

# History NEWS



Winter 2011

## Following the St. Lawrence to the Sea

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New Faculty

Tadoussac rests crooked in the arm of a granite spit separating the cold waters of the St. Lawrence River from the colder waters of the Saguenay. The confluence teems with krill, and you can sit on boulders and watch the whales breach heavily a



The St. Lawrence River at Tadoussac from *The Atlantic Neptune*, 1780.

hundred meters offshore. It is an ancient place of exchange. The Montagnais know it as “the place where ice is broken”. A handful of French traders came in 1600, before there was a Quebec, were permitted to stay and to swap iron and cloth for furs brought in from the glaciated interior. Tadoussac is the oldest continuous French settlement in the Americas, but the French are newcomers here.

Today most traffic approaches the town from the south, along Quebec Route 138, roller-coasting across the bald Laurentian hills of the Charlevoix. In August my wife Paula and I came to Tadoussac in a four-cylinder VW Jetta, trailering a 16-foot sailboat we'd bought in deep cottage country off the old “Voyageur's Highway,” east of Georgian Bay. I'd been working at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa, reading the records left by 18th- and 19th-century British governors, naval officers, surveyors, and hydrographers (even newer newcomers) trying to make good their “conquest” of the St. Lawrence: to make a hash

of rocks, shoals, and currents into a highway for the commerce they hoped and half-expected would follow. For a month I'd enjoyed a tantalizing view through the 20-foot glass wall of the archives' reading room:

festival crowds on Victoria Island, the mist of Chaudière Falls, across the river to the Gatineau Hills. Now we were going home.

So was our boat. The boat we bought for a song north of Peterborough—a CL 16—was designed by Croce and Lofthouse in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, the South Shore town where we live. We took a perverse pride that we were, in a small way, reversing the long tide of Maritime outmigration. And we relished the idea of taking the boat along as we traced the itinerary that aboriginal and French traders, men of war and hydrographers had followed for so many centuries: down the Ottawa River to the St. Lawrence, up the North Shore to Tadoussac and beyond, as far as Baie Comeau (Sept Îles, even, if we were lucky), then across the river and around the Gaspé, skirting the Gulf to the Atlantic coast.

We were glad to be on the road with the boat behind us, rather than on the river with the boat beneath us. The late sailor Frank Dye piloted a nearly identical 16-foot sailing dinghy along

## Following the St. Lawrence to the Sea CONT'D



Looking up the Saguenay from the ferry, Quebec Route 138.

the Atlantic seaboard, through the Gulf and up the river in the 1990s. For novices like us, this would be cold, wet, and certain suicide. The St. Lawrence navigation under sail

has been a notorious ordeal for centuries. The river's elusive channels, annihilating gales, and confused currents (where the flow of three great streams—the St. Lawrence, the Ottawa, and the Saguenay—meet ocean tides) routinely overwhelmed the ships that sailed it. Accordingly, the river was New France's strongest bulwark. Then it was its greatest weakness. In 1711 a British expedition against Quebec got lost in the currents at night and went aground. Eight ships wrecked and 900 men drowned. The headland opposite the wreck site is called Pointe-aux-Anglais. To the southwest the stretch off Tadoussac, where the St. Lawrence and Saguenay roil between Red Island and Green Island, is the most dangerous on the river. Here for 300 years beachcombers salvaged bodies and debris that the river threw up in the springtime and autumn. Captain John Knox, en route to Quebec with Wolfe's army in 1759, reported that as his vessel "came abreast of Tadoussac, we encountered the strongest rippling current I ever saw, nine or ten knots in an hour." The wind died away and the ships were driven shoreward. They escaped, barely, and continued upriver. For contending empires, the river was a contingency that could be harnessed but not controlled.

I followed these contingencies on microfilm in Ottawa, and on the drive home we followed them safely onshore, driving routes 148 and 138 through Quebec along the Ottawa and St. Lawrence rivers, and as far along the North Shore as time and the road allowed. We hauled the boat down Wellington Street past Parliament Hill to have a last look at the demure bulk of the archives building, drove north across the Labreton Flats,

past the bronze knife-edge of the war museum, and over the Chaudière Bridge. Then we headed east, downriver, towards Montreal. Even today, even in a car, the Ottawa is tedious to follow, as it shifts and filters through masses of islands where the channel attenuates to nothing. We crossed the thin soils of Petite-Nation (Papineau's seigneurie), passed the dam at Carillon (site of Dollard des Ormeaux's "martyrdom"), drove through Kanasetake, and into Montreal at Deux Montagnes. We met the St. Lawrence at Lachine, historically the head of deep-water navigation on the river. Here fur brigades set out in big canots du maître for their thousands-mile-long paddle-and-portage journeys up the Ottawa to the French River, Georgian Bay and deep into First Nations' lands in the West. In the past, anything larger than a canoe came through the rapids here under the control of aboriginal pilots who knew every rock and eddy; today kids from Montreal bring their boards to surf standing waves in the current.

Route 138 follows Sherbrooke Street through Montreal, paring the city's neighbourhoods like a section in a geology textbook. In the west end it passes the Ritz Carlton—the onetime Vatican of Anglo-Montreal power—then splits the McGill Campus from corporate head offices downtown. In the east it divides the Paleozoic forms of Parc Olympique from the vast lawns of Parc Maisonneuve, where every June 24th the Grand spectacle de la Fête Nationale brings hundreds of thousands of Fleurdelisé-clad fans and dozens of bands together in pop veneration of the Quebec nation. It continues on through the quarries, tank farms, and refineries of Montreal-Est, where we rolled up the windows (too late) to stop a dizzying



A rest stop along the Ottawa River, with bunnies.

