

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Fall 2001

NEW WEB SITE LAUNCHED

In November 2001, the Institute's web site was launched with a new look. Direction was given to develop a visually appealing site that was easy to navigate. Our goal is to attract visitors and to follow through on providing the information being sought. With the services of AMA Marketing, the new site is helping to accomplish this goal.

As you browse the site, please feel free to forward any comments or suggestions. Be sure to register with the e-mail database on the home page so that you can be notified of updates as they occur. Institute publications are all available on line as well as links to reference libraries of interest. A complete photo gallery is provided for you to enjoy. In the coming months updates of Institute effects research projects will be posted as well as any upcoming employment opportunities for the 2002 field season. You are invited to check us out at www.iemr.org.



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PHOTO CONTEST 2001

In September the rules for IEMR Photo Contest 2001 were announced. The rules were simple; photos had to be of wildlife, landscapes, or field-work and had to be taken during 2001 while conducting wildlife research within the Quebec Labrador Peninsula. The winning photo would grace the cover of the 2001 Annual Report. The panel of judges included Institute Board Members, Scientific Review Committee, advisors, and invited guests at the November Board meeting.

The photos were displayed throughout the day and ballots were cast. The winners were announced at supper on the evening of November 6th. We would like to extend thanks to the local businesses who provided prizes for the contest: Universal Helicopters, Maxwell's, the Labrador Inn, Drumdancer Arts and Crafts, Central Labrador Economic Development Board, and Tim Horton's.



1st Place

Robert Otto, Senior Wildlife Biologist with Newfoundland's Department of Recreation, Tourism, Parks and Culture, was the winning photographer. This scenic landscape of the Nachvak Fiord was photographed while Mr. Otto was collaring caribou in the Tomgat Mountains in March 2001. This photo will be used as the cover photo of the 2001 Annual Report.



2nd Place

Colin Jones, Wildlife Biologist with the Institute, took the second place photo. Mr. Jones photographed these snow-covered hills while conducting a survey of the Red Wine Mountain Caribou Herd in March of 2001. This photo will be used for the Institute's Christmas card.



3rd Place

Tina Newbury, M.Sc. candidate with McGill University, entered the third place photo. She photographed this recently born caribou calf while participating in a survey on the Lac Joseph Caribou Herd in June of 2001.

Thank you to all who participated, and we look forward to receiving entries from you again next year. You can view all of the entries at www.iemr.org.

DIGITAL TOPOGRAPHIC DATA (DTD) MAPS

The National Topographic System (NTS) maps offer data on road and rail locations, hydrology, topography, and anthropogenic features. This database is the premier digital map series in Canada, and accordingly is an excellent data source for the Institute. The digital NTS maps, at the 1:250,000 scale, will be useful in Institute research and monitoring activities. Previously, the Institute lacked a complete and detailed hydrology network for the training area, with the purchase of these NTS maps this problem is solved.

During the fall of 2001, Institute staff investigated the costs associated with the purchase of the digital to-

pographic maps for the low-level training area. The Centre for Topographic Information (CTI) in Sherbrooke Quebec, distributor for such digital data, was contacted and the necessary transfer of information was completed. With this licensing agreement in place, the Institute has the capability of obtaining the most recent topographic maps for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador for the next four years. Additionally, digital topographic maps were purchased for regions of Quebec that are part of the training area. Tony Parr, GIS Specialist, with the Institute is responsible for maintaining this database.

IEMR BOARD NEWS

On November 6, 2001, an information session for the Board was held in Happy Valley—Goose Bay. This session was arranged in response to concerns raised by Board members regarding future training activities and to explore possible impacts on Institute effects research initiatives.

Several guest speakers addressed the Board and presentations were given on the following:

- * Flight Training Requirements for the Next Five Years
- * Provincial Environmental Assessment Process
- * Provincial (draft) Endangered Species Legislation
- * Natural Heritage Stewardship Secretariat
- * Threatened and Endangered Species Legislation
- * Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

Throughout the day, opportunity was provided for questions to the speakers. Copies of presentations are on file and can be obtained by contacting Maureen Baker at the Institute's office.



IEMR Board of Directors, November 2001

Seated: Carol Best, Central Labrador Economic Development Board; Dr. Louis LaPierre, Institute Chair; Madelyn Kelly, Town of Happy Valley—Goose Bay.

Standing: Stas Olpinski, Makivik Corporation; Frank Young, Goose Bay Office—National Defence Headquarters; Bruce Turner, Environment Canada (in the absence of George Finney); Rex Goudie, Province of NF and Labrador; Leroy Metcalfe, Labrador Inuit Association; Guy Bellefleur, Mamit Innuat; Col. Paul McCabe, 5 Wing Goose Bay; Peter Armitage, Innu Nation (in the absence of Ben Michel); Carter Russell, Labrador Metis Association; Stanley Baikie, Town of Churchill Falls

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WATERFOWL CONFERENCE

In the fall of 2002, the Institute will host its third conference. The objective will be to review the current status of waterfowl populations in Labrador and Quebec to assess population status, ecological status, and future trends.

Information on the conference can be obtained from the Institute or by visiting the Institute's website.

As planning progresses, updates will be provided in future editions of Research Highlights.

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RESEARCH UPDATES

In March 2002 collared Lac Joseph woodland caribou are to be recaptured to remove satellite collars originally deployed in March 2000. The 2-year life expectancy of these radio-collars will expire in early spring; the Institute will not be affixing additional radio collars to caribou of the Lac Joseph Herd at this time.

The data amassed for the Lac Joseph Herd is impressive. This data has been used for purposes of mitigation, to obtain a population estimate, and to examine use of the military training area. Research Biologist Colin Jones is presently investigating options of conducting an analysis of the data as a graduate thesis. This data can be well used to explore the ecology of the Lac Joseph Herd and woodland caribou in general.

With the conclusion of the 2001 field season, Institute staff is now focused on analyzing the data gathered during the River Valley Ecosystem Project. Preliminary analysis show interesting trends, and a final report of this year's results will be completed prior to the New Year.



Research Highlights

Information for this issue of Research Highlights was provided and compiled by Institute staff. If you have any comments or if you have information you would like to see included, please contact the Institute's office.