environmental monitoring and reporting.

Mining and Other Development News

Several environmental assessments are underway in the NWT and Nunavut:

- Ekati Diamond Mine (Dominion Diamond Ekati Corp.): The Jay Pipe is located under Lac du Sauvage, and is proposed to be accessed by constructing a ring dike around the kimberlite pipe. The Developer's Assessment Report is available for review, and technical meetings scheduled for April.
- The Mackenzie Valley Highway project has been reduced in scope, due to funding realities, and now consists of 333 km of all-season gravel road connecting Wrigley and Norman Wells. The original proposal was almost 500 km longer to the north, so the impact assessment scope and terms of reference are being revised.
- The Yellowknife Gold Project (Tyhee) is still on the books, but not active.
- The Giant Mine Remediation project is awaiting Ministerial approval for finalization of the environmental assessment report, before it can proceed to the regulatory processes.
- Prairie Creek Mine (Canadian Zinc Corp.): The road EA continues, and the company is working to assemble financing needed to take the project into production.
- The Meliadine Gold project near Rankin Inlet recently received a positive environmental assessment decision from the Nunavut Impact Review Board, which gave this approval with 127 recommended terms and conditions.
- Sabina's Back River gold project is undergoing environmental assessment, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement is in development.
- Areva has submitted their Final Environmental Impact Statement to the Nunavut Impact Review Board for their Kiggavik Uranium Mine project. Public hearings are scheduled for early March 2015 in Baker Lake.

In the regulatory forum, several mining projects are moving towards development or have applied for amendments to their water licences:

- Snap Lake Diamond Mine (DeBeers Canada Inc.) has applications in for amending their water licence to allow higher discharge limits on total dissolved solids. Treatment will be necessary, and that solves some problems and causes others disposal of brine residuals, and lots of them.
- Fortune Minerals has done further work on their environmental monitoring, and is working on financing to move the project to construction.
- Canadian Zinc Corp.'s Prairie Creek Project was issued a water licence in September and the company is seeking financing to proceed.
- DeBeers Canada Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine is under construction.
- The Avalon Rare Metals project is on hold, while the company does further work.

- North American Tungsten's Cantung Mine has applied to dry stack their tailings and re-mine some of the old tailings areas, which may have stability issues. This involves a new tailings disposal area in the Flat River valley. Hearings have been completed, and a draft water licence is under review.
- Baffinland started production at their Mary River iron ore mine, with the first ore mined in September, and being stockpiled for shipment next open water season. They have applied for an amendment to do more shipping from the Milne Port.
- The Meadowbank Gold mine's Type A Water licence is up for renewal in May 2015; Agnico Eagle has submitted an application that is under review, with public hearings expected in Q1 of 2015.

Full details for current environmental assessments are available on the Board's web site at http://www.reviewboard.ca/registry and regulatory files at http://www.mvlwb.ca/Boards/mv/SitePages/registry.aspx.

Closing

I wish each of you a Happy New Year, and all the best throughout 2015!

If you are connected to activities in the Yukon, NT or NU, there is a vacancy for a Director, and I would love to welcome someone on board. If you are doing work north of 60 that you would like to highlight in the newsletter, or running some seminars or other training opportunities, please let us know. The CSEB provides a valuable networking and communication forum, and a voice for biologists if there are any issues to be raised. There is also the option of instigating other CSEB activities – both of the fun and/or of the educational variety - with colleagues in the North. Please email your thoughts to anne.wilson@ec.gc.ca.

Baffin Island Caribou Hunting Moratorium to Begin Jan. 1

Reprinted from CBC News Posted: Dec 20, 2014

The Government of Nunavut has placed a moratorium on the hunting of Baffin Island caribou beginning January 1 — the first such moratorium on that population.

"This is an urgent situation," says Environment Minister Johnny Mike in a news release. "The GN is taking immediate measures to protect the sustainability of Baffin Island caribou."

An aerial survey in 2012 — the first ever of its scale — found only about 5,000 caribou on Baffin Island, a decrease of up to 95 per cent of population estimates in the 1990s.

"Respecting this interim moratorium is necessary so that Baffin Island caribou can repopulate," says Mike, who had earlier said he would not support a total ban on hunting.