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Pointe-à-la-Renomée Lighthouse near Forillon National Park, watching the entrance to the St. Lawrence River between the Gaspé Peninsula and Anticosti.



fog of volatile organic compounds. We rejoined the river at Point aux Trembles and crossed to the north shore at Repentigny, where the St. Lawrence sifts through an incongruous mix of narrow strip fields, industrial power plants, and suburban monster homes.

Below Montreal Route 138 runs roughly parallel to the river all the way to Natashquan, beyond Anticosti on the subarctic Gulf coast, 1200 kilometres and five degrees of latitude to the northeast. The 280 kilometre stretch from Repentigny to Quebec City has, since 1737, been known as the Chemin du Roy. Pointing our car and boat in the general direction of Labrador, we followed the slackening current of the widening river until it became the broad, reed-lined sheet of Lac Saint-Pierre. Government dredged a steamship channel through here in the 1840s, inaugurating Canada's distinguished heritage of Public Works scandals. At Trois-Rivières the river narrows and begins to run again, fed by the many streams running south into the river from the Laurentian Upland. These streams, harnessed to an expansive social vision by (then Liberal cabinet minister) René Lévesque in the 1960s, powered the Quiet Revolution and power the Quebec state today. The Capitale Nationale, Quebec City, is an elegant embodiment of those aspirations, a combination of past glories, selectively remembered, and a strangely fitting cosmopolitan modernity. Le Moulin à Images, local visionary Robert Lepage's "architectural projection" of 400 years of Quebec history onto portside grain silos

30 metres high and 600 metres long, captures the combination perfectly.

In the 19th century Quebec was one of the great ports of North America but in the Old Town today it's remarkably difficult to find parking for a boat, even one as small as ours. So this time we drove on through the city to Beauport (where Wolfe made his first, failed attack in 1759) and over a short bridge to the Île d'Orleans. For me, the Île d'Orleans is the most Quebec-like of Quebec places. It is surrounded entirely by the river. Its landscape is composed of thin strips of field, orchard, and wood imprinted on the land long ago by seigneurial tenure. The town of Saint-Pierre-de-l'Île d'Orleans—where we stayed overnight in an old presbytery-turned-auberge and game farm, an excellent combination—grew up around a chapel first built in 1662. Félix Leclerc, pop-poet elder of modern Quebec nationalism, lived in the town until his death there in 1988. For Leclerc, the island was the very image of his nation: "Pour célébrer/L'indépendance/ Quand on y pense/C'est-y en France/C'est comme en France/ Le tour de l'île/Quarante-deux milles/Comme des vagues/Les montagnes/Les fruits sont mûrs/Dans les vergers/De mon pays/Ça signifie/L'heure est venue/Si t'as compris."

Our forty-two-mile "tour de l'île" took us to Saint-François, the northern tip of the island, where the river widens and becomes rough like a sea, and there's a view across the waters to Cap Tourmente, where the Laurentians drop straight down into the river. As we drove along we

View towards the mountains of the North Shore from Saint-Pierre-de-l'Île d'Orleans.

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watched a German tall ship motor easily through the Traverse, the twisting channel that was seen as New France's padlock, until James Cook and his fellow Royal Navy masters picked it. We sought out the Trou Saint-Patrick (Saint Patrick's Hole) where generations of Canadian river pilots made their homes and their livings, guiding ships of many nations through the river's intricacies and into the continent's interior.

Back on 138, we took the old road through l'Ange Gardien as far as Sainte-Anne-de Beupré. The basilica here, as full an embodiment of Roman Catholic cosmology as can be imagined, rose in the mid-20th century, a sort of powerful last gasp of Quebecois popular piety. It remains an important place of pilgrimage, where many receive and give thanks for miracles of healing. The first shrine, built in the 17th century and dedicated to the patron saint of sailors, was where inbound vessels offered cannon salutes in thanks for a safe Atlantic passage: no less miraculous, for many, in those days. At Sainte-Anne the road turns sharply inland and uphill, passing hardscrabble farms on the high Laurentian Plateau until, in a series of scary sharp grades, it descends to the town of Baie-Saint-Paul. Baie-Saint-Paul, the heart of the Charlevoix region, lies in a narrow cleft between abraded hulks of old, weathered mountains; from the hillsides you can watch fixed-wing gliders at eye level, slowly spiralling to the valley floor below. After another 200 kilometres, past the Île-aux-Coudres where the navigation constricts to a narrow channel vexed by powerful whirlpools, past the elegant resort hotels and villas of La Malbaie, we caught sight of the red-and-white striped pepperpot of the Haut-fond Prince lighthouse, offshore at the mouth of the Saguenay. Route 138 curved sharply to the west, downhill, and the river's high, fjord-like walls opened up before us.

A short ferry ride brought us into Tadoussac. The town was thronged. We had arrived, we found, on the opening night of the Festival de la Chanson de Tadoussac, a huge popular-music festival that draws Francophone artists and fans from around the world. The town's meandering,

**"Boomer couples, who 40 years earlier held their cigarette lighters aloft as Leclerc, Gilles Vigneault, and Robert Charlebois sang a nation into being, enjoyed local foie gras at street-side tables."**

unplanned streets were blocked by convoys of earnest students looking for places to park their late-model VW campers. Leathered bikers rolled past with clutches in, gruffly revving their engines. Boomer couples, who 40 years earlier held their cigarette lighters aloft as Leclerc, Gilles Vigneault, and Robert Charlebois sang a nation into being, enjoyed local foie gras at street-side tables. Fortunately, we had long before made reservations at the venerable, red-roofed Hotel Tadoussac. When we entered the lobby to check in, though, another surprise awaited us: there, standing and talking like a mere mortal, was the great Gilles Vigneault himself. Tall, with long white hair jutting in bolts from either side of his balding head, it was unmistakably the composer of both "Mon pays" and "Gens du pays," Quebec's beloved and popular (if

not official) Hymnes Nationales. Vigneault was a North Shore boy himself, from the end of the road in Natashquan no less, but it seemed unreal to see him here rather than, say, on a 20-foot high stage in front of 100,000 screaming fans on the Plains of Abraham.

