



Newsletter no. 6, October 2010

The CFES Newsletter is published four times per year. Please distribute widely!



Where was this picture taken? Answer to cfes@magma.ca

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Welcome to our 6th Newsletter. We hope you'll find plenty of interest for your palate. We have slowly evolved from a two-pager with information only about CFES to a newsletter with a somewhat broader approach, in keeping with our role as a National umbrella organization. Our aim is to inform you not just of what CFES and its member organizations do, but also where this all fits in a wider context, both in Canada and abroad.

Our distribution list is still relatively small, so we count on you for forwarding this Newsletter among your own network. CFES has ambitions, but a limited budget. This is one reason that we do not yet publish this Newsletter in French, as much as we would like to.

We will, however, soon have a completely renewed website and this will allow us to expand our communications using social media.

If there is anything you want to contribute to this Newsletter, please contact us at cfes@magma.ca



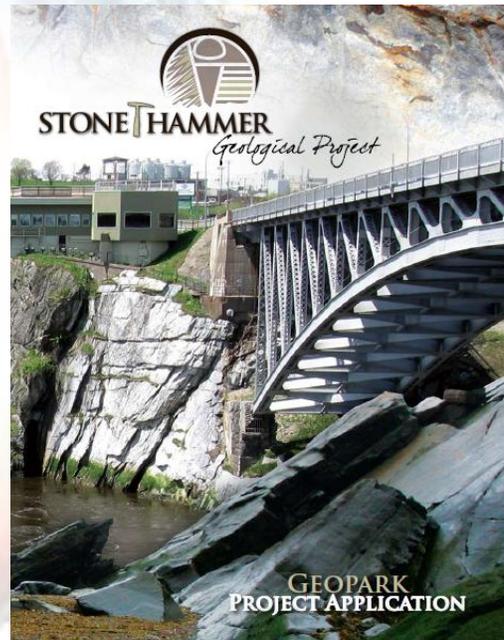
1. CFES News

1.1 Semi-annual meeting, Ottawa, Nov 6-7, 2010.

The CFES semi-annual meeting will be held on the campus of the University of Ottawa. Agenda and accompanying documentation will be posted on the CFES website around October 25. At this semi-annual meeting, CFES President Bill Mercer will hand over his duties to Bill Stiebel. A profile of Bill Stiebel will appear in the next Newsletter (January 2011).

1.2 Geoparks

The Canadian National Committee for Geoparks has been very busy over the last few months. The guidelines and criteria for submitting a proposal for a Geopark site to the Global Geoparks Network are approved and posted on www.geoscience.ca/geoparks.html. Canada may soon have the first North American Geopark in New Brunswick, where the Stonehammer Geological Project submitted its proposal for Geopark status in the Fall of 2009 (<http://stonehammer.nbm-mnb.ca/home>). The Global Geoparks evaluators visited the Saint John area in late August / early September, and two of the Canadian Geoparks Committee members (chair Godfrey Nowlan and Jenna Boon) were part of this important event as well.



The decision about Geopark status for Stonehammer will be taken in October at the Global Geoparks meeting in Greece. The committee has learned a lot from the entire process and hopes to use this knowledge to better support and assist other Canadian sites in the process towards achieving Global Geopark status.



1.3 University Graduates Under 30 exit Survey.

The Higher Qualified Personnel Report that CFES issued in the Fall of 2008 (<http://www.geoscience.ca/hr.html>), resulted in much discussion about finding and retaining young earth scientists in our sector. We really don't know what percentage of Earth Science graduates actually works in the sector. How many do we lose along the road somewhere and why? Figures from the US suggest that no more than 1/3 of Earth Science graduates work as such, a worrying number considering the fact that more than half of all working earth scientists will retire in the next 15 years.

In order to find out what the barriers for young Canadian graduates are, CFES's *U30 committee* has designed an internet-based survey that will be distributed to graduates from the 41 Canadian Earth Science Departments that participate in CCESD (a member organization of CFES). We probably won't have results in time to participate in the special session that our counterpart AGI is organizing on this topic at the AGU meeting in December (<http://www.agiweb.org/geospectrum-blog/2010/08/09/agi-to-co-chair-session-at-2010-agu-fall-meeting/>), but we do hope to have them shortly before the end of the year.

AGI organizes this session together with the American Chapter of the YES Network. YES is the Network of Young Earth Scientists, one of the interesting outcomes of the International Year of Planet Earth (www.networkyes.org). The YES Network is an international association of early-career geoscientists who are primarily under the age of 35 years and are from universities, geoscience organizations and companies from across the world. Canada does not yet have a YES chapter, but we hope we can help getting such a chapter off the ground.

1.4 IGC Bid Committee

CFES is exploring the possibility of submitting a bid for the 2020 International Geological Congress to be held in Canada. The bid will have to be presented at the IGC Brisbane in 2012, where it will have to compete with bids from other countries. CFES President Bill Mercer chairs the committee. All member societies have been invited to participate.



1.5 Mentorship medal committee

The Mentorship medal committee has been expanded and now has five members. Lisa Griffith (Enerplus, Calgary) and Brendon Murphy of St Francis Xavier University in Antigonish (NS) have joined Shoufa Lin (chair, University of Waterloo), Daniel Lebel (Environment Canada, Dartmouth, NS) and Rod Thomas (Votorantim Metals, Toronto, ON). The deadline for submitting a nomination has been moved to November 30, 2010. The guidelines and protocol, as well as the new submission form are on www.geoscience.ca/awards.html.

