



NRESi WEEKLY NEWS

September 2 - 5, 2014

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

NRESi NOTES

FROM THE DIRECTOR & RESEARCH MANAGER

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the new school year!

We started it on a high note, with the successful UNBC 25th anniversary kick-off on Tuesday! NRESi participated in the event through its organizing of the ceremonial tree, as well as planting more than 100 seedlings on campus as a part of our bigger planting project honouring UNBC's 16,000 petition signers (to take place next spring). Big thanks to all of the volunteers who helped, I couldn't have done it without you! Have a look at some of the photos from the day, through this [link](#). We had a lot of fun! If you are on Facebook, while you're there 'Like' us to stay updated on all the latest NRESi news, events and announcements! You can find our page [here](#).



The UNBC community gathering for the official 25th Anniversary Kick-Off (Photo: L. Elliott)

We are excited for our upcoming colloquium series, starting on Friday, September 12th. It will be held at the usual time, 3:30pm-4:30pm. Please note: our room has changed to the Weldwood Theatre (7-238). We will be continuing to webcast the presentation, as well as archiving the videos to our website. To find links to stream in the presentation, click [here](#). The video archives will be posted [here](#). The schedule for the semester will be posted on NRESi's website in the next few days.

It is with great sadness that I share the news of Susan Stevenson's passing on August 29th. She was a long-time supporter and adjunct professor at UNBC, as well as an NRESi member who will be deeply missed. Darwyn has put together a summary of her accomplishments and some memories, found on page 2.



With the start of the new school year, we also welcome our new NRES graduate students to UNBC. As in the past, NRESi has partnered with the NRES Graduate Committee to put together the Graduate Student Icebreaker. This year it will

A selfie of the happy NRESi volunteers after they planted more than 100 seedlings on the PG campus, as part of UNBC's 25th anniversary kick-off activities (Photo: L. Elliott)

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

PLEASE EMAIL ALL INFORMATION AND MATERIAL TO: leanne.elliott@unbc.ca

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

be on Friday, September 26th. We will be welcoming Dr. Connie Nelson from Lakehead University for a guest lecture, as nominated and voted by on by last year's NRES students. Everyone is invited to attend the presentation and then join us for a NRES grad student poster session and reception to follow. I hope you will plan to attend to meet our new and returning NRES grad students!

As a final note, we are excited to announce a new NRESi Research Extension Note, led by one of our NRES Masters students. Congratulations to Krista Sittler on your accomplishment! The listing can be found in the Publications section of the newsletter or found by clicking [here](#).

Have a great week!

Leanne Elliott
NRESi Research Manager



UNBC's 25th anniversary ceremonial tree was planted with help from representatives of UNBC's past, present and future. Art Fredeen represented NRESi (Photo: L. Elliott)

REMEMBERING SUSAN STEVENSON



We are saddened by the recent death of Susan Stevenson (1948-2014), a long serving adjunct faculty member (since 2000) at UNBC in the Ecosystems Science and Management program. As an independent consulting biologist in the community of Prince George, Susan played an instrumental role in bringing together faculty, students, industry, and other community partners in joint research and education projects. She has served as a member on many graduate student advisory committees, taught in a variety of UNBC courses, and was the recent co-author with other UNBC Faculty and government scientists of the UBC Press book *British Columbia's Inland Rainforest - Ecology, Conservation, and Management*. Her work with the B.C. Association of Professional Biologists played an important role in developing standards of professional practice and introducing students to career possibilities. Typical of Susan, while still working on research papers and planning her garden and home with her husband David, she faced her illness with grace, dignity and even humour at times. Susan always had time for members of the UNBC community and her absence will be keenly felt.

