

BIO-OCEANS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Issue 37, January 2008

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*Premier Rodney MacDonald
presents the 2007 Portia
White Prize to Joleen
Gordon—see story on page 8.*



FROM THE PRESIDENT

BIO's always outstanding Christmas party was held on 24 December this past year and, as usual, members of our Association were front and centre in the celebration as pictured inside this newsletter issue (see p. 3).

As I write, the 2007 Christmas season has now passed into history and with it the year. I do hope that all of you had a happy time during the holidays with family and friends and good food and drink.

The 2007 BIO Open House proved to be quite successful, despite very nasty weather on the Saturday and a false fire alarm on Sunday which meant that the building had to be cleared for over 30 minutes!

BIO's Open House management team reported that from Thursday, 18 October to Sunday, 21 October 2007, "approximately 20,000 visitors, including 130 elementary and high school classes, ventured through the hallways of the Institute learning first-hand about some of the fascinating initiatives underway at BIO. With 66 exhibits, various touch tanks and aquariums, a shark display, and an inflatable walk-through fin whale, there was something for



Monica Bravo was one of three randomly chosen winners of a BIO shirt for correctly identifying vintage oceanographic equipment put on display by our Association during the recent Open House. Zack Chaisson and Deb Welch were the other two recipients.

everyone – even the smallest of visitors – children.”

The two BIO - Oceans Association displays were well received, especially the “equipment quiz” one developed by Charles Schafer. For those who have not seen it, the display consists of about 21 instruments ranging from Nansen water sampling bottles to seabed current drifters and deep-sea cameras mounted on a display board and identified by a number. The quiz involved identifying just 6 of these instruments from clues provided on a handout. Many individuals and complete families took the quiz and BIO Open House shirt prizes were awarded to several winners (see photo, p.1).

A big thank-you to Charles for developing the display/quiz, to Bob Cook and Art Cosgrove for producing the poster about the Association featuring

a wonderful collage of photographs from various social events, and to all the members who staffed the displays over the four days that BIO was open to school groups and the public. The next one will coincide with BIO’s 50th anniversary in 2012.

On a sadder note, the one social event (apart from participation in the BIO Christmas party) scheduled for the fall – a second Newfoundland Club evening – had to be postponed because of health problems on the part of our host for the evening, George Anderson. We hope to be able to re-schedule this event later in the winter.

However, we are planning some additional social events for the coming months. Our winter celebration social and seminar will take place in the BIO Auditorium on Sunday afternoon, 24 February 2008 and will feature Joleen Gordon, the 2007 recipi-

ent of the Portia White Prize (see p. 8) and Anita Price of Parks Canada, who will be discussing the history of basket traditions in Nova Scotia.

Then, to celebrate the return of summer, we are planning an expedition to McNabs Island in June, coordinated by Don Gordon and Gordon Fader. A boat will be hired to transport participants to and from the Island. Everyone will bring their own picnic lunch, and maps will be provided. You’ll be hearing more about this later in the spring.

Finally, I wish all of you a happy, healthy, and peaceful 2008.

— Betty Sutherland

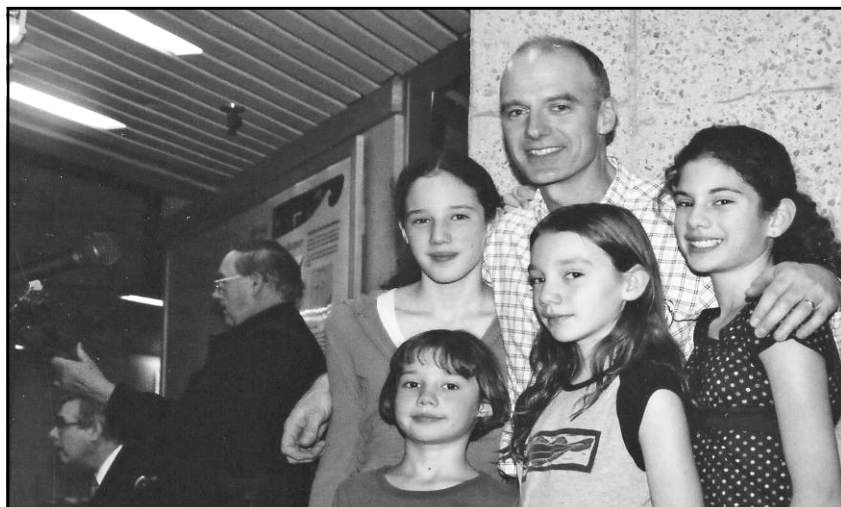


One of the popular exhibits at BIO’s recent Open House was this polar-centred map of the world affixed to the floor outside BIO’s Main Auditorium.