But Tadoussac has long been a place of exchange. Along with thousands of other newcomers that August, we experienced an intermingling of Francophone pop talent from Quebec, France, Switzerland, New Brunswick, Alberta. We walked the streets and heard Quebec superstar Diane Dufresne fill the air with the passionate and louche sounds of cabaret. We heard kids from Chicoutimi playing seriously juicy funk. The next day, an unexpected change of plans forced us to hitch up the trailer and head for home. We crossed the river at Forestville and drove all day and night, until the hallucinated wildlife along the New Brunswick roadside became too real to ignore. We napped at the Big Stop outside of Moncton, making it home the next day. But even then, with roadtrip fatigue closing in, I knew we had experienced something special. Encountering Vigneault at Tadoussac was like rounding the corner and finding Bob Dylan and JFK sitting on Plymouth Rock, chatting. For me it was a rare confluence of time, place, and person. I won't soon forget it.

# Dr. Michael Cross Inspires Alumni Bequest

The Dalhousie History Department and the students it supports benefitted greatly from the generosity of one particular alumna in the past year, as PhD recipient **Jenny Cook** established a graduate scholarship to honour her supervisor and mentor, **Dr. Michael Cross**. Dr. Cross has been a fixture of the department for many years, and has inspired generations of students with his passionate teaching and tireless generosity. The bequest also supports the department's annual autumn social function for faculty and graduate students, renamed the Sutherland Gathering in recognition of **Dr. David Sutherland's** scrupulous work on Dr. Cook's dissertation manuscript. At the inaugural Sutherland Gathering in September of last year, Dr. Cook noted that the bequest was intended to "thank the people who have made my life fuller and more meaningful and supported me when I needed supporting," adding that, as a teacher herself, she wanted to "leave bequests that would help students, particularly students with few financial resources, or who have great research ideas and just need a little encouragement."

Dr. Cook is herself well acquainted with great research ideas: the dissertation she completed under Dr. Cross's supervision formed the basis of her book *Coalescence of Styles: The Ethnic Heritage of St John River Valley Regional Furniture, 1763-1851*, published by McGill-Queen's University Press in 2001. In it she examines the complex cultural life of this New Brunswick region through the lens of the interwoven material cultures of its Mi'kmaq, Acadian, French Canadian, American, English, Scots, and Irish populations. Combining fluid analyses of artefacts, images, and texts in innovative ways, her subtle and complex scholarship is itself a fitting tribute to Dr. Cross's pedagogy. In making this bequest to the department, and in encouraging others to follow her example and do likewise, she has honoured and perpetuated his inspiring example.



David Sutherland, David Marciogliese, Michael Cross, Jenny Cook, and Janet Guildford at the inaugural Sutherland Gathering, September 2009

## An Old Colleague



"The Department said goodbye to our much loved colleague, Jaymie Heilman, who took up a position at the University of Alberta. Jaymie and Ken are seen here on their wedding day."

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Conference Journal:

## “Time and A Place: Environmental Histories, Environmental Futures, and Prince Edward Island”

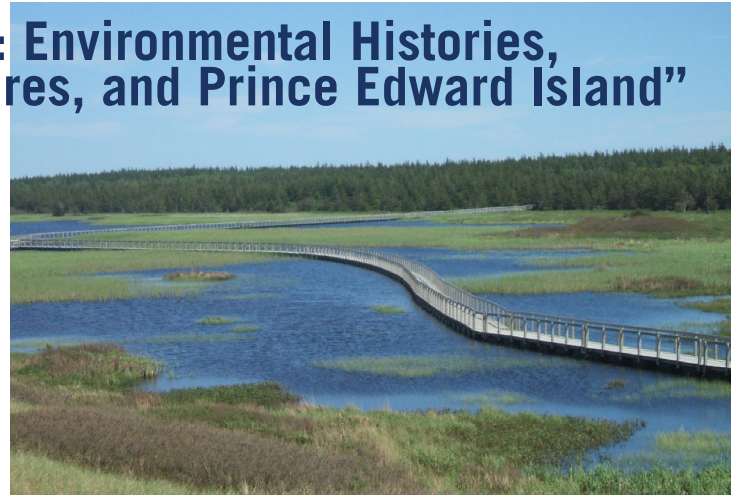
by Claire Campbell

From June 13 until June 18, the College of Sustainability’s Steven Mannell, Dalhousie Libraries’ **Michelle Paon**, and I attended this unconventional conference which set out to explore how the smallest of Canada’s provinces can act as a barometer for environmental change and environmental policy. Based at the University of Prince Edward Island in Charlottetown, and hosted by NiCHE (Network of Canadian History and Environment) and UPEI’s Institute of Island Studies, “Time and A Place” was full of panel discussions and plenary speakers, interspersed with field trips that took us all over the Island.