- Darwyn Coxson

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COMING EVENTS

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Dr. Tyler McCreary

Post-doctoral Research Fellow
Geography Department, University of British Columbia



Placing the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project in the Context of Witsuwit'en Traditional Jurisdiction

The opposition of the Witsuwit'en to the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Project represents the most recent episode in their struggle for recognition of their relationship to their traditional lands. In the joint review process, there was token recognition of Witsuwit'en concerns, but the review panel left unaddressed the Witsuwit'en assertions that they have a right to determine the course of development on their traditional territories. These residual claims, existing outside the scope of Canadian regulatory consideration, continue to challenge the limitations of the frames of state recognition. Claiming a right to free, prior and informed consent prior to development on their lands, Witsuwit'en peoples trouble the state's assumed right to unilaterally decide the course of development, and assert that Aboriginal peoples must play a key role in determining the shape of policy around resource extraction, energy exports, and the environment.

Friday, SEPT 12th, 2014

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

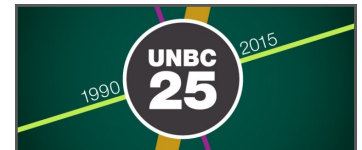
Room: Weldwood Theatre (7-238)

Link to live webcast: http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html

UPCOMING NRESi EVENTS

UNBC 25th ANNIVERSARY

NRESi Anniversary Panel Discussion



NRESi will take an opportunity during one of its weekly colloquium sessions to conduct a special 25th anniversary panel discussion. This event will allow time for reflection from faculty, staff and students on the history and successes of NRESi, as well as create a dialogue regarding opportunities for the future.

Friday, SEPT 19th, 2014

3:30pm - 4:30pm

**Location: Weldwood Theatre
& Webcast**

RECEPTION to FOLLOW

COMING EVENTS

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

NRESi Graduate Student Icebreaker & Poster Session

Working with the NRES Graduate Committee, NRESi is co-organizing a special event to welcome new and returning graduate students. A special lecture during NRESi's colloquium timeslot will be presented by Dr. Connie Nelson, Lakehead University, as nominated by NRES graduate students. Following the lecture, there will be a poster session by returning NRES graduate students and reception for participants. All are welcome!

Friday, SEPT 26th, 2014

3:30pm - 4:30pm

**Lecture: 8-164 & Webcast
Poster Session & Reception: T&L Atrium**

RECEPTION to FOLLOW

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Eric Peterson

President, Hakai Beach Institute

Technology Fuels Our Coastal Ecological Research

The Hakai Beach Institute (www.hakai.org) is an off-grid science station on Calvert Island on the BC Central Coast, halfway between Port Hardy and Bella Bella (about 438 km SW of Prince George as the crow flies).

Hakai President Eric Peterson will talk about how advanced engineering and information technology support Hakai's long term ecological research programs. Everything from satellite imaging, to LiDAR, to sensor networks and telemetry, to cabled underwater observatories, to mobile apps for field data collection, to data management and GIS, to modeling and visualization.

Hakai works in partnership with governments, First Nations and the BC universities, including UNBC of course. Students with an aptitude for IT, an interest in ecology and outdoor skills should be alert to career opportunities in this field.

Tues, SEPT 16th, 2014

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Location: 5-172

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

UNBC faculty, staff and students associated with the Quesnel River Research Centre (QRRC) in Likely and the main campus in Prince George (including Phil Owens, Ellen Petticrew, Sam Albers, Lito Arocena and Brian Menounos) are actively involved in research to understand the immediate and longer term environmental and ecological implications of August's Mount Polley mine tailings pond failure. They are collecting water, sediment, and biological samples from the Quesnel watershed and looking at the movement of water and sediment plumes in Hazeltine Creek and Quesnel Lake. They are working with several other organizations, including universities, research institutes, and First Nations. They will present preliminary findings at the annual QRRC open house on Saturday, October 4th.

TRAVEL & CONFERENCES

Phil Burton participated in a conference on "Forest Landscape Mosaics: Disturbance, Restoration and Management at Times of Global Change" held in Tartu, Estonia, August 11th-14th. In addition to chairing a session on Primeval Forests and Natural Processes, he gave a talk on "Using polar ordination to evaluate ecosystem recovery and restoration progress" and co-authored a poster with Carla Burton on "Devil's club (*Oplonanax horridus*) can recover after clearcut logging."