A major reason for its popularity was that visitors could stand on it and then have themselves photographed at the North Pole!

The map commemorates the International Polar Year. For more information about the IPY, go to <http://www.ipy.org>.

**LONG LIVE
THE
ANNUAL
BIO
CHRISTMAS
PARTY!**





A NEW LOOK AT HALIFAX HARBOUR

Gordon Fader

A proposal had been put forth by John Shaw of the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) to build a three-dimensional model showing the relief or topography of Halifax Harbour based on new multibeam bathymetry collected by the Canadian Hydrographic Service. I was pleased to accept when Claudia Currie of the GSC asked for help on the project.

Claudia lobbied and received funding from a variety of sources. Stan Johnston of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans volunteered to re-process the multibeam data and coordinate construction with the company that makes the models. Tied to the funding was a condition from the Department of Natural Resources: they wanted a web site created that was to explain what the model showed about the geological formation of Halifax Harbour and the other secrets that it held.

This requirement brought me back to a rather long unfinished paper I have on the Harbour that is still in production at GSC headquarters in Ottawa. I agreed to produce the material for the web site including a summary of some of the text from the paper together with other images and information I had collected over the years. The difficult part was writing the text at a high school and general audience level while still maintaining interesting

off in this regard, as I quickly learned what works in presentations.

The 3-D model was contracted, constructed, and delivered for the Open House and it is quite impressive. You can not only see your own home on the high resolution photo image but if you run your fingers over the surface of the seabed you can feel all the features such as drumlins, anchor marks, and shipwrecks.

We may have invented a new way to do geology - brail style! The model and associated posters are on display in the main lobby of BIO.



The web site was completed and released in time for the Open House and bookmarks were handed out to all the visitors to help them find and remember the web site. It contains lots of information on how the Harbour formed but also other interesting aspects such as some of the stories behind the shipwrecks, the Harbour myths, and the present cleanup.

science and keeping the substance of the story. I guess all of the talks I have given over the years on the Harbour have paid

Visit the site to discover fascinating facts about the Harbour at BIO's doorstep. We hope you enjoy your tour.



BIO-OA “WINTER CELEBRATION” & SPECIAL SEMINAR

OPEN TO BIO-OA MEMBERS & THE GENERAL PUBLIC

**Main Auditorium
Bedford Institute of Oceanography
1 Challenger Drive, Dartmouth, NS**

Sunday, 24 February 2008 (2:00 PM)

Basket Traditions of Nova Scotia

S P E A K E R S :
J O L E E N G O R D O N & A N I T A P R I C E

Researchers and NS Basketry Investigators

Joleen Gordon, a Research Associate with the Nova Scotia Museum and the 2007 winner of the “Portia White Prize”, and **Anita Price**, from Parks Canada and a member of the Nova Scotia Basketry Guild, reveal the wonders of basketry and the basket traditions of Nova Scotia. Their long-term interest in recording the basket traditions of Nova Scotia have taken them and many of their friends to many parts of the Province with outstanding results. They will explain why Nova Scotia has so many wonderful basket traditions, linking them to both the settlement pattern of people in Nova Scotia and the environment. They will also be showing baskets, the raw materials used to create them, and images of the basket makers themselves. Every basket has a story.

Come and join us for this enlightening presentation about baskets in Nova Scotia, their history, significance, and the people who made them. Anyone with a basket they would like identified or advice on repair and conservation are encouraged to bring it along. The more baskets the better!

There will be time available, before (1:30-2:00 pm) and after the lecture (3:00-4:00 pm), to talk to our guest speaker and ask specific and/or general questions.

For additional information call: Don Gordon (phone: 469-3278; e-mail: gordond@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca). There is a voluntary donation of \$1.00 per person to help offset the costs of refreshments: juices, tea and coffee along with a selection of cookies.



NOTEWORTHY READS: BOOK REVIEWS IN BRIEF

David N. Nettleship
Book Review Editor

The *Noteworthy Reads* section is an effort by BIO-OA to produce a representative list of recent noteworthy book publications related to the marine sciences and other subjects of general interest. The listing is not intended to be comprehensive or complete, but merely an attempt to highlight a number of 'good reads' that may be of interest to OA members and associates. Most books listed are available at local bookstores and public libraries. Book prices are regular retail in Canadian funds, but discounts of 20-30% are normally available on line at: e.g., amazon.ca or chapters.indigo.ca. Recommendations of books to review and contributions of book reviews to include in 'Noteworthy Reads' are welcome – send via e-mail to David Nettleship: dnnlundy@navnet.net (phone: 902-826-2360).

