



NRES WEEKLY NEWS

Nov. 1 - 5, 2010

A newsletter for faculty, staff and students
who participate in the
Natural Resources & Environmental Studies Institute
and NRES Graduate Programs

COMING EVENTS

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

This Friday

Dr. Steve Helle

Environmental Science Program, UNBC

Bioenergy for a Green University



As part of UNBC's bioenergy plans, a pellet system has been installed to provide heat to the I.K. Barber Enhanced Forestry Laboratory (EFL) and a biomass gasifier is being installed to provide heat to the main campus. The 400 KW pellet system has been in operation for over a year and is capable of supplying 100% of the EFL heat demand. The 4.4 MW biomass gasifier is designed to reduce natural gas consumption for campus heating by 80% and is scheduled to be in operation at the end of the year. Based on operational data from the pellet system, and technical specifications for the biomass gasifier, these systems will be discussed with respect to greenhouse gas emission reductions and air pollution emissions compared to the previous natural gas heating systems. To place these systems into context, an overview of bioenergy systems in general and in BC will be presented.

October 29, 2010

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-150

in Two Weeks

Mark Fercho

Manager of Sustainability, City of Prince George

Community Sustainability in Plain Language



Sustainability. A well used but not well understood term. What does it mean, and what does it mean for a community? The City of Prince George and UNBC have partnered to work with many community organizations and residents to develop the sustainability plan "my PG" for Prince George. This discussion will provide you with a clear understanding of what sustainability means for a community, and the challenges ahead for implementation in Prince George. The discussion will be in practical terms, with the local community as real life example.

*UNBC students were hired on the myPG team and were key to the plan development.
There may be student opportunities for implementation in the year ahead.*



November 12, 2010

3:30 - 4:30 pm

Lecture Theatre 7-150

For Elluminate information and link to the webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html
For a list of upcoming seminars: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres/seminar/>

OTHER COMING EVENTS

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2010 COAST to COAST Canadian Seminar Series: The Marine Environment and Climate Change: Problems and Possible Solutions

November 2 — 11:30-12:20

A Sea of Change

Marlon Lewis, Dalhousie University, Department of Oceanography

UNBC will be receiving each seminar in high definition video in the Access Grid collaboration node room in Admin 2024.

The world's oceans are undergoing alterations not seen in hundreds of thousands of years. The surface ocean is warmer, more acidic and deeper reaches are increasingly deoxygenated. New evidence now indicates that the oceans have lost a significant portion of their phytoplankton over the last 50 years — the base of the marine food chain — and as well appear to support only 10% of the large predators active prior to the industrial age. These are not isolated changes, and appear to have some — albeit complex — common causes. This talk will focus on the scientific evidence to date, with a view towards what the future might bring.

<http://c2c.irmacs.sfu.ca/>

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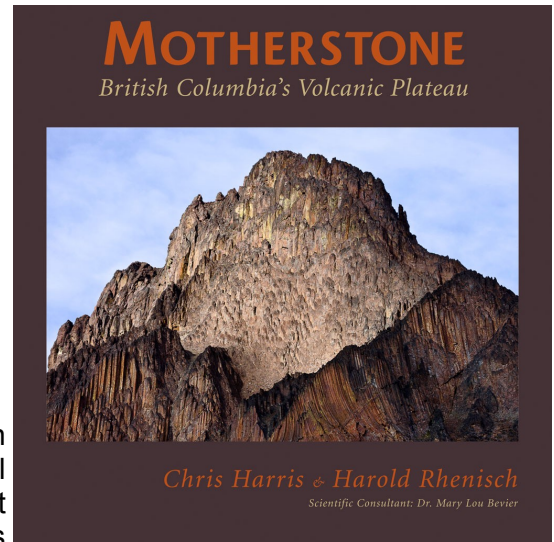
Chris Harris — BC's Volcanic Plateau

BC photographer and author Chris Harris presents his new book, **Motherstone: British Columbia's Volcanic Plateau** on Wednesday, **November 3rd**, at **7:30 pm** in the **Canfor Theatre** at UNBC.

Tickets are available at Books & Co.
\$10 in advance or \$12 at the door
The event is **sponsored** by the

Prince George Photographic Society.

Chris Harris, acknowledged as one of Canada's most respected photographers, presents a stunning volcanic topography unknown and unseen by most British Columbians. Chris will share his visual journey of discovery with behind-the-image stories of adventure. It is with a sense of reverence that Chris presents these images. His hope is to bring conscious awareness to the imperative need to protect British Columbia's biodiversity and natural beauty.



Copies of both the limited numbered hardcover edition and the softcover edition will be available.

For information, phone 250-562-3717 or email pgphotoclubnews@uniserve.com. Check out Chris Harris' website at: <http://www.chrisharris.com>.

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THESIS DEFENCE

Congratulations to Ms. Erin O'Brien on the successful defence of her PhD (Natural Resources and Environmental Studies) thesis:

"Individual Variation and Environmental Context in Avian Life-History Evolution: an Experimental Approach using Mountain Bluebirds (*Sialia Currucoides*).

Supervisor: Dr. **Russ Dawson**

(<https://cms.unbc.ca/assets/nres/defences/obrien101026.pdf>)

We're on the web at : www.unbc.ca/nres/newsletter

PUBLICATIONS

Brahney J., Clague J., Edwards T., and **B. Menounos** (2010) "Late Holocene paleohydrology of Kluane Lake, Yukon Territory, Canada". *Journal of Paleolimnology* 44(3) 873-885

TRAVEL / CONFERENCES / FIELD WORK

Titi Kunkel (NRES PhD candidate, supervisors: Bob Ellis, **Ellen Petticrew**) along with the Fraser Basin Council organized and hosted 43 people at a Cariboo-Chilcotin First Nations Energy Forum in Williams Lake on Oct 25th. Council members, community members, economic development officers and Chiefs representing 13 Cariboo-Chilcotin bands and two tribal councils participated in the presentation and discussion of approaches to alternate energies.

Pat Maher and **Pam Wright** attended the Annual International Conference for North American Mobility and Higher Education 24-26 October in Minneapolis, MN.

REMINDER: Share your information about recent publications, grants, and/or other honours you may have received with others interested in NRES issues.

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO MICHELLE KEEN: keenm@unbc.ca