Roger Wheate was one of only three Canadians who attended the Google Geo for Higher Education Summit 2014 workshop August 11-13, at Google campus, Mountain View, California.

Google campus, Mountain View, California

Photo: R. Wheate



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IN THE NEWS

Brian Menounos has been in the news talking about the receding Decker glacier:

- [CBC Article](#)
- [CBC Radio Interview](#) (See Part 2)

Todd Whitcombe contributed an article to the PG Citizen, showcasing the value and impact UNBC grads are having on northern BC and beyond. Check it out [here](#).

UNBC 25th Anniversary coverage, spotlighting the important role of UNBC's 16,000 petition signers. NRESi will be honouring their contributions next spring with our seedling planting project. Check out the video [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

García, O. "Can plasticity make spatial structure irrelevant in individual-tree models?". *Forest Ecosystems* 2014, 1:16.

Smith TA, **Owens PN** (2014). Flume- and field-based evaluation of a time-integrated suspended sediment sampler for the analysis of sediment properties. *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*, **39**, 1197-1207.

Smith, T.A., **Owens P.N.** (2014). Individual and cumulative effects of agriculture, forestry and metal mining activities on the metal and phosphorus content of fine-grained sediment; Quesnel River basin, British Columbia, Canada. *The Science of the Total Environment*, **496**, 435-442.

Sittler, K.L., Parker, K.L., Gillingham, M.P., Wheate, R.D. & Heard, D.C. 2014. Burning for northern mountain ungulates: effects of prescribed fire. Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute. Research Extension Note No. 9, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, B.C., Canada.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Get connected! NRESi now has both Facebook and Twitter, to keep you fully in the know of any news, events or announcements. Like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) by clicking on the links!

UPCOMING NRESi PROJECTS

[NRESi's Legacy Planting Project](#)

UNBC 25th ANNIVERSARY



In honour of the 16,000 UNBC petition signers in northern British Columbia communities and beyond who showed their support of establishing UNBC, NRESi will be planting 16,000 trees to recognize their contributions. The trees will also be registered as a carbon capture and offset initiative, anticipated to sequester up to 7,000 tonnes of carbon over the next 100 years. In addition, NRESi is working with UNBC campuses and properties to plant ceremonial trees. This will also provide a lasting legacy of this important milestone and a reminder of the communities' role in making the vision of a northern university in BC a reality.

SPRING 2015

Location: Across UNBC Campuses & Properties

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REGIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY



FISH AND WILDLIFE
COMPENSATION PROGRAM

APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM THE FISH & WILDLIFE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program – Peace will accept funding applications this fall for fish and wildlife projects to be delivered in the region in 2015.

- A completed Notice of Intent form must be submitted by October 10, 2014. This will help make sure your project idea aligns with our Action Plans and enables early engagement of First Nations.
- Funding Applications must be submitted by November 21, 2014. Application forms, and the Notice of Intent form, will be online by Sept. 1, 2014.
- Read our Action Plans for lakes, reservoirs, streams, uplands, riparian areas/wetlands and species of interest. Learn more at www.fwcp.ca.

If you have project ideas or questions, please contact Dan Bouillon, Program Manager at dan.bouillon@bchydro.com or 250 783 7509.

The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., First Nations, and the public, to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by the construction of BC Hydro dams.

In partnership with:



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS & STORIES

Do you have a favourite photo, story or update from your research that you would like to share with your fellow members and the broader NRESi community in the newsletter? Send them to Leanne to include in an upcoming edition!

COLLOQUIUM ARCHIVE

Did you miss a colloquium or special lecture? Visit NRESi's webcast archive to catch up! This can be found through the following link: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/colloquium-series/archived-colloquium-series>

ARCHIVE OF PAST EVENTS

Information, links, proceedings, and other information from past NRESi hosted and co-led events can be found at: <http://www.unbc.ca/nres-institute/special-events>. This site currently includes information about the Forest Tenure events (Annual Lecture and workshop) and a link to the Cumulative Effects Workshop site.

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