

CEN 50TH CELEBRATIONS

Last February 9-10 marked the kick off of CEN's 50th anniversary celebrations at our annual symposium. Several renowned scientists participated in the festivities, giving lectures and advice to meet the challenges of the next 50 years of northern research. We also witnessed a memorable testimony when Mr. Louis-Edmond Hamelin, CEN founder and retired professor of geography, related the historical events that led to the creation of our "Northern" Centre. The words and songs of Lisa Koperqualuk and Marie Belleau reminded us that northern communities occupy this vast territory and are willing to take part in Northern Research in the 21st century.

Prizes were awarded to students who gave the best poster and oral presentations. Congratulations to the deserving students: Pascale Ropars (Best Poster PhD), Gregory Ledoux (Best Poster Master's) and Francis Gauthier (best oral presentation). Reinhard Pienitz, CEN researcher and professor at the department of Geography at Laval U, won 1st prize (below) of the photo contest.

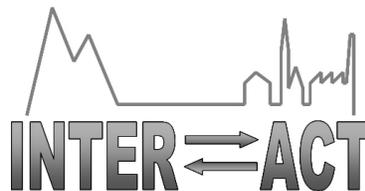


Crédits photo: Reinhard Pienitz

The anniversary exhibition "The Centre for Northern Studies: 50 glorious years", is presented at Université Laval's Sciences Library (Bibliothèque scientifique) until June 30. INRS-EET will host the exposition over the summer and UQAR from September 10 to October 10. The expo will reach its final destination, the station Whapmagoostui-Kuujuarapik in October. The panel exhibition allows the visitor to experience CEN's northern expertise through words and pictures, witnessing the vitality of our large team of researchers.

CEN PARTNERSHIP

As leaders of a network of Canadian infrastructures and recent member of the SCANNET circumpolar network of field stations, CEN has recently become a partner in the EU-funded (9M Euro) project INTERACT (International Network for Terrestrial Research and Monitoring in the Arctic). The main objective of INTERACT is to improve our environmental observation capacity of the Arctic by facilitating knowledge exchange and consolidating existing infrastructures and networking activities throughout the Arctic. CEN is involved in the development and use of a platform for exchange of information between station managers and participants



within INTERACT. CEN members can now submit proposals to be supported via the INTERACT Trans-National Access program. This program offers travel and logistic support to SCANNET research stations in Northernmost Europe and Russia.

50 STUDENTS RECEIVE AN ENVIRONORTH FELLOWSHIP

enviroNorth NSERC CREATE Training Program in Northern Environmental Sciences

The NSERC CREATE training program in northern environmental sciences EnviroNorth held its second competition in March 2011. Nearly \$120,000 was awarded in the form of scholarships to students from CEN, the Groupe de recherche sur les environnements nordiques BORÉAS, and the Canadian Circumpolar Institute. EnviroNorth will distribute close to \$1.5 million in fellowships by 2016, in programs aimed at trainees from the Bachelor to the postdoctoral level. The next deadline is 1st November 2011. Further Information: <http://www.environord-environorth.ca>.



CENTRE D'ÉTUDES NORDIQUES
CEN Centre for Northern Studies

SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT



CEN professor and biologist Joël Bêty (UQAR) was named Scientist of the Year 2010 by Radio-Canada "for the remarkable demonstration of the survival instinct that drives birds in their migrations." La Presse and Radio-Canada named him Personality of the Week last February.

This avalanche of honors follows the publication, in January 2010, of a scientific paper in the journal Science on northward bird migration, in collaboration with CEN PhD student, Laura McKinnon. Identified by the newspaper Le Soleil as one of the scientific breakthroughs of 2010 and by Québec-Science as one of 10 discoveries of the year, this article is an outstanding example of scientific curiosity. To test the hypothesis that "migratory birds nest in the North to reduce predation pressure on nests", Bêty and his team monitored survival to predators of 8 000 quail eggs deposited in 1555 artificial nests, from James Bay to Ellesmere Island.

