



NRESi WEEKLY NEWS

November 24 - 28, 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

Big thanks from the whole NRESi community to Allan Costello for being the sole organizer of an excellent colloquium series this term! We still have two to go, but here are a few memories from some of this semester's presentations. If you missed a talk, you can always view them at a later time via NRESi's [video archive](#).



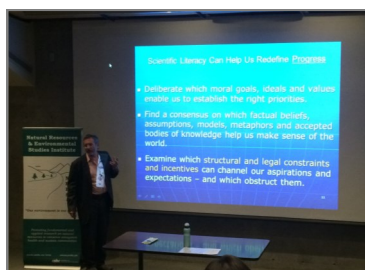
NRESi's 25th Anniversary panel discussion and awards, Sept 19th



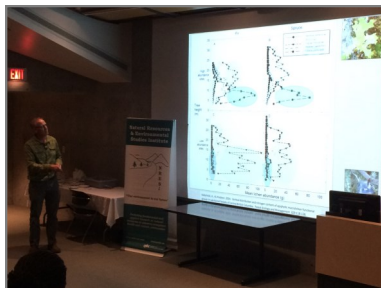
Grad Icebreaker presenter Dr. Connie Nelson exploring complexity science & food systems, Sept 26th



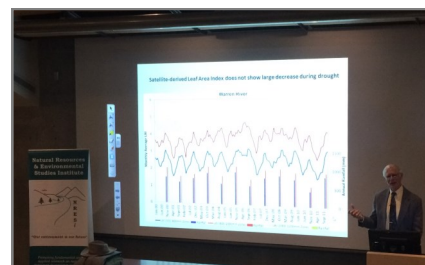
Dr. Ken Brealey presenting on mapping Aboriginal title, Oct 10th



Dr. Alexander Lautensach on teaching scientific literacy for sustainable natural resource management, Oct 17th



Dr. Art Fredeen, together with Kyle Aben, providing information about some Pacific Institute of Climate Solutions projects, Oct 24

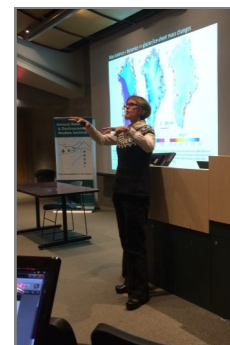


Dr. Richard Waring talking about when a good model goes bad, Oct 31st



Dr. Helen Schwantje reviewing importance of wildlife health matters, Nov 7th

Dr. Gwenn Flowers on glacier mass balance & dynamics, Nov 14th



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

COMING EVENTS

NRESI RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Sam Albers¹, Ellen Petticrew^{1,2} & Phil Owens^{1,3}

¹Quesnel River Research Centre, ²Geography Program,
³Environmental Science Program
University of Northern BC



The Mount Polley Mine Tailings Pond Breach: A Perspective from UNBC's Quesnel River Research Centre on Aquatic Impacts

On August 4th 2014, the tailings pond at the Mount Polley gold and copper mine failed, releasing in excess of 20 million m³ of mine waste (both water and sediment/tailings) and eroded sediment from Hazeltine Creek into Quesnel Lake and its watershed. The QRRC is a University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) research station located in the community of Likely, BC, only a few kilometers from Mount Polley mine and Hazeltine Creek. UNBC faculty, staff and students were amongst the first to sample and monitor the environmental effects of the incident (the first samples were collected on 4th August), and they are continuing to do this. Preliminary results suggest that fine sediment with elevated levels of metals and other substances is moving through the Quesnel Watershed. This event will have an unknown impact on the ecosystems of the Quesnel Watershed, including important salmon runs. We will describe the how QRRC and UNBC researchers responded to this incident and present our findings to date.

Friday, NOV 28th, 2014

3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Room: Weldwood Theatre (7-238)

NOTE: This will be a live talk only and will not be webcast or recorded

Question and Answer Period to follow presentation:

4:30 pm -5:30 pm

Room: 7-150

OTHER UNBC EVENTS

**TERRACE LECTURE
SERIES
4837 Keith Avenue,
Terrace, BC
12:00pm - 1:00pm**

Teaching Scientific Literacy for Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Dr. Alex Lautensach

UNBC Associate Professor, School of Education (NW Region)

December 3, 2014

This presentation will also be available to remote participants by following on [Livestream](#).