We drove up on Sunday afternoon with Keith Collier, an M.A. from Memorial University in Newfoundland, who quite patiently put up with us for the four-hour drive. Although Steven complained about the too-stark, too-functional design of the Confederation Bridge, and although it lacks something of the romance of approaching the Island by ferry, arriving on the Island with its red soils and green hedgerows is a wonderful moment.

That evening we attended the opening reception at the Confederation Centre for the Arts—which was featuring exhibits of late-nineteenth and twentieth-century Canadian landscape paintings, and a more conceptual comment on plants including corn stalks soaked in oil. The opening plenary was by Trent University’s Finis Dunaway, who spoke on the importance of visual culture in understanding postwar environmental thinking. Luckily, this was also the last day I had to walk between the campus and the downtown via the ‘strip’ of University Avenue—I discovered the Confederation Trail the next morning and walked it each day that week at sunrise.

Monday was the longest and most grueling day; as Alan MacEachern (director of NiCHE and



Prince Edward Island National Park, Greenwich Dunes.

expatriate Islander) later said, they threw us in at the deep end. A morning plenary on “two-eyed seeing”—that is, using both traditional aboriginal knowledge and western science—introduced an interesting concept, but I would have liked more on how to actually integrate these two. Then we travelled west to Lennox Island First Nation, the only aboriginal reserve on the Island, where we heard from an archaeologist working on a nearby site and where the braver souls went for a trail walk in mosquito-heavy woods. There is a new lobster plant on the reserve, but we didn’t get a chance to learn much about it as we were already about two hours late; we also had to miss the Summerside Wind Farm, to my disappointment. University of Kansas environmental historian Donald Worster—one of the most influential scholars in the field—made up for it that evening, though, with a keynote on “the age of limits”: asking if North America has finally turned a corner away from the age or mentality of growth that dominated not just the postwar era but the entire modern age. It’s that kind of work that shows how history really can engage with current issues.



Fishing boats coming in to Lennox Island First Nation harbour.



Exhibit at Confederation Centre for the Arts, Charlottetown.

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Each day was themed to a different kind of land use, and Tuesday was forests. I confess I've never been a big fan of forestry history, but this was simply fascinating: forest habitat, forest use, forest disturbance, and forest regeneration. What this whole week did extremely well was show a depth and complexity to the “gentle Island” too often thought of as singularly pastoral and agricultural. Talks on the forest composition of the Island, based on use, topography, and farm settlement and abandonment were really interesting. Then—a true highlight of the week—a hike through an Acadian forest at Strathgartney Provincial Park, one of the prettiest woods I've seen, down to the West River. While I think we feel more attached to places we know and understand, sometimes just being *in* nature is as important as learning its details. That evening Graeme Wynn, one of the “founding fathers” of environmental history in Canada, gave another excellent plenary on our historical interaction with forests in the Maritimes.



Beech Woods, Strathgartney Provincial Park.

Today was about the fisheries on the Island, and while the organizers were clearly trying to stay away from references to L.M. Montgomery, in order to show the *rest* of the Island, I couldn't help but think of some of her descriptions of small fishing communities like Glen St. Mary. *Anyway*, today was a gloriously sunny day, so we headed to Greenwich, the eastern addition of about twelve years ago to PEI National Park. Talks on the historical and contemporary fisheries (lobster: doing well; others: not so much) were followed by a great lunch outdoors and then, best of all, a long walk on the beach past impressive, and migrating, dunes. This was followed by a lobster supper in the fishing town of Souris on the eastern shore of the Island, and a rather depressing keynote given by Daniel Pauly, a world-renowned scholar from the University of British Columbia, on mapping (generally the



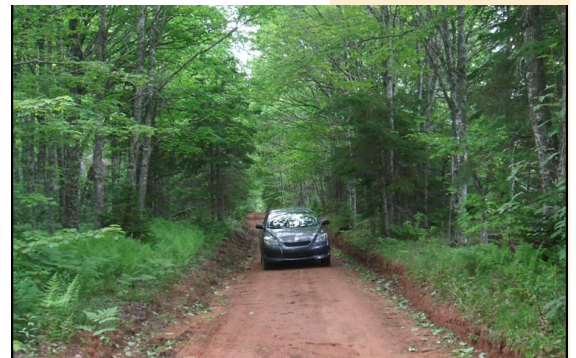
Parabolic dune at Greenwich PEI National Park.

collapse of) fish stocks. Not back until late, but Island historian Edward MacDonald did point out the Island's vodka distillery on the way.

Today was...an experience, as my father would say. (Steve would say an experience is what you get when you don't get what you expected to get). I found the morning plenary and panel the most interesting; the former was on using GIS to reconstruct environmental use from a well-known diary of 19<sup>th</sup> century farming, through which geographer Matthew Hatvany argued that the “golden age” of PEI lore was probably a mythic reading of self-sustaining mixed husbandry; and a discussion about sustainability initiatives on PEI, like the Institute for Man & Resources and the Ark in the 1970s. I think here the organizers were getting closest to what they were aiming for: that is, what is possible here?

What best facilitates such initiatives: is it scale, governmental commitment, what? Then—after a series of unintended if most picturesque detours on red Island roads—we visited a “back-to-the-lander” and his farm;

Orwell Corner Farm Museum (one of these pioneer-village-type things); and the Macphail homestead, where a presentation on the Macphail Woods forestry project proved the most heartening “good-news” story of the week.



En route to Sweet Clover Farm, near Orwell Corners.



