



# **Newsletter for the Canadian Antarctic Research Program**

## **Bulletin pour le Programme de Recherches Antarctiques du Canada**

**W**elcome to our inaugural issue. If you would like to remain on our mailing list, and/or you have contributions and suggestions for future issues, please contact the editor (address form and questionnaire on page 4).

**B**ienvenue à cette première édition. Si vous désirez faire partie de notre liste de correspondance, ou si vous avez des suggestions à apporter pour les éditions à venir, veuillez s'il vous plaît, communiquer avec l'éditeur (voir formulaire à la page 4).

### **To the Canadian Antarctic Research Community from Peter Suedfeld, Chairman of the Executive Committee, CARP/PRAC.**

Canadian scientists, workers and entrepreneurs have been active in the Antarctic for a long time, but until recently Canada was not affiliated with either the Antarctic Treaty or with the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR). As a result, our research in the region has always been dependent on the opportunities of individual investigators to make personal contact with colleagues from nations with established Antarctic programs. This has had some advantages, for example in fostering international collaboration, but also many disadvantages: Canadian scientists who did not have such personal contacts had trouble gaining access to the continent, research plans had to be tailored to fit the plans and generosity of others, and many Canadian participants felt that we were in effect hitching a free ride without making a commensurate contribution. These and related issues were addressed at a workshop in February 1993 organized by the Canadian Polar Commission (CPC).

At that meeting the participants agreed on two major recommendations. One was that Canada should seek Associate Membership in SCAR, to be followed by full membership as soon as that is practicable. CPC has now made the first application, which will be voted on by SCAR at its meeting this coming summer. Second, the formation of an official Canadian Antarctic Research Program/Programme de Recherches Antarctiques du Canada (CARP/PRAC) was approved and an Executive Committee appointed. Dr. Hugh French, Dean of Science at the University of Ottawa, agreed to be the first

Chairman of that committee, and carried the activities of CARP/PRAC forward until December 1993, when the pressure of his other responsibilities led him to step down. He remains on the committee, and will concentrate especially on developing mutually beneficial relations between Canadian Arctic and Antarctic research programs.

The CPC - in particular the Chairman Mr. Whit Fraser, and Dr. Gerald Lock, Chairman of CPC's Polar International Affairs Committee - has been extremely supportive of the CARP/PRAC Executive Committee's activities. The committee's plans for the immediate future are: (a) the establishment of a Canadian Antarctic community and network by, *inter alia*, publishing a periodic newsletter that will keep interested Canadian investigators informed of relevant events and activities; (b) the compilation of a directory of Canadian scientists and scholars who have an interest in Antarctica, with information about their work in that region; (c) working with the CPC, other government agencies, and the programs of other nations to facilitate Canadian access to research facilities in the Antarctic; (d) enhancing reciprocity by the enhancement of research opportunities to work in the Canadian Arctic; and (e) to pursue full status and representation for Canada in the proceedings and constituent bodies of SCAR.

If you are interested in participating in CARP/PRAC, we will be happy to involve you in any or all of the efforts outlined above. We also encourage you to bring this initiative to the attention of colleagues, graduate students, and others who might want to join our network. We look forward to the greater and easier participation of Canadian researchers in the Antarctic.





## CANADIANS IN THE ANTARCTIC

----- past and present -----

*A clear message from the 1993 Ottawa workshop: there are many scientists across Canada with previous or ongoing research interests in Antarctica. Please let us have a few lines about your Antarctic activities, past or present.*

### LIFE UNDER THE OZONE HOLE

Four Canada-based researchers participated in a 4 week, American oceanographic cruise in the Weddell Sea during Oct. 1993: Dr. John Cullen (Dalhousie University, NS), David Lean (National Water Research Institute, Ont.), and three research students from Ontario (Sofia Perin, April Ferguson and Robin Round). The cruise was funded by the National Science Foundation (USA) and the Principal Investigators were Patrick Neale (Smithsonian Institute) and John Cullen, who holds a joint appointment at Bigelow Laboratories, Maine. The aim was to examine the responses by phytoplankton at the base of the Southern Ocean food chain to increases in UV-B during the spring period of ozone depletion.

### COLDWATER VIRUSES

Since 1989 David Bird (Université du Québec à Montréal) has been conducting research on the microbial ecology of the southern ocean. This work has been part of a long-term collaboration with David Karl of the School of Ocean and Earth Sciences and Technology at the University of Hawaii. Last season one of his students at Montréal, Roxane Maranger, worked in the vicinity of Palmer Station on the impact of viruses on marine bacteria. This coming season Dr. Bird has been invited by Carlos M. Duarte at the Institute of Advanced Studies at Blanes, to join the Spanish Antarctic Program on board their new ice-breaker.

### THE CANADA - DRY VALLEY CONNECTION

Canada has a longstanding connection with the Taylor Valley, one of the so-called Dry Valleys of Southern Victoria Land, at latitude 77 S. This area was first examined in detail by Griffith Taylor who in 1905 was sent by Robert Falcon Scott across McMurdo Sound to explore the Ferrar Glacier and Dry Valley region. Taylor discovered several lakes and streams within the valley, each fed by meltwater from glaciers that now bear names such as the Commonwealth, the Taylor and the Canada. Taylor became renowned for his geographic studies in Australia, and later moved to Canada to take up a chair at the University of Toronto as this country's first Professor of Geography. The Taylor Valley has recently been chosen by NSF as a Long Term Ecological Research Site - more about the continuing links with Canada in a future newsletter.

