

## CEN'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE

A vessel becomes the 10th research station of the CEN network!

On August 2, 2011, CEN inaugurated the 10<sup>th</sup> research station of its network: a mobile and floating station! CEN's first research vessel was baptized the Louis-Edmond-Hamelin in honor of the founding father of CEN and is already proud of its first discovery, which attracted the attention of the media.

To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CEN, a "nordicity" day was held at INRS-ETE on September 1st. Three guest speakers were invited: Louis-Edmond Hamelin, geographer, writer and founder of CEN, Carole Lévesque, professor at INRS-UCS and Yves Gratton, professor at INRS-ETE.



Photo credits: Geneviève Allard

The exhibit "CEN's 50 years of achievement" is now installed in the mezzanine overlooking the Atrium of the University of Québec at Rimouski (UQAR) from September 10 to October 10. CEN students studying at UQAR, presented an overview of the efforts they invest to study the North during the "northern evening" presented on September 28, at Le Barometre, UQAR. The exhibition will move to its final destination, the CEN SAON Community Science Center, located at the Whapmagoostui-Kuujuaraapik research station, at the end of 2011.

The Montreal daily newspaper Le Devoir published last August 6th, a special section marking the 50th anniversary of CEN. This section looks at the achievements of CEN since it was founded at Laval University on August 2nd, 1961.

## NORTHERN RESEARCH

Two important announcements for CEN researchers! Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) announced on September 9, the allocation of \$ 4 million over four years to fund a major research program on permafrost. The objectives of this Canada-wide initiative entitled: Arctic Development and Adaptation to Permafrost in Transition (ADAPT), are to identify the impacts of rapid environmental changes underway in the North caused by thawing of permafrost and to collect the information required to develop an adaptation strategy. ADAPT is led by the Director of CEN, Warwick Vincent. 8 of the 15 PIs are members of CEN.



A second major support to Northern studies comes through the renewal of ArcticNet's funding. ArcticNet, a Network of Centers of Excellence of Canada will receive \$67.3 million funding over a seven-year period to pursue research on the impacts of climate change and globalization in the coastal Canadian Arctic. Many CEN members are strongly involved in ArcticNet activities, including the management and development of the Polar Data Catalogue ([www.polardata.ca](http://www.polardata.ca)).

## SCIENCE NEWS: ARCTIC METALS PROJECT SOON TO BE LAUNCHED



Photo credits: Jean Carignan

"Arctic Metals", should be formally launched in January 2012. This project coordinated by Jean Carignan and involving other CEN researchers Reinhard Pienitz, Warwick Vincent and Isabelle Laurion aims to develop tools to identify metal sources, mobility and reactivity in remote areas of the Arctic and Subarctic. It also aims to determine the bioavailability of metals for vegetation, wildlife and peoples of the North. The project will train CEN students and postdoctoral fellows. A website in English, French and Inuktitut will make available the data and results of "Arctic Metals," for the people of the North, the general public and government managers.

## SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT



Photo credits: W. Garfield Weston Foundation

Congratulations to Serge Payette, who was awarded the inaugural Weston Family Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Northern Research. Professor Payette's career (biology, ULAVAL), which spans five decades, sets him apart not only based on the quality of his research on cold ecosystems, but also by his implication in the academic community (he completed two appointments as CEN director) and by his passion for teaching. Over the years, he has passed on this passion for the North to numerous graduate students, among which many have joined the ranks of CEN's regular members (researchers). Well done for this exciting recognition!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The **31st Annual meeting of the Centre for Northern Studies (CEN)**, will be held at the University of Québec at Rimouski (UQAR) **February 10, 2012**. More details will be available around December, so please check your email.

Members of the Canada Research Chair in Conservation of Northern Ecosystems and Centre for Northern Studies (UQAR) met with the Governor General of Canada, David Lloyd Johnston, during his visit to University of Québec Rimouski on September 22. The Chair is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. Its members presented Mr. Johnston with the first edition of the book *Uuma* (meaning "life" in Inuktitut).

## READ MORE CEN NEWS

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- [Joel Bêty newly admitted to the Circle of Excellence of University of Quebec »](#)
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- [Serge Payette is recipient of the Weston Family Prize »](#)
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## STUDENT.REPS

Hello everyone and a special hello to our new members!

Once again, your Devoted Student Committee TM (DSC) is happy to represent you this year! What are the duties of CEN student representatives? In addition to managing the student awards, the committee participates in the organization of the symposium, sits on the steering committee, etc.. The committee also performs other important tasks (bowling, curling, hockey, etc..).

