



Newsletter no. 2, October 2009

About this Newsletter

This newsletter is distributed to about 100 e-mail addresses of individuals representing our thirteen member societies and groups (presidents, executive directors, newsletter editors), as well as to people representing observer organizations and to a few addresses of relevant organizations in the USA and the UK. *Please distribute* this newsletter, or information from it, among your constituencies! If you want to use this newsletter as a venue for some of your communications, contact Elisabeth Kusters (ekusters_cfes@magma.ca).

Website(s)

The letterhead of this newsletter lists two websites. A short explanation is necessary. www.geoscience.ca is the original web address for the CFES/FCST. www.earthsciencescanada.com is the address for the Canadian National Committee for the International Year of Planet Earth (CNC-IYPE). IYPE will end in November of this year and CNC-IYPE will formally roll over its activities to CFES/FCST at our semi-annual meeting in Regina at the end of October (more on CNC-IYPE activities further below in this newsletter). www.earthsciencescanada.com has five links, four of which pertain to Canadian IYPE activities and the fifth one takes you directly to www.geoscience.ca, our 'home' site. Both sites will continue to exist separately in the near future and will be maintained by the same webmaster.

Mentorship medal

Please be aware of your opportunity to nominate a candidate for the CFES/FCST mentorship medal! The first ever CFES/FCST mentorship medal was awarded last spring at the Joint Assembly to Paul Williams of the University of New Brunswick (see previous newsletter on our website). The guidelines and nominations protocol can be downloaded from <http://www.geoscience.ca/awards.html>. The deadline for nomination has been extended to November 30. The Mentorship medal committee consists of Shoufa Lin (University of Waterloo), Rod Thomas (Votorantim Metals, Toronto) and Daniel Lebel (GAC president).



Outreach

We continue to have a good response with our outreach liaison meeting every 3 months. The objective of this 1-hour teleconference is to share information among all earth science outreach volunteers and professionals across Canada. If you want to be part of this initiative, contact Elisabeth Kosters.

The Canadian Association of Science Centers (CASC), which is part of our outreach liaison, wants to draw your attention to their Annual Meeting, which will take place May 7-10, 2010 in Montreal. More information at www.canadiansciencecenters.ca/conferences.htm or from their executive director Tracy Ross (ross@sciencenorth.ca)

Canada's International Year of Planet Earth Activities (www.earthsciencescanada.com) focused on outreach with the undertaking of three significant projects. Of these, the WHERE Challenge was a fantastic success with over 200 entries. The national winner was Blake Nicol (14) from Nelson, BC, who received his cheque in the presence of the local chamber of commerce. The "WHERE" Contest will run again in 2010 thanks to generous sponsorship from EnCana. The 'Earth Science Careers Website' is now up in both official languages, and the book 'Four Billion Years and counting; a geologic history of Canada' is slated for publication in 2010. Please also take note of the newsletter of the American IYPE at <http://www.iype-usa.org/newsletter/>.

Earth Science Credit in High Schools in the Waterloo region

One of the major barriers towards recruiting high school graduates into university earth science programs is the absence of earth science as a credit course in the high school curriculum in most provinces and territories. An important step towards taking away this hurdle was recently achieved in Ontario. The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences of the University of Waterloo has signed an agreement with the Waterloo Regional District School Board formally aligning the UoW first year "Introductory Earth Sciences" course with the grade 12 "Earth and Space Science" course. Students can thus obtain advanced (university) credit *and* become exposed to earth science in high school. Congratulations to the University of Waterloo!

GeoCanada 2010

Many Canadian member societies will make individual contributions to this conference in the form of special sessions, core workshops etc. CFES/FCST is involved in various aspects of the organization of this conference. As an organization we will host the following sessions:



1. **Earth Resources and the Future.** The future of earth resources continues to be a topic of discussion and controversy and is a key driver in both national and international politics and economics. The session will feature a series of prominent speakers, who will examine present resources, production, and exploration success and put this in the context of future trends of consumption. Controversy will not be avoided!
2. **The future of Earth Sciences in Canada.** Together with its constituent member societies, CFES/FCST is formulating a strategic vision regarding key Canadian Earth science issues. Critical issues are not necessarily reflected in either the organizational structure of the Canadian Earth science community or our learned and professional associations. We face the difficult question of how Canada should tackle these intellectual challenges within a realistic framework. The session will be interactive with invited speakers.

In addition, CFES/FCST is responsible for a **public exhibit on Geology and Landscape Art**, called *“Foundations: The Science Beneath the Art”*. The purpose of *Foundations* is to explore the confluence of art and science, using iconic and/or significant Canadian landscape art pieces as a vehicle. We aim for mount a week-long exhibit of 8 - 16 posters in a public venue in Calgary during the Conference. Each poster will pair a piece of landscape art with its corresponding geological underpinnings. The example shown here is Cornelius Krieghoff’s *“Owl’s Head and Skinner’s Cove, Lake Memphremagog, eastern townships, QC”*. Owl’s Head is a volcanic plug within the Appalachian fold belt. The geologic map of this same region is by Sir William Logan and together they will both become one of the posters of this exhibit.





International business

The International Year of Planet Earth will officially close with a big event in Lisbon (20-22 November, 2009), where Canada will be represented members of the national committee as well as by students (<http://www.yearofplanetearth.org/>).

The latest Newsletter of the International Union of Geosciences can be downloaded from www.iugs.org.

The **International Council for Science** (ICSU, www.icsu.org) is establishing a new ICSU World Data System (WDS). As part of the transition from the existing networks – ICSU World Data Centres and the Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical data-analysis Services – organizations that are interested in participating in the WDS are asked to complete an online Expression of Interest form by 24 October 2009. Go to <http://wds.geolinks.org/> for complete information.

Geoparks

In our previous newsletter, we wrote about the Canadian National Committee for Geoparks (CNC-Geoparks), a UNESCO initiative, which will resort under CFES/FCST under (interim) chairmanship of our outreach director Godfrey Nowlan. The committee has now been populated (see www.geoscience.ca/geoparks.html) and is working on writing guidelines for Canadian GeoParks, in close cooperation with the Geological Association of America (which hosts the American Committee for GeoParks). We aim to streamline the guidelines for the US and Canada as much as possible, so that we can eventually form an effective North American GeoParks Network (as exists for Europe). A Geopark proposal has been in the works for a while in southern New Brunswick and two of the committee members will visit the different sites under this proposal in October.

It should be noted that Geoparks are an ‘initiative’ of UNESCO, not a ‘program’. This means that the involvement of the national UNESCO committees (the Canadian National UNESCO Committee resorts under Heritage Canada) is not required for vetting the sites.