### LES COPIES SUPPLÉMENTAIRES DU RAPPORT "CANADIENS DANS L'ANTARCTIQUE" SONT DISPONIBLES À:

Commission canadienne des affaires polaires  
Pièce 1710 - Constitution Square  
360, rue Albert  
Ottawa  
Ontario  
K1R 7X7

### ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE 1993 WORKSHOP REPORT 'CANADIANS IN ANTARCTICA' ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

Canadian Polar Commission  
Suite 1710 - Constitution Square  
360 Albert St.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1R 7X7

### RECENT CONFERENCES

December 1993: InterAmerican Institute for Global Change Research - High Latitude Priorities, Buenos Aires (details available from W.Vincent).

April 1994: UV-B impacts in the Arctic, Copenhagen, organized by International Arctic Science Committee and SCOPE (details available from D. Lean).

May 1994: Conference on Canada & Polar Science, Yellowknife, organized by the Canadian Polar Commission (details available from P.Suedfeld).

June 1994: Sixth SCAR Biology Congress. Representatives from Canada included: S. J. De Mora (Université du Québec à Rimouski); J.S. Poland (Queen's University, Kingston); K.J. Reimer & S.L. Grundy (Royal Roads Military College, Victoria); & W.F. Vincent, Université Laval (Sainte Foy).

### BIPOLAR PERSPECTIVES



One of the central aims of CARP/PRAC is to encourage the transfer of information, ideas and technology between the North and South polar zones. If you have an ongoing interest in Arctic-Antarctic comparisons in research or teaching please let us know and we will highlight these aspects in future editions of the newsletter.



## SCAR-WATCH

On September 5th, in Rome, Canada will formally present its application for Associate Membership of the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR). The presentation, which will be made by G.S.H. Lock on behalf of the Canadian Polar Commission, culminates six years of effort aimed at defining and co-ordinating the contribution of Canadian science in Antarctica.

Contact Gerry Lock, Chairman of CPC Polar International Affairs Committee, tel. (403) 433-3914, fax (403) 433-7495.

## THE ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING, KYOTO, JAPAN, April 1994.

*Olav H. Loken*

The XVIII Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), the senior 'governing body' of the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS), was held in Kyoto, Japan, April 11-22, 1994. Thirty one of the 40 countries that are parties to the Treaty sent representatives; Canada did not.

Ratification of the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (also referred to as the 'Madrid Convention') was on the agenda, and at the time of the meeting 9 countries had ratified the Protocol. To enter into force, the protocol must be ratified by all 26 Consultative Members. [Canada is not a Consultative Member, but our Department of Justice is reviewing what changes are required in Canadian legislation for Canada to ratify the protocol].

The Protocol calls for the establishment of a committee on Antarctic protection and in anticipation of this, a transitional working group was formed as an interim step. It will meet at the time of the next ATCM. The meeting endorsed a recommendation from SCAR to hold a technical workshop on Environmental Monitoring in Antarctica. The meeting also discussed the formation of a permanent secretariat but no decision was taken. [In contrast to SCAR, which has a small permanent secretariat in Cambridge, United Kingdom, there is none for the ATS]. Other agenda items included: Liability, Guidelines for tourist and non-governmental operations, Inspections and Access to ATCM meetings by outside experts.

ATCM meetings will now be held every year (previously every second year) and the next one will take place in Seoul, South Korea, in May 1995.

*Additional information can be obtained from O.H. Loken, 1170 Bonnie Cres., Ottawa, ON K2C 1Z5. Tel. (613) 225-4234.*

## CARP/PRAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

**For further information or suggestions regarding the activities of CARP/PRAC please contact any of the following committee members:**

**Hugh French**, Office of the Dean, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON K1N 6N5.

**Peter Hochachka**, Dept. Zoology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1.

**David Lean**, National Institute of Water Research, Environment Canada, Burlington, ON L7R 4A6.

**Peter Suedfeld (Chairman)**, Dept Psychology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC V6T 1Y7. Tel. (604) 822-5713. Fax. (604) 822-6923. Email: PSUEDFELD@CORTEX.PSYCH.UBC.CA

**Warwick Vincent** (Co-chairman, editor), Dépt biologie & Centre d'études nordiques, Université Laval, Sainte Foy, QC G1K 7P4.

### IMPORTANT:

If you would like to stay on our mailing list please fill out and return the questionnaire overleaf.



Please send editorial correspondence to:

W.F.Vincent,  
Dépt. de biologie,  
Université Laval,  
Sainte-Foy,  
PQ G1K 7P4

tel 418-656-5644  
fax 418-656-2043

Email:  
W.VINCENT@VMI.ULAVL.CA

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**If you would like to stay on our mailing list please fill out and return the following questionnaire.**

**Si vous désirez faire partie de notre liste de correspondance, veuillez s'il vous plaît, remplir et renvoyer ce questionnaire.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever worked in Antarctica? \_\_\_\_\_ First year that you were in Antarctica: \_\_\_\_\_

Which part of Antarctica: \_\_\_\_\_ In which national program: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle the topics which most closely match your Antarctic interests:

Atmospheric Sciences, Botany, Ecology, Environmental impacts, Geography, Geochemistry, Geology, Glaciology, History, Legal issues, Limnology, Microbial ecology, Oceanography, Organization & management, Physics, Policy, Psychology, Technology, Tourism, Zoology.

List up to three of your polar publications (Antarctic if possible):

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**PLEASE MAIL TO:** W.F. Vincent, Dépt de biologie, Université Laval, Sainte Foy, Québec G1K 7P4, CANADA.