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THESIS DEFENSE NOTICE

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Waqar Younas is a candidate for the degree:

Doctor of Philosophy in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Mr. Younas will be defending his dissertation entitled:

“Evaluation of Climate Predictability for Multiple Climate Models at Various Time Scales”

Co-Supervisors: **Dr. Youmin Tang & Dr. Peter Jackson**

Date: **December 2, 2014** Time: 9:00am Room: Senate Chambers (PG Campus)

THESIS DEFENSE NOTICE

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENCE

Mr. Som Pun is a candidate for the degree:

Masters of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies

Mr. Pun will be defending his thesis entitled:

“The Opportunities and Limitations of First Nations Forestry Agreements in British Columbia: Collective Experience of the Tl'azt'en Nation & the Future Need for Community-Based Resource Management & Decision-Making”

Supervisor: **Dr. Greg Halseth**

Date: **December 8, 2014** Time: 9:00am Room: Senate Chambers (PG Campus)

IN THE NEWS

Want to learn more about how the Wood Innovation and Design Centre was built and UNBC's programming? Check out this [video](#).

On November 23rd, UNBC's Sustainable Communities Demonstration Project completed installing the infrastructure for the new energy system on campus. A new pipeline is now connecting the University's residences, daycare building, and greenhouse to the existing bioenergy systems, though it will be a few months before it is fully operational. When it is, the project will significantly reduce UNBC's consumption of fossil fuels for heating and serve as a useful teaching, research, and demonstration platform for rural and remote northern communities. Check out their [website](#) for more information.

PUBLICATIONS

Skinner, M.W., Joseph, A.E., Hanlon, N., Halseth, G., Ryser, L. 2014. Growing old in resource communities: Exploring the links among voluntarism, aging, and community development. *The Canadian Geographer* 58(4): 418-428.

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INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN NRES DRONE DEVELOPMENT

The Northern Hydrometeorology Group was fortunate earlier this year to obtain a seed grant to explore the use of a small fixed-wing 'drone' for conducting aerial surveys, our own main interest being related to observing the variability in spatial patterns of snow cover and its properties. We have teamed-up with an engineering group at SFU to supply this system: they have now assembled the airframe and its control systems, so we hope to run a handover and training session with them in the near future (either over the next couple of weeks, or - more probably - in January).

A secondary aim is to develop capabilities in the application of drones which might be of use for other research within the NRES group. We would therefore be very keen to learn of any faculty or post-grads who would like to contribute to this project, with a view potentially to adapting the system for their own survey purposes. This in turn will require them to be able to operate (and possibly customise) the aircraft, so it would be great if they could get involved at this early stage. If anyone has prior experience of flying radio-controlled models, so much the better! (The system has a GPS-controlled auto-pilot, but requires manual control for launch and recovery.)

If you would like to participate, or request additional information, please contact Michael Allchin (allchin@unbc.ca).

SUSAN STEVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As its first project of this kind, the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Institute (NRESi) is building a fund to support a scholarship in memory of wildlife ecologist and NRESi member Susan Stevenson. During a 35-year career built primarily in the BC central interior, Susan designed and implemented important research and inventory projects related to mountain caribou habitat, lichen biology, and silvicultural systems, collaborating with a diverse range of researchers, and gave generously of her expertise to the next generation of scientists. Susan exemplified the Institute's values of interdisciplinary curiosity and unselfish collaboration, and enriched the lives of all those who worked and studied with her. The Institute invites you to join it in supporting the Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund:

1. Visit UNBC Development Office's website: www.unbc.ca/giving
2. Click on the grey **Make a Gift** button
3. Enter the information requested
4. When you reach the question of **Please direct my donation to:** select **Other**
5. ***Important*** - In the **Comments** area, add that you would like your gift to be contributed to the **Susan Stevenson Scholarship Fund**

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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