Greenwich, PEI National Park

Friday: a day devoted to policy and “what now”? I was most impressed with the extent to which academics presenting this week tried to show how their research is—not just can be, but *is*—engaged with informing policy. No ivory towers here, although someone did point out that we were free to be here all week while the actual policy makers had to be in the office. (“Free”? It was one of the most exhausting weeks I’ve had in a while). And in fact, said policy makers made some very salient points about the role of the university in all of this: namely, that we are free to provoke discussion and innovation where governments might be too politically vulnerable or insecure to do so. (I was also taken by the presentation on wind resource atlases and wind power potential in the region given by an engineer from Université de Moncton, although that may have been in part due to the many references to Denmark). That afternoon a panel discussed the challenges academics face in contributing to policy, be they corporate intimidation or general disregard for an historical perspective. But that evening, after the banquet, the final plenary asked if we were making progress in

environmental law, and the answer seemed to be, more or less, yes.

And I was able to work L.M. Montgomery into my own panel, in arguing for the value of the humanities, the study of ideas and meaning, in the discussion of sustainability:

In the west was a sky of mackerel clouds—crimson and amber-tinted, with long strips of apple-green sky between. Beyond was the glimmering radiance of a sunset sea, and the ceaseless voice of many waters came up from the tawny shore. All around her, lying in the fine, beautiful country silence, were the hills and fields and woods she had known and loved so long.

“History repeats itself,” said Gilbert, joining her as she passed the Blythe gate. “Do you remember our first walk down this hill, Anne—our first walk together anywhere, for that matter?”

- L.M. Montgomery, *Anne’s House of Dreams* (1917)

So, all in all, well worth it. A fantastic premise; an educational environment; and a beautiful, valuable place.



# The MacKay Lectures 2009-2010

The MacKay Lectures are a series of four presentations by internationally renowned scholars in the liberal and performing arts. The series is funded by a donation from **Gladys MacKay** in honour of her husband the **Reverend Ross MacKay**, a 1927 graduate of the Dalhousie History Department. In 2009-2010 the series was coordinated by the department's **Dr. Claire Campbell**, who also serves as Coordinator of the Canadian Studies Program and as an Instructor with the University's College of Sustainability. This year's lectures examined the broad theme of "Sustainability: Past, Present, Future."

This year's presenters were **Graeme Wynn** of the University of British Columbia's Department of Geography; **Robert Melchior Figueroa** of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the University of North Texas; **Kathy McAfee** from San Francisco State University's Department of International Relations; and **Sami Zubaida**, Professor Emeritus of Politics and Sociology at

Birbeck College, London. Dr. Wynn, a pioneer in the field of Environmental History, placed questions of sustainability in Atlantic Canada in a long historical perspective. Dr. Figueroa, whose work examines links between environment and racism and classism, examined relations among climate change, forced migration, and conceptions of justice. Dr. McAfee, a geographer and activist who has written on issues related to the environment, trade, and development spoke on ethical issues related global warming and world hunger. Dr. Zubaida, concluding the series, considered aspects of the relation between food and the creation of cultural identities.

Dr. Campbell wanted to ensure that the MacKay Lectures would serve as a means for the University to reach out to the broader community, and to invite the community to participate in the life of the University. The success of this year's series is a clear step in that direction.

Right: The Killam Lecturers 09/10



Kathy McAfee



Robert Figueroa



Graeme Wynn



Sami Zubaida

## History Students Excel

Every year veterans of Dalhousie's History Department go on to excel in their chosen fields: this past year was no different.

University of King's College student **Rosanna Nicol**, who graduated with a degree in History and Economics in 2009, has earned an enormous distinction and opportunity: she is one of 11 Canadians awarded a 2009 Rhodes Scholarship. The Rhodes is one of the most prestigious scholarships in the world, and funds all expenses for two years of study at Oxford University, one the oldest and greatest institutions of higher learning on the planet. Rhodes Scholarships are awarded on the basis of both academic achievement and strength of character, and Rosanna demonstrates an abundance of both. In addition to maintaining a stellar GPA, she was a member of the King's College Chapel Choir under renowned director **Paul Halley**, volunteered

with the World University Service of Canada, and spent six months in Africa working with the OSU Children's Library Fund, an NGO operating in Ghana. When notified of her award, Rosanna singled out Amal Ghazal for thanks, noting that she found the professor's intellectually challenging approach to teaching especially inspiring.

**David Eaton**, a 2008 Dalhousie History PhD graduate, has continued to distinguish himself: his dissertation "Violence, Revenge, and the History of Cattle Raiding along the Kenya-Uganda Border, c. 1830-2008" won the Dalhousie University Doctoral Thesis Award in the Humanities and Social Sciences for 2009. David has recently accepted a tenure-track position in History at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan.

Congratulations to our distinguished alumni!

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# Shirley Tillotson's Very Good Year



Shirley Tillotson

This year **Shirley Tillotson's** excellence as a scholar has received the widespread recognition that it so clearly deserves: she has done the department proud. She won the Hilda Neatby Prize for her article "The Family as Tax Dodge: Partnership, Individuality, and Gender in the Personal Income Tax Act, 1942 to 1970," *Canadian Historical Review* 90:3 (2009), 391-425. The Neatby Prize is awarded annually to two articles (one in English and one in French) published in Canada that have made "an original and scholarly contribution to the field of women's and gender history."

The citation accompanying the prize notes that Dr. Tillotson "has produced an original and intelligent, as well as sophisticated and eloquently written, study of how gender has historically shaped Canadian tax policy. The article is a major contribution to our understanding of the welfare state, the family economy, feminist theory, and political history. She forces us to reconsider women's engagement with the state, not only within public forums, but from within the family as well. In this way Tillotson demonstrates the

centrality of gender to political studies."

