

OPENING CELEBRATION OF CEN WHAPMAGOOSTUI-KUUJJUARAPIK COMMUNITY SCIENCE CENTRE

The CEN Whapmagoostui-Kuujuarapik Community Science Centre was officially opened on June 14, 2012.

The Whapmagoostui-Kuujuarapik research complex is the Centre d'études nordiques' (Centre for Northern Studies - CEN) principal field station and has operated since the 1970s, with diverse research projects on past and present environments. In 2010, major upgrades to the station were undertaken thanks to a grant from the AANDC (Arctic Research Infrastructure Fund- ARIF), consisting of the construction of this state-of-art Community Science Centre to serve the needs of the circumpolar science community for research planning, information exchange, national research workshops and coordination of field operations, and the local communities for information exchange, identification of northern research needs, science training of northerners, exchange of traditional knowledge, and outreach activities.

The community leaders of Whapmagoostui and Kuujuarapik were guests of honour at the inauguration, and the ceremony allowed us to christen this important new resource for CEN in the multiple languages of subarctic Québec. After the opening speech by CEN's scientific director, Warwick Vincent, there were talks from key CEN partners and collaborators, beginning with Chief Stanley George of the Cree First Nation and Mayor Rhoda Angutiguluk of the Inuit municipality. In addition to representatives from Université Laval and CEN, including vice-rector Paul Fortier, director Najat Bhiry, science coordinator Christine Barnard, station manager Claude Tremblay and CEN students, almost the full board of directors from the Network of Centres of Excellence ArcticNet was present, including Mr Duane Smith (President, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada) and Dr. Barry Ford, representative of the Nunavik Research Centre (Makivik). Chief George 's words on the value of this learning centre to the youth of Eeyou Istchee (the Cree people), and the importance of our teepee symbol (meaning Watchiya! Welcome to this place of warmth and food) were especially moving.

The new CEN Community Science Centre includes a permanent display-outreach-teaching component (with all material in the four languages of subarctic Québec) and a conference room seating 50 people, equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual and internet support. The station can accommodate up to 34 people at any given time. Students are lodged in dormitories and researchers in more private quarters. There is a greenhouse (built in 2011), a kitchen (with a cook from May to August), two garages with storage space, access to land vehicles and boats, as well as other field equipment.

An overview of past studies in this region is given in: Bhiry, N., Delwaide, A., Allard, M., Bégin, Y., Filion, L., Lavoie, M., Nozais, C., Payette, S., Pienitz, R., Saulnier-Talbot, E., Vincent, W.F. 2011. Environmental change in the Great Whale River region, Hudson Bay: Five decades of multidisciplinary research by CEN. *Ecoscience* 18: 182-203.



INTERACT NORTHERN COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH



With the support of the first CEN grant attributed to INTERACT (International network of terrestrial research stations (<http://www.eu-interact.org>) to conduct research at one of our research stations, Russian researchers Trofim Maximov and Ayal Maksimov were able to pursue their project entitled "Changing Permafrost in the High Latitude And Its Global Effects" (PHLAG) at the Whapmagoostui-Kuujuarapik research station from June 17-27, 2012. During their stay at the station, the researchers documented the photosynthesis

of larch trees (*Larix laricina*) and estimated CO₂ soil emissions from natural stands of larch with the aim of comparing these with those from the Yakutian Boreal *Larix cajanderi* forest ecosystem. They also sought to learn from CEN's experience in research planning and coordination, in science training of northerners and in traditional knowledge. On their blog, "A Siberian scientific team in Northern Canada! - Part I and II", the scientists from the IBPC (Institute for Biological Problems of Cryolithozone of Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences), mention the establishment of their laboratory consisting of three scientific stations in taiga and tundra zones of the Yakutia. They also note their ongoing partnerships with scientists from several countries, including Canada since this INTERACT/CEN grant.

Read more: « [A Siberian scientific team in Northern Canada! - Part I and II](#) »

In 2009, CEN joined efforts with, and added its infrastructures to, the INTERACT network of circumarctic terrestrial research stations.

In July, the INTERACT project was identified as a "success story" by the European Union for the major role it plays in documenting environmental changes and facilitating their prediction.

The core goals of INTERACT are to provide a platform of expertise and exchange for the management and administration of northern research stations, to promote the interoperability of environmental monitoring and the implementation of research technologies adapted to the extreme weather conditions of the north and to offer opportunities to conduct research at INTERACT's facilities.