Largely Disappeared

Once plentiful, Baffin Island caribou have largely disappeared in the last 15 years.

The Environment department blames the natural cycle of the animals as well as increased harvesting pressure, due both to population growth and the increased reach of snowmobiles.

Under the Nunavut Land Claim, the Environment Minister has the right to make interim decisions about wildlife harvesting in "urgent and unusual circumstances."

The government says the hunting ban will stay in place until further notice.

Mike says the government is working with organizations, hunters and communities to come up with a co-management plan.

The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board plans to hold a public hearing in the spring to determine what recommendations to make to the Minister about long-term harvesting limitations.

'Short-Term Pain, Long-Term Gain'

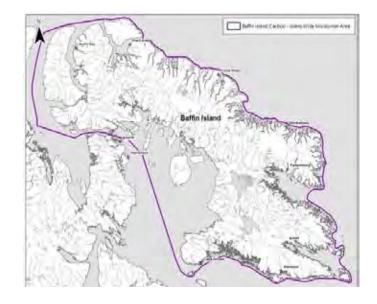
A government backgrounder describes the moratorium as "short-term pain for long-term gain."

"If we do not stop hunting now, the effects will be permanent," the backgrounder reads. "There will be no more caribou on Baffin Island and Inuit culture will be even more impacted."

The moratorium follows a major meeting of caribou partners in late November in Iqaluit.

The government says no compensation for loss of income is expected, pointing out that there have been too few caribou in recent years to provide meaningful sustenance to more than a handful of people.

The Baffin Island caribou population is plummeting at the same time as the herd on Nunavut's Southampton Island, the Bathurst and Bluenose East herds in the Northwest Territories, and the George River caribou herd in Northern Quebec and Labrador.



Vol. 71 (4) Page 14 2014 Hiver

Bathurst Ban In Effect

Environment Minister Refuses To Hand Out Tags Without Plan For Caribou Herd

Cody Punter Northern News Services Published Monday, December 22, 2014



The Bathurst caribou herd will be off limits to hunters until further notice after five months of negotiations between the territorial and aboriginal governments failed to yield a management plan for the herd in time for the Christmas break.

"As of today I'm indicating that I'm not releasing any of the 300 tags that have been available for the Tlicho and the Yellowknives to hunt the Bathurst herd," Environment and Natural Resources Minister Michael Miltenberger told News/ North on Dec. 19.

The news comes after participants in the most recent meeting between the government, conservationists, and aboriginal leaders on Dec. 3 failed to reach consensus. Despite having met several times since August, Miltenberger said the GNWT and aboriginal governments have yet to agree on a management plan for the herd. Until some kind of plan is in place, Miltenberger said there will be no more tags handed out.

"At that last (meeting), I made it clear to everybody we cannot part the scene at Christmas and leave this matter unresolved," he said.

"In the meantime, we need to do the right thing to protect the herd and ensure there is nothing man-made that is going to put them at risk, which is what hunting will do."

Miltenberger said the herd has declined by 97 per cent since surveys found more than 460,000 animals in 1986. There are now an estimated 15,000 Bathurst caribou left and their numbers continue to decline, said Miltenberger.

According to caribou collaring data from the Bathurst herd, the majority of the animals are currently wintering more than 200 kilometres northeast of Yellowknife, south of Kennady Lake.

The GNWT has proposed a "mobile core conservation zone," which would shift depending on where the collared caribou move and prevent hunting in the area around them.

"Rather than just shut off an area the size of New Brunswick, we figure we can protect the herd this way," said Miltenberger. "This is a much more precise, surgical way than the very blunt approach we first took five years ago when the emergency was declared."

1,500 Animal Limit Proposed for Bluenose-East

The GNWT is also trying to hash out an agreement on an acceptable limit for the Bluenose-East herd. The government has suggested no more than 1,500 animals should be hunted this year, with another 1,000 to be hunted in Nunavut. The Sahtu and

CSEB Regional Directors Needed

CSEB has Regional Director vacancies as follows:

- Territories
- Atlantic
- Manitoba
- Saskatchewan

If you are interested in taking on one of these positions, please contact Robert Stedwill at rjstedwill@live.ca. It is not an onerous task, and will greatly help strengthen the organization.

