

Welcome to the Churchill Northern Studies Centre Symposium

***Understanding and Sustaining the North into the Future: A Celebration of the Life and Legacy of Bob Jefferies***

**Thursday, August 25th**

Afternoon - Registration at the Studies Centre

Evening (7:00 - 8:30 pm)

**Keynote addresses at the Churchill Town Centre Complex**

**Introduction – Kathy Martin, University of British Columbia**

Fred Cooke: *La Pérouse Bay and Churchill: The Early Years*

*In the 1970s, Professor Emeritus Fred Cooke (Queen's and then Simon Fraser Universities) began the studies of the Lesser Snow Goose, which go on to this day, at La Pérouse Bay, in what is now Wapusk National Park. It is one of the most complete long term population studies of a bird species. When Bob Jefferies arrived to take up his position at the University of Toronto, Fred invited him to come and study the salt-marsh vegetation that the geese were grazing on. Bob stayed for 30 years. Fred's Ph D was in fungal genetics but he was able to connect to the genetics of the snow geese, to develop research in his real passion in biology - birds. Fred will share his memories and reflections about how it was in those early years in Churchill.*

Lorenzo Cohen: *Living the Anti-Cancer Life*

*An International Polar Year, in which researchers study both the north and south poles, happens every 50 years: the most recent was 2007-08 (although the research activities are still concluding). Bob Jefferies and his students participated in the recent Polar Year activities. This International Polar Year broke new ground with its themes of interdisciplinary collaborations, the inclusion of members of northern communities as researchers, and its goals of leaving a legacy for the north along with training a new generation of researchers.*

*Health was an important theme in Polar Year Research. Dr. Cohen, who is a professor at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, is a world-leader in research that examines how behaviour such as meditation, stress management, emotional writing, yoga, and tai chi/qigong improves quality of life and health. He will discuss how these findings, and others from cancer-research can improve the health of northerners.*

Refreshments will be served

**Friday, August 26th**

Friday and Saturday's events are at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre. A free shuttle bus will take you to the Studies Centre from the Town Centre. All talks are 20 minutes.

Morning (9 am to 12 pm) – *Showcasing the research of the Churchill Northern Studies Centre*

- 9:00-9:10     **Introduction and Welcome: Mike Goodyear, Director of the Studies Centre**  
9:10-9:30     Bill Erickson (Churchill): *What is A Studies Centre?*  
9:30-9:50     **Rick Bello** and Sarah Verma (York University): *Comparison of Peat Plateau Carbon Dynamics in Bog, Riparian and Polygon Habitats*  
9:50-10:10    Travis Dickson: *To be announced*  
10:10-10:25   Question and Answers  
10:25-10:40   Break  
10:40-11:00   Victor Fisher: *Towson University’s CNSC-based Archaeological Fieldwork, 1986-1990*  
11:00-11:20   **Peter Kershaw** (University of Alberta), LeeAnn Fishback (CNSC), Steven Mamet, Carley Basler and Jennifer McCulloch: *Mid-winter snowpack and its ecological implications across the Arctic treeline*  
11:20-11:40   Steve Mamet (University of Alberta): *Looking through the wooden time machine: tree-ring investigations of terrestrial ecosystem change in the western Hudson Bay Lowlands*  
11:40 -12:00   Questions and Answers

**12 to 1 pm – Lunch at the Studies Centre**

Afternoon (1:00 to 3:30 pm) – *La Pérouse Bay and Wapusk National Park*

**Introduction: David Hik (University of Alberta)**

- 1:05-1:25     Fred Cooke (Queen’s and Simon Fraser Universities): *La Pérouse Bay – a scientific history*  
1:25-1:45     **Emma Horrigan (University of Toronto), LeeAnn Fishback (CNSC)**, Rocky Rockwell (City College, New York), and Ken Abraham (OMNR): *The Hudson Bay Project – current and future directions*  
1:45-2:05     Peter Ewins (World Wildlife Fund Canada): *Polar Bears and Climate Change*  
2:05-2:25     Sheldon Kowalchuk (Parks Canada): *Research at Wapusk National Park*  
2:25-2:40     Break  
2:40-3:00     Kate Edwards (Canadian Forest Service): *Soil microbial and nutritional ecology during late winter and early spring in low arctic sedge meadows*  
3:00-3:20     Kathy Martin (University of British Columbia): *Ptarmigan in the North: population ecology, life history and response to climate change*  
3:20-3:30     Questions and Answers

**Saturday, August 27th**

Morning (9 am to 12 pm) – *The National and International Scene*

**Introduction: Dawn Bazely**

- 9:05-9:25     Maarten Loonen: *University of Groningen, The Netherlands*

- 9:25-9:45 Mary Power: *University of California - Berkeley*
- 9:45-10:05 Rowan Sage: *Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Toronto*
- 10:05-10:25 George Finney (Bird Studies Canada): *Bird Studies Canada*
- 10:35-10:50 Break
- 10:50-11:10 Peter Kotanen (University of Toronto): *Do invaders escape natural enemies at their northern range limits?*
- 11:10-11:30 David Hik (University of Alberta): *Compensatory responses and multiple states of being: how La Perouse Bay influenced my understanding of ecological interactions in extreme environments*
- 11:30-11:50 Dawn Bazely (York University): *My Life with Grass - from La Pérouse Bay to Mongolia*
- 11:50-12:00 **Closing Remarks: Mary Power, University of California - Berkeley**

Schedule for Entire Period – including CNSC Opening

|           | <b>Wednesday<br/>August 24</b>  | <b>Thursday<br/>August 25</b>                              | <b>Friday<br/>August 26</b>   | <b>Saturday<br/>August 27</b>  | <b>Sunday<br/>August 28</b>   |
|-----------|---|--|---|--|---|
| Morning   | VIP Local Tours   | Special Donor Tours  | Dr. Robert Jefferies Memorial Symposium   | Dr. Robert Jefferies Memorial Symposium  | Pancake Breakfast<br><br>All Church Service<br>Tundra Buggy Tour<br>9:00 am – 1:00 pm                                 |
| Afternoon | CNSC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony<br><br>Weston Family Welcome Centre Opening<br>Awarding of Weston Family Prize<br>Reception & Building Tours | Symposium Registration                                     | Dr. Robert Jefferies Memorial Symposium<br><br>Beluga Whale & Fort Tour<br>4:30-7:30 pm | History Bus Tour<br>1:00-3:00 pm<br><br>Eskimo Museum Souvenir Hunting<br>3:00-5:00 pm | Community Open House<br>BBQ Lunch<br><br>Children’s Entertainer Building & Field Site Tours<br>Kid’s Science Carnival |
| Evening   | Invitation Only Dinner<br>Address by Weston Award Recipient   | Symposium Plenary<br>Lecture: Fred Cooke and Lorenzo Cohen | Free Time   | Community Feast<br><br>Community Dance   |   |