Her book *Contributing Citizens: Modern Charitable Fundraising and the Making of the Welfare State, 1920-66* (UBC Press, 2008) was shortlisted for the Harold Adams Innis Prize from the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, a prize that recognizes books "that make significant research contributions to the advancement of knowledge and understanding of Canadian society." This follows her shortlisting for the Canadian Historical Association's Macdonald Prize, awarded to the best book in Canadian History, last year.

Also new in print from Dr. Tillotson this year is "Relations of Extraction: Taxation and Women's Citizenship in the Maritimes, 1910-49" in Suzanne Morton and Janet Guildford eds., *Making Up the State: Women in 20th-Century Atlantic Canada* (Acadiensis Press, 2010), 93-112. Her high-octane scholarly performance was accompanied by heavy administrative and teaching responsibilities, as she served a one-year term as Acting Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and developed a new class for senior undergraduates and Master's students called "Justice, Freedom, and the State in 20th Century Canada." Congratulations, Shirley!

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## Grad Students' Work Rewarded

In the past year the History Department continued its tradition of training fine young historians and encouraging their innovative and exciting work. Below is a roster of graduate students who have completed their programs in the past year, of faculty who supervised their work, and of their dissertation and thesis projects.

Proud MA Graduates **Robin Greene** and **Kevin Johnston** at the October 2010 Convocation

**Jeffers Lennox**, PhD (**Jerry Bannister**). "An Empire on Paper: Cartography, Geography, and the Founding of Halifax, 1744-1755."

**Ibrahim Badawi**, MA (**Amal Ghazal**). "Dictatorship of the Pious: The Theological Dimension of Muslim Extremism in Egypt, 1954-1997."

**Trevor Checkley**, MA (**Christopher Bell**). "The Royal Navy, Intelligence, and Strategy in the Mediterranean, 1936-1939."

**Ken Corbett**, MA (**Gordon McOuat**, King's). "Technologies of Time: Time Standardization and Response in Britain, 1870-1900."

**Robin Greene**, MA (**Gregory Hanlon**). "Mountain Peasants in an Age of Global Cooling."

**Kevin Johnston, MA (Jaymie Heilman).**

“The CIA, The Contras and Cocaine: The Reagan Administration’s Complicity in Drug Trafficking, 1981-1988.”

**Genevieve Maser, MA (Philip Zachernuk).**

“The Pursuit of Hutu Power: the Forces Armées Rwandaises, 1960-1994.”

**Christopher Matthews, MA (Colin Mitchell).**

“A Unique Flavour: Late 19th Century Sindh under British Control.”

**Angela Ranson, MA (Krista Kesselring).**

“Through Faith Unfeigned: Recantation and Subversion in Sixteenth-Century England.”



Above: Proud MA Graduates Robin Greene and Kevin Johnston at the October 2010 Convocation.

## New Course Offerings

It is a measure of the dynamism of the History Department’s curricula that several faculty members have introduced new courses this year.

**Dr. Jack Crowley**, for example, is teaching “Imagining the Other: The Portrayal of the Non-European World in Early Modern Culture” in the University of King’s College’s Early Modern Studies Program. Dr. Crowley’s course examines texts and images depicting Europeans’ encounters with non-European peoples, showing how these depictions portrayed non-European realms both positively, as either more enlightened or more natural, and negatively, as unenlightened and unnatural. Examining texts and images derived from Portuguese, Italian, Spanish, English, French, and Dutch sources from the late middle ages to the end of the eighteenth century, and depicting contexts including the Far East, India, Africa, North and South America, Polynesia, as well as purely imaginary settings, the course considers how writers and artists implicitly engaged in clarifying and criticizing European identity as they came to terms with non-European realities.

**Dr. Padraig Riley’s** “North American Landscapes” focuses on one major problem: conflict between European settlers and Native Americans during the British colonization of North America, from the early 17th century to the early years of the United States. According to Dr. Riley such conflict was, essentially, always about land: about who owned and

controlled it, how it was used, and what it meant. Accordingly, a good portion of the course focuses on the ecological dimensions of European-Native conflict, examining topics from the exchange of diseases to the impact of livestock to the fear of forests and wolves. It also looks beyond the land per se to the exchanges of violence and culture that gave it meaning.

**Dr. Shirley Tillotson’s** “Justice, Freedom, and the State in Twentieth Century Canada” examines the changing ways in which Canadian politics, broadly defined, organized social experience in the 20th century, and the ways in which changing social ideas and practices altered the mechanisms of government. In particular it examines the ways these changes were shaped by philosophical debates about justice and freedom, as represented in classical- and neo-liberal thought and in the thought of critics of liberalism, who proposed other authorities than the liberal democratic state or other visions of justice than ones that give priority to individual freedom. As a senior seminar, this course is intended to give students with a strong background in History the chance to integrate knowledge they have acquired over their undergraduate education within the framework of big questions about the value of historical consciousness and the relation of History to political philosophy and practice.

# Peter Coffman's Gothic Tales

**Dr. Peter Coffman**, for two years a Killam Postdoctoral Fellow with the department, used his time in Nova Scotia to engage deeply with the province's history and built environment. The architectural historian's research trajectory was fixed by a fugitive glimpse of England's Canterbury Cathedral seen from a passing train; since then, his appreciation of the sinuous and soaring forms of late medieval structures has informed his ongoing examination of Gothic Revival architecture in Atlantic Canada.