Wek'eezhii renewable resources boards have agreed to voluntary harvests of 2,800 animals in the NWT since 2010. A total of approximately 3,000 caribou were hunted last year.

"That does not include kills that went unreported," said Miltenberger, who reiterated the need for a more stringent method of reporting how many caribou are actually being hunted.

"Voluntary (reporting) has not worked, it does not work," he said. "You can't manage what you can't count."

While some aboriginal leaders are willing to accept the severity of the situation, Miltenberger said others are falling back on populist policies to pander to their constituents.

"Some folks tend to lose track that this is, above all, about the protection of the caribou. It's a conservation issue first and foremost only. It has nothing to do with aboriginal rights, nothing to do with treaty rights."

While the government has been able to secure a plan to manage the Porcupine herd with the Gwich'in and the Inuvialuit, Miltenberger said it has been more difficult to negotiate with governments that don't have settled land claims.

"Down here in the unsettled claim areas where there are no management plans, everything becomes a political crisis because nothing has been agreed to," he said.

"It can't be a question of political expediency because you don't want to say 'no' to constituents."

Neither Yellowknives Dene Chief Ed Sangris nor Tlicho Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus could be reached for comment by press time.

Although some may view Miltenberger's actions as drastic, he said even with the measures being taken right now, he is concerned it may be too late to save the Bathurst herd.

The GNWT will sit down with aboriginal governments again early in the new year. Miltenberger said he hopes all sides can come to agreement before the winter roads in the region open up.

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGISTS LA SOCIETE CANADIENNE DES BIOLOGISTES DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

FORMULAIRE D'ABONNEMENT MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER/SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION

Regular Members: persons who have graduated from a college or university in a discipline of biological sciences, and who are or have been professionally engaged in teaching, management, or research related to natural resources and environment.

Student Members: persons who are enrolled in an accredited college or university in a discipline of the biological sciences, and who are preparing themselves for professional work in teaching, management, or research related to natural resources and to the application of sound ecological principles to management of the environment

Associate Members: persons who support the purposes and activities of the Society but who do not qualify for Regular or Student membership.

Complete this form and return with cheque payable to: The Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists **Membres Réguliers:** les personnes ayant un degré ou diplôme d'un collège ou une université dans une discipline des sciences biologiques et qui sont ou qui ont déjà éte engagé professionnellement en aménagement, enseignement ou recherche tenant a l'environnement ainsi que ressources naturelles.

Membres Étudiants: les personnes qui étudient dans un collège ou une université reconnu dans une discipline des sciences biologiques, et qui se préparent à travailler comme professionnel soit en enseignement, aménagement ou recherche tenant aux ressources naturelles et à l'application de principes écologiques a l'aménagement de l'environnement.

Membres Associés: les personnes qui supportent les activités et les objectifs de la Société mais qui ne se qualifient pas comme membre régulier ou étudiant.

Complétez cette formule et retournez avec un chèque payable à: La Société Canadienne des Biologistes de L'Environnement

Name/Nom:						
Address/Adresse:						
Postal Code/Code Postal:						
Phone:home/domicile: ()	business/trav	rail: ()				
Fax: () e-:	mail:					
Degree/Diploma/ Degré/Diplôme:	University/College/ University	niversité/Collège:				
Year Grad./Ann. Gradué Field	d of Biology/Spécialité de Biolo	gie:				
Occupation/Emploi:	Employer/ Employé par:					
Responsibilities/Interests/Responsabilités/Intér	êts d'emploi:					
MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION FEE/ FRAI	S D'ABONNEMENT:					
(check one; all prices in \$ Canadian)	Regular/Régulier	\$40				
(cocher un; prix en \$ Canadiens)	Associate/Associé	\$40				
	Student/Etudiant	\$20				
	Library/Bibliothèque	\$50				
Foreign please add/Pour les commandes adressé.	s à étranger, veuillez ajouter	\$10				
DATF:	SIGNATURE:					

RETURN TO: CANADIAN SOCIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGISTS P.O. Box 962, Station F, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2N9

Membership & Newsletter subscription also available online at http://www.cseb-scbe.org

Vol. 71 (4) Page 16 2014 Hiver