See the complete [catalogue of research stations INTERACT](#) >>



A WORD FROM YOUR STUDENT REPS

Dear student colleagues,

Even though the 2012-2013 school year has already begun, we want to wish you all a great year as part of the CEN family, especially to those who have recently joined us! We also wish to congratulate all of the students who received a bursary from the CEN student bursary program. Up to now, 60 bursaries have been attributed, totalling 21 650\$. We encourage you to continue taking advantage of these bursaries that underscore your great work (publications, presentations, length of studies, internships). Please note that a new bursary is now available when you obtain your degree. For more information on these bursaries that encourage academic excellence, please consult the CEN website (www.cen.ulaval.ca) and click on the Students tab, then Bursaries, or email us at etudiants@cen.ulaval.ca.

We would like to take advantage of this opportunity to also inform you that our annual CEN Christmas party will be held on Friday, November 30th. Check your emails for more details! If you would like to give us a hand in organizing this event, please let us know by email.

Have a great fall semester and we look forward to seeing you all soon!

Your Devoted Student Reps : Valérie Mathon-Dufour (Géo-ULaval), Pascale Ropars (Bio-ULaval), Rémi Lesmerises (UQAR), Yannick Duguay (INRS) and Michel Paquette (Secteur Sud-Ouest)

A NEW GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR CEN

Members of the CEN welcome the appointment of Najat Bhiry as Director of CEN. Mrs. Bhiry held the position of interim Director last spring during the sabbatical leave of then Director Warwick Vincent. CEN Director Najat Bhiry will fulfill the specific tasks of internal regency, development and promotion of CEN with university authorities, ensure good relations with northern research and encourage collaborative research. Mr. Vincent will continue to work on the development of CEN scientific activities, as Scientific Director whose duties are to stimulate and develop CEN scientific activities, to contribute to major grant applications and to ensure CEN representation within Canada and abroad. CEN co-director Monique Bernier has also seen her status changed. She now occupies the functions of Assistant Director alongside her counterpart Joel Bêty from UQAR. This change of governance structure aims to meet the constant growth of CEN activities and to increase our ability to quickly grasp research and funding opportunities that arise.



This new structure was accepted by the CRUL (Commission de la Recherche de l'Université Laval) and FRQNT during the renewal and mid-term evaluation, respectively. CEN wishes to thank all of its members for their contribution in the drafting of these reports, submitted to FRQNT and CRUL in late September.



It is with great sadness that we report that our friend and colleague, Jean Carignan, passed away on October 12, 2012 at the Maison Michel Sarrazin. Since January 2011, he was the Co-Director of the International Joint Research Laboratory Takuvik. Leading expert in isotope geochemistry, he was also an associate professor in the Department of Chemistry at Université Laval. For those of us who had the honour of knowing him, we will cherish the memory of a caring and sincere man who was passionate about his family and his work.

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP IN ICELAND

With a scholarship from the international internship program offered by the FRQNT, CEN PhD candidate Natasha Roy under the direction of Najat Bhiry and James Woollett, worked two months in Iceland to expand her knowledge of environmental archeology of northeastern Iceland. The student initially spent three weeks at the archaeological site of the Hljámsvik farm along the Þistilfjörður Fjord, where she joined a team of archaeologists supervised by Stefán Ólafsson, from the Institute of Archaeology of Iceland, and Céline Dupont-Hébert, from *Groupe de l'Archéométrie* of Laval University. The results of these studies, published in the journal *Archaeology*, show that a flexible economy has allowed Icelanders to adapt to changing climatic conditions over time. The student then participated in the field program in North Atlantic Archaeology organized by the North Atlantic Biocultural Organization (NABO) under the direction of Dr. Karen Milek, University of Aberdeen. This course was both practical (excavations and daily excursions) and theoretical, thus allowing her to learn about Icelandic lifestyles over the last millennium and about the glacial history of the northern hemisphere. During her internship, Natasha also conducted a literature review on the history of Iceland, accomplished much networking in her field of study, and presented the CEN to her Icelandic colleagues.

A call for [FRQNT International internship scholarships](#) is now open for those who would like to complete a 2 to 10 month internship abroad. The scholarship is worth up to \$ 15 000 or the equivalent of \$2 500 month in travelling and living expenses. To be eligible, the applicant must begin the internship before March 31st, 2013, must be a M.Sc. or Ph.D. student and a CEN member, and must meet all FRQNT criteria. Candidates are encouraged to read the rules and send their form to Christine Barnard (Christine.Barnard@cen.ulaval.ca).

MORE NEWS

Use the following hyperlinks to read more CEN news.

[Martin-Hugues St-Laurent is Awarded the Title of "Star Researcher" »](#)

[International Innovation Interested in Dominique Berteaux's work »](#)

[Field Classes in Northern Quebec »](#)

[LECO Elemental analyser, a new acquisition for CEN's Radiochronology Lab »](#)

[Hugo Asselin Writes an article on the exclusion of two First Nations from the Plan Nord »](#)

[Northern Science Award »](#)

[The impacts of the extension of Highway 167 and wood harvesting on woodland caribou addressed by CEN researcher »](#)

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