A member of CEN since 2004, Joël Bêty coordinates CEN's UQAR pole and is principal investigator of the Canada research chair in conservation of northern ecosystems.

Réf. McKinnon, L., et al, 2010, Lower Predation Risk for Migratory Birds at High Latitudes, Science: Vol. 327. no. 5963, pp. 326 – 327.

DID YOU KNOW...

CEN's first research vessel, the Louis-Edmond Hamelin will be launched this summer. Funded by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, the boat is a 26 foot Silver Dolphin design, with a stand up cabin. It will be fully outfitted with geophysical survey equipment. The Louis-Edmond Hamelin will serve to collect physical, chemical and biological data, which will bring new insights on northern waters, from Hudson Bay to the St-Lawrence.

NORTHERN RESEARCH - DOCUMENTING COASTAL EROSION

CEN professor Pascal Bernatchez (UQAR) holds the [Research Chair in Coastal Geoscience](#), which focuses on improving our understanding of the impacts of erosion along Quebec's coasts and on recommending solutions for existing problems. Dr Bernatchez administers a vast environmental monitoring network along a 4000 km stretch of coastline. Since the devastating storms of December 2010, the Chair team has been working intensively to assess the damages and conditions that led to such serious impacts. The chair program includes 15 professionals and 11 students that collaborate closely at acquiring knowledge on coastal erosion and coastal flooding, evaluating recent, present and future impacts of georisks on coastal communities and developing proactive coastal zone adaptive strategies.



Dr. Bernatchez is currently recuperating from a serious helicopter accident that occurred while he was flying over the south shore of the St-Lawrence estuary to assess the damage caused by the tides of 6 December. He intends to gradually return to work this summer, and he conveys his thanks to everyone for the many words of encouragement that he received. [Read more »](#)

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COMMUNICATING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES



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Members of CEN at Universit  Laval and UQAR hosted a workshop for 13 students of the Environmental Technology program of the Nunavut Arctic College in Pond Inlet, Nunavut, on 8-9 avril 2011. Accompanied by an Elder from the community and 2 instructors, they attended a series of lectures by CEN and ArcticNet researchers and graduate students on their arctic research and the state-of-the-art methods that they use to collect data. Time was devoted to discussions and exchanges with the students in order to better understand the perspective of native People on scientific research.

For more than 2 decades, researchers from CEN have been studying the local wildlife and environment at the Bylot Island field station located in Sirmilik National Park, near Pond Inlet. During this period, they established close ties with people from this community, who have a vested interest in the research that takes place in their own backyard. Elders and Aboriginal succession

now want to better understand the perspective of southern Canadians on the North and northern issues, how resource management decisions are made and research agendas are set - all of which impact on the lives of northerners.

[Read more »](#)

STUDENT'S REPS

Distinguished colleagues,

We would first like to welcome all new CEN members. We already had the pleasure of meeting some of you at the last spring meeting held in La Pocati re. We can still recall the windy day and the epic game of P tanque, where prestigious trophies were won (see photos).

We remind you that various scholarships and awards are available for CEN students, whether for the publication of manuscripts, presentations at conferences, exchange programs, etc. Since 2008, we have distributed a total of \$ 43 000. To access the different forms or simply to learn about eligibility requirements, visit our new web page "Nouvelles  tudiantes" accessible from the CEN homepage (menu on the right hand side) at www.cen.ulaval.ca; www.cen.uqar.ca.

Finally, we would like to inform you that the mandate of CEN's Students Representative Council draws to an end next fall (September 2011). Elections will be held in September to form a new team of four "committed" students. If you are interested in joining, feel free to send us an e-mail. For details, visit our webpage regularly and watch your email.

So please accept our spring greetings,
Your "Devoted Student Committee TM"
Tania Giberyen (UL-Geo), Pascale Ropars (UL-Bio), Yanick Gendreau (UQAR) and Frederic Bouchard (INRS-ETE)

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