In Dr. Coffman's previous professional life, however, he was a photographer, an artistic practice he continues to cultivate. His austere and texturally rich photographs from the Camino Santiago—the ancient pilgrimage route to Santiago de Compostela in Spain—won him international attention, and inspired a collaboration with his sometime travelling companion, the acclaimed violinist Oliver Schroer. His time in Nova Scotia afforded him the opportunity to combine his expertise in two very different disciplines, resulting in the exhibition *Anglicana Tales: Stories of the Nova Scotian Church, Shown and Told*, which ran at the Dalhousie Art Gallery from May 21 to July 4, 2010.

Timed to coincide with the 300th anniversary of the Anglican Church's first service in what would become Canada—held in the wake of the



Peter Coffman at the Dalhousie Art Gallery (Danny Abriel).

British “conquest” of Nova Scotia, in 1710—Coffman's exhibition interweaves photographs of the province's historic Anglican churches with texts derived from his recent research. Inspired by Chaucer's medieval literary forms, words and pictures embody a series of “tales” which evoke significant moments in the Church's—and in Nova Scotia's—historical development, from the implantation of Loyalist communities in the aftermath of the American Revolutionary War, to the fierce and now-obscure doctrinal battles that wracked the province in the 19th century. Each tale serves as a lens that sharpens our perspective

on an historical moment; together they suggest a complex narrative of change over a period of centuries.

While Coffman's work makes viewers aware of the fabric of the region's built environment, he is also quick to point out that the fabric is a fragile one. As churches are deconsecrated, abandoned, and even dismantled altogether and

shipped across the continent, the structures of the past, and the stories told in them, are threatened with oblivion.



St. Paul's Anglican Church, Northfield, Hants County, Nova Scotia.

# Jack Crowley's Global Landscapes

Peripatetic Emeritus Professor **Jack Crowley** continued his globe-spanning travels in support of his continuing project tracking the creation of a global British landscape and its relation to empire in the late-18th and early 19th centuries. The project has taken Dr. Crowley across Canada and the United States, to the Caribbean, to India, and most recently to the islands of the South Pacific. Yale University Press will publish his research in 2011 under the title *Picturesque Imperialism: Creating a Global Landscape in British Visual Culture, c.1750-1820*. Below is his report on his most recent travels.

I spent October through December in western Polynesia, the only region covered by my project on imperial landscapes where I had not traveled extensively. Marian and I visited about two dozen islands in the major island groups: the Cooks, Societies, Leewards, Tuamotus, Marquesas, Australs, and Easter Island. Their geography ranged from fringing motus with gigantic lagoons (Rangiroa), through uplifted coral (Atiu), to volcanic islands with surrounding motus (most of the Societies, such as Bora Bora, Raiatea, Huahine, and Maupiti), isolated volcanic islands (Moorea and Tahiti), and the unique isolate of Easter Island (3000 miles from any other settlement). Thanks to wireless internet at even the most remote locations, I could connect with Dalhousie Library's Eighteenth Century Collections Online and read, for example, Captain James Cook's accounts of each of these islands when he discovered them for Europeans during his three voyages. With its hundreds of monumental figures and dozens of ceremonial plazas, Easter Island had to be the most impressive single place, especially since Jared Diamond has made it a parable of ecological mal-adaptation. Having the crater/quarry to ourselves for a morning was the most impressive archaeological experience of my life, and I have been to Delphi, Ephesus, Stonehenge, Skara Brae, Khajuraho, Pompeii, Monte Alban, Machu Picchu, and Chaco Canyon.

From January through May I was in Berkeley, where I had the 10 million-book library largely to myself, since few people use books anymore.



Dr. Jack Crowley and friend, Easter Island.

Berkeley also has a great rare books library, the Bancroft, which is especially rich in Pacific materials. I used these resources to put the finishing touches on *Picturesque Imperialism*, which Yale University Press is publishing next April. The internet made it downright fun to collect publishable images of about 250 illustrations from about three dozen institutions in seven countries. I saw a lot of three wonderful historians from three generations, ranging from their 40s through their 80s: Alan Taylor, John Gillis, and David Lowenthal. Something about Berkeley makes people want to get in touch with each other intellectually. Many of my favorite entertainers came through town, too: Laurie Anderson, Keith Jarrett, the Harlem Dance Theatre, and the Alvin Ailey Dancer Theater; and there were local mainstays like the San Francisco Ballet, the Berkeley Repertory and the American Conservatory Theater, knockout exhibitions on Shanghai at the Asian Arts Museum and on Matisse at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and wayward acts such as Michelle Shocked and Ian Tyson (Canadian content!).

# Faculty Notes

## **Jerry Bannister**

In 2009-2010 Dr. Bannister returned to the Department as Graduate Coordinator after a year away on sabbatical and parental leave. He has been working on two book-length projects to be published in 2010-2011: the second Canadian edition of *The Twentieth-Century World: An International History*, coauthored with William Keylor and Tracey Kinney (Oxford University Press); and *The Loyal Atlantic: Remaking the British Atlantic in the Revolutionary Era* coedited with Liam Riordan (University of Toronto Press). Other projects include "The Presence of the Past: Memory and Politics in Atlantic Canada since 2000," coauthored with Roger Marsters, which will appear in *Shaping an Agenda for Atlantic Canada*, edited by Donald Savoie and John Reid. In addition to serving on the Council of the Canadian Historical Association and the Board of Directors of the Gorsebrook Research Institute, he has recently joined the Advisory Board of *Acadiensis* and the Editorial Board of *The Canadian Historical Review*.