This year, there is a new procedure to apply for the awards program and scholarships. From now on you can apply online using your intranet code. If you don't yet have an intranet code, simply contact Nathalie Racine ([Nathalie.Racine@cen.ulaval.ca](mailto:Nathalie.Racine@cen.ulaval.ca)). For more information, see the "Students" section on CEN's website [www.cen.ulaval.ca](http://www.cen.ulaval.ca).

As announced, we will renew the composition of the student committee later this year. The elections will take place at the annual symposium of CEN, to be held this year in Rimouski. We will hold an Annual General Meeting of the DSC to elect the student candidates.

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

## ENVIRONORTH.SCHOLARSHIPS : APPLICATION DEADLINE NOVEMBER 15!

This autumn, be part of the EnviroNorth grantees! The NSERC CREATE Training Program in Northern Environmental Sciences offers in November scholarships for research, mobility, communication, internships and for the first time for online courses and thematic workshops. Last year nearly \$175,000 were awarded as scholarships to more than 50 students from Centre for Northern Studies, Groupe de recherche sur les environnements nordiques BORÉAS, and Canadian Circumpolar Institute. This year, nearly \$300,000 are available to undergraduate, graduate students and trainees! For info: [www.environord-environorth.ca](http://www.environord-environorth.ca).

### Sandra Lai and Isabel Lemus-Lauzon meet with local communities

With the help of ENVIRONORD scholarships "Communication with local communities" (\$2,000), CEN students Sandra Lai and Isabel Lemus-Lauzon presented their doctoral work in northern communities.

Sandra set up a science booth with Nicolas Trudel in the lobby of the Pond Inlet CO-OP (Nunavut). They aimed to present to the community the diversity of ecological research taking place on Bylot Island. "We were able to interact with community members on topics such as wildlife and hunting, demonstrate our method and demystify the work of researchers."



Photo credits : Sandra Lai

Isabel held a talking circle to discuss her project "Environmental and cultural change at Nain: Implications for the forest and wood use?" with members of the community of Nain (Nunatsiavut). "It allowed me to contextualize the results, in addition to providing a local input for research."



Photo credits: Isabel Lemus-L.

## CEN RESEARCH STATION

It was a busy and diverse summer at the Whapmagoostui-Kuujuaraapik research station, the flagship of the CEN-Quajisarvik Network:



Photo credits: Stéphane Boudreau

**Restoration:** Stéphane Boudreau's team (CEN UL) started the revegetation of the land on which the station sits. Congratulations to Estelle Vaudry (Master trainee) for her excellent work!

**Biology (oceanography):** a team from Fisheries and Oceans Canada led by Jean-François Gosselin, conducted an aerial inventory of seals in Hudson Bay.

**Limnology:** France Dufresne (CEN UQAR) and her team devoted their attention to freshwater micro crustaceans (*Daphnia pulex*) in the ponds surrounding the station. Warwick Vincent (CEN UL) and his team also studied several lakes and rivers.

**Paleolimnology and geochemistry:** Reinhard Pienitz and Jean Carignan cored thermokarst lakes as the Arctic Metals project got underway (see p.1). They were accompanied by Marie-Pier Denis, a Master's student supervised by Stéphane Boudreau, who was collecting sediments in order to study their pollen content.

**Seismology:** a new instrument to monitor seismic activity in the region was installed at the station by Natural Resources Canada

**Hydrogeology and geophysics:** Richard Fortier (CEN UL) and his team, together with the Ministère du Développement durable, de l'environnement et des parcs du Québec (MDDEP) began the deployment of the Immatsiak Network of surveillance of underground waters of Nunavik, which includes geophysical investigations on the south shore of the Great Whale River and the measurement of water levels in wells between Whapmagoostui-Kuujuaraapik and Umiujaq.

**Cultural geography:** Fabienne Joliet, a researcher from Angers (France), worked at the station on a project supported by the French Polar Institute (IPEV), concerned with the visual analysis of landscapes and their cultural significance

Other notable activities at the station over the summer included two university field courses (UQAMNord and a course given by Serge Payette: Dynamique des écosystèmes terrestres), as well as work on a documentary film (a collaboration between the directors Zacharias Kunuk and Neil Young) about a confrontation between Inuit and Cree which took place in the 1700s at the mouth of the Nastapoka River.

## 5 NEW RESEARCHERS JOIN CEN

Five (5) new researchers join CEN! [Jean Carignan](#) (Takuvik Assistant Director, UMI, ULaval), [François Vézina](#) (biologist, UQAR) and [Martin-Hugues St-Laurent](#) (biologist, UQAR) are regular CEN members since April 29, 2011. [Martin Simard](#) (geographer, U. Laval) and [Simon Bélanger](#) (geographer, UQAR) are associate CEN members. Visit their web pages on CEN's website!