2 Annual Conventions of CFES member Societies

AGS Annual Colloquium, Febr. 11-13, Fredericton, NB, <http://ags.earthsciences.dal.ca/ags.php>

PDAC Annual Convention, March 6-9, 2011, www.pdac.ca/pdac/conv/index.html

CSPG, CSEG, CWLS, Annual Convention, May 9-13, 2011, Calgary: www.geoconvention.org.

CIM Annual Conference and Exhibit, May 21-25, Montreal. <http://www.cim.org/montreal2011/>

GAC-MAC, May 25-27, 2011, Ottawa - www.gacmacottawa2011.ca

CAG May 31-June 4, 2011, Calgary - www.cag-acg.ca/en/cag_annual_meeting.html

CNC-IAH and CanQua, August 28-31, Quebec City – <http://geohydro2011.ca>

The Canadian Quaternary Association (CANQUA) and the Canadian Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH-CNC), both member societies of CFES, invite you to attend their first joint meeting, organized by the Geological Survey of Canada and the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique – Eau Terre Environnement (INRS-ETE). The theme of the meeting is "Water and Earth: the junction of Quaternary Geoscience and Hydrogeology".

CGS, October 2-6, 2011, <http://panam-cgc2011.ca/index.php?lang=en>



3. Canadian (Earth) Science News

3.1 General Science News

The **Council of Canadian Academies** (www.scienceadvice.ca) started its 6th year of operations in 2010. An evaluation of the first 5 years was positive. Its first President, Peter Nicholson, retired after this first phase. The Council's new President is Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

The Council will shortly release a report on *Research Integrity in Canada*. With respect to this subject, it is important to take note of the *Singapore statement on research integrity* (www.singaporestatement.org/), a result of the World Conference on Research Ethics in Singapore last Summer to which Canada contributed through a presentation by Dr. Howard Alper, President of the **Science, Technology and Innovation Council of Canada** (www.stic-csti.ca).

Research ethics, not a topic to normally generate much media interest, became an issue of importance as a result of 'Climategate', the case of the alleged misbehaviour of climate scientists in the UK. Three independent investigations concluded that no false information had been published and that the climate scientists had acted ethically and professionally, if not somewhat naive. There were recommendations for more openness, but this alone will not take away sceptic feelings with the public.

In times of such crises, good science journalists are indispensable. It is therefore very timely that the brand new **Science Media Center of Canada** (www.sciencemediacentre.ca) officially starts operating around the time this Newsletter reaches you. SMCC will be *the* point of communication between scientists and the media. CFES is proud to be a charter member of the SMCC on behalf of its constituency.

In keeping with the topic: the **Second Canadian Science Policy Conference** will be held in Montreal, at the Hyatt Regency, October 20-22, 2010, www.cspsc2010.ca/. This Conference provides a unique opportunity for various science policy stakeholders to get together at the national level to network and discuss the present and the future of science policy in Canada.

Building upon the immense success of CSPC 2009 in Toronto (hailed by Nature Magazine as "the hope for Canadian science policy"), this year's themes will (a.o.) include: *Increasing Canadian Productivity using Science and Technology*; *Global perspectives in Science and Technology* and *Creating and retaining scientific talent in Canada*.



This week is **Right to Know** week in Canada (www.righttoknow.ca). The purpose of Right to Know week is *to raise awareness about people's right to access of information while promoting freedom of information as essential to both democracy and good governance*. In this week's *Nature*, Kathryn O'Hara (professor of Science broadcast journalism at Carleton University) writes critically about the muzzles that the Government of Canada has put on government scientists. She argues that access to scientific knowledge that informs policy is not a luxury, but an essential part of our right to know. The article can be read at www.nature.com/news/2010/100929/pdf/467501a.pdf

3.2 Selected Canadian Earth Science News

The **Canadian Well Logging Society** hosts a short course on Nuclear Magnetic Resonance logging, especially important in the rapidly exploding shale gas exploration business: October 27, in Calgary (www.cwls.org/docs/CWLS%20Short%20Course.pdf).

Elements, the July 2010 Newsletter of the **Canadian Geophysical Union** (www.cgu-ugc.ca/newslett/index.htm) includes an open letter from CGU to the Government of Canada in anticipation of the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen (Dec. '09). The letter stresses the importance of reducing emissions, thus improving air and quality, while maintaining integrity of ecosystems and opening new economic opportunities. The letter was endorsed by four other learned societies.

4. International Earth Science News

The news items below were summarized from the newsletters of the International Union of Geosciences / IUGS (www.iugs.org), of which Canada is a member. All newsletters can be accessed freely from the IUGS website. Other than the digital Newsletter, IUGS also publishes 'Episodes', its Quarterly Journal (www.episodes.org)



4.1 International Polar Year

More than 2300 participants at the largest-ever polar research conference, held in Oslo 8-12 June, marked the end of the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008. Sponsored by ICSU and the World Meteorological Organization, the IPY was a multi-year, multidisciplinary international collaboration that brought together thousands of scientists, educators, data managers, and others from 60 countries. Canada was an active participant in the International Polar Year (www.ipy-api.gc.ca). Canadian Geographic Magazine created an interactive map with all the research projects, which can be explored at www.canadiangeographic.ca/ipy-api/map-cartel

4.2 IGC 2012

The 34th International Geological Congress (IGC34) will take place in Brisbane, Australia, August 2-10, 2012 (www.34igc.org). Organizers are inviting suggestions for special sessions and exhibits.

4.3 One Geology

OneGeology is an international initiative of the geological surveys of the world. OneGeology's aim is to create dynamic digital geological map data for the world. It is an international initiative of the geological surveys of the world who are working together to achieve this ambitious and exciting venture