## **Christopher Bell**

Dr. Bell is in the process of completing a book on Winston Churchill and seapower. Recent publications include "The King's English and the Security of the Empire: Class, Social Mobility, and Democratization in the British Naval Officer Corps, 1918-1939," *Journal of British Studies* 48:3 (2009), 695-716. This past spring he presented the paper "Winston Churchill and Dominion Navies, 1911-14" to the Canadian Navy Centennial History Conference at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa.

## **Claire Campbell**

In addition to the activities reported elsewhere in this news letter, Dr. Campbell's recent publications include "'We all aspired to be woodsy': Tracing environmental awareness at a boys' camp," in Alan MacEachern and Ryan O'Connor eds., *Talking Green: Oral History and the Environment*, special issue of *Oral History Forum* (2010); and "To 'Free Itself, and Find Itself': Writing a History for the Prairie West," in Andrea Cabajsky and Brett Josef Grubisic eds., *National Plots: Historical Fiction*

and *Changing Ideas of Canada* (Wilfrid Laurier Press, 2010).

## **Amal Ghazal**

During the summer of 2010 Dr. Ghazal visited the Ottoman archives in Istanbul, Turkey to further her research on anti-reform thought in the late-Ottoman period. Her book *Islamic Reform and Arab Nationalism: Expanding the Crescent from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean (1880s-1930s)* was published by Routledge in the past year. Other publications include the article

"The Other Frontiers of Arab Nationalism: Ibadis, Berbers and the Arabist-Salafi Press in the Interwar Period," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 42 (2010), 105-122; and the book chapter "Debating Slavery and Abolition in the Arab Middle East," in Behnaz A. Mirzai, Ismael Musah Montana and Paul E. Lovejoy eds., *Islam, Slavery and Diaspora* (Africa World Press, 2009), 139-153.

## **Krista Kesselring**

Dr. Kesselring has begun a term as Assistant Dean for Research for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Her publications in the past year include "Felony Forfeiture and the Profits of Crime in Early Modern England," *Historical Journal* 53:2 (2010), 271-288; and "Felony Forfeiture in England, c. 1170-1870," *Journal of Legal History* 30:3 (2009), 201-226.

## **Denis Kozlov**

Dr. Kozlov has been awarded the Mellon Fellowship for Assistant Professors at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, for the year 2010-11. His recent publications include "Athens and Apocalypse: Writing History in Soviet Russia," chapter 18 in Axel Schneider and Daniel Woolf eds., *Oxford History of Historical Writing*, vol. 5, *Historical Writing since 1945*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press; and a review of Igor Narskii, *Fotokartochka na pamiat': Semeinye istorii, fotograficheskie poslaniia i sovetskoe detstvo* (Avto-bio-istoriograficheskii roman) (OOO Entsiklopediia, 2008), *Slavic Review*, 69:2 (2010), 519-20

### Cynthia Neville

In the past year Dr. Neville was awarded the George Munro Chair in History and Political Economy at Dalhousie. She is the recipient of a Standard Research Grant from SSHRC for a new project that studies the royal pardon in Scotland in the later Middle Ages, and was named to the International Advisory Group of a British Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded research project based at the University of Glasgow that will continue the work of an earlier project on medieval Scottish charters. Her book *Land, Law and People in Medieval Scotland* was published this past January with Edinburgh University Press.

### Norman Pereira

In the past year Dr. Pereira has completed his term as Honorary President of the Canadian Association of Slavists. His recent publications include "Revisiting the Revisionists and their Critics," *The Historian* 72: 1 (2010), 23-37; and "The Thought and Teachings of Michael Karpovich," *Russian History/Histoire Russe*, 36:2 (2009), 254-277.

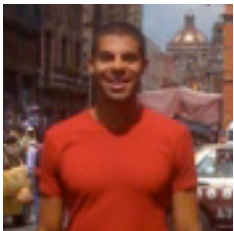
### Padraig Riley

Dr. Riley continues to work on his book manuscript, *Slavery and the Democratic Conscience: Political Life in Jeffersonian America*. During the past year, he developed a new version of History 3370, "American Landscapes," focused on European and First Nations conflict in colonial British North America.

### David Sutherland

Dr. Sutherland is continuing as the Nova Scotia member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, and is immediate Past President of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society. His is currently researching a book on Halifax in the year 1885, to be published in 2011. His recent articles include "'Halifax's Encounter with the North-West Uprising of 1885,'" *Journal of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society*, 13 (2010), forthcoming.

## New Faculty



Dr. Benjamin Cowan

The History Department is pleased to welcome new faculty member **Dr. Benjamin Cowan**, who serves as the department's Latin American specialist. Dr. Cowan received his PhD from UCLA in June, 2010, and his teaching

and research interests include Latin America, Modern Brazil and the Southern Cone, Gender and Sexuality, Masculinity and Neocolonialism, Military Authoritarianism, State Violence, Countersubversion and the Cold War. He has published in the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, and his article "'Why Hasn't this Teacher Been Shot?' Moral Panic, the Repressive Right, and Brazil's National Security State" will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Hispanic American Historical Review*. We are very happy to have Dr. Cowan on board, and wish him a smooth adaptation to the Nova Scotian climate.

We also welcome to the faculty our new dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, **Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray**. Dr. Summerby-Murray, a native of New Zealand, trained as a geographer at the University of Canterbury and the University of Toronto. He has taught historical geography at Mount Allison University, where his excellence as a teacher was repeatedly recognized, and where he most recently served as Dean of Social Sciences. As dean, Dr. Summerby-Murray is especially eager to foster interdisciplinary research, and to forge international collaborations both among researchers and students.



Dr. Robert Summerby-Murray [Abriel]

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