SPECIAL PUBLICATION: THE SEA OF SLAUGHTER CONTINUED

Heller, Peter. 2007. *The Whale Warriors: The Battle at the Bottom of the World to Save the Planet's Largest Mammals*. Free Press (Simon & Schuster), New York, NY. 288 pp. Hardcover, \$ 29.99 (ISBN 1-4165-3246-3). – This is a book to be read by anyone interested in the world's oceans and the uncertain future of many of their living inhabitants. Peter Heller, a National Geographic writer and environmental journalist, joined Paul Watson and crew on board the M/V 'Farley Mowat', the flagship of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, in December 2005 for a two-month cruise into southern waters to monitor and interfere with the Japanese whaling fleet and its illegal fishing practices in and around Antarctica. Heller presents a gripping and disturbing account of the activities undertaken at sea by both the hunters and the protectors. He not only describes the high-speed chases, battles with authorities, and challenges of sailing a small boat in the southern ocean, but carefully provides the background of the unregulated killing of whales for profit and the impotence of the international community to safeguard the future welfare of many marine animals including whales. His account is eloquent and unbiased, simply demonstrating via the commercial whaling industry that we must conserve and protect threatened and endangered marine species and eliminate the violators if we wish to see sensitive marine systems survive. Not to do so will cause the oceans to die, and ultimately endanger ourselves. This book is a must read for anyone concerned with the future of the planet.

GENERAL REVIEWS

Cousteau, Jacques and Susan Schiefelbein. 2007. *The Human, The Orchid, and The Octopus: Exploring and Conserving Our Natural World*. Bloomsbury Publishing, London,

UK. 400 pp. Hardcover, \$27.95 (ISBN 1596914173). – This magnificent last book by legendary ocean explorer Jacques Cousteau, completed in 1996 shortly before his death and only recently published in English, provides an insight into his philosophy for action in protecting the world's oceans and sustaining life on earth. As explorer, inventor, diving pioneer, filmmaker, educator and activist, Cousteau describes gripping stories of his many at-sea adventures and how they blossomed into a show of the complexity and beauty of marine life, and the impact that human activity made through the 20th century. Reviews are given of the risks we take by our continued disregard for the "health of the oceans" through increased pollution and overfishing. His passionate call for international action to protect the earth's lands and seas and their life forms is even more relevant today than when issued in 1996, a fact brought out clearly by co-author Susan Schiefelbein in her introduction to the present English edition and update on current environmental developments and threats. This clear-sighted volume will stand as a tribute to the outstanding life and work of one of our greatest translators of marine science and adventure. Read the book, learn, weep and take action.

Eyles, Nick and Andrew Miall. 2007. *Canada Rocks: The Geologic Journey*. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, Toronto, ON. 450 pp. Softcover, \$60.00 (ISBN 1550418602). – A beautifully written and illustrated overview of Canada's geology, a work that should be of interest to anyone curious about the geological history of our country. At the outset, the authors Eyles and Miall, both professors in the Department of Geology at the University of Toronto, describe the processes that have been at work on planet Earth through four billion years giving rise to the continents, mountain ranges, and oceans, and the second largest land mass: "Canada". Then the reader is taken across the country in all directions, with the history of present-day land forms and shapes highlighted and explained. Details are explored in fascinating detail, with the absorbing text supplemented by carefully integrated illustrations – b&w and colour photos, graphs, charts and maps – that enhance the presentation. The overall result is a clear understanding of the geological forces that created Canada and an appreciation of our history and the world around us, as well as serving as an invaluable field guide for visits to individual sites. Truly, a special geologic journey through Canada!

Grady, Wayne. 2007. *The Great Lakes: The Natural History of a Changing Region*. Greystone Books, Vancouver, BC. 352 pp. Hardcover, \$49.95 (ISBN 1553651979). – Here is a book that is comprehensive and timely, doing justice to both the magnificence and importance of the Great Lakes freshwater system -- North America's "Inland Seas" -- and its precarious future. Wayne Grady, one of Canada's premier science and nature writers, provides a detailed overview of this amazing region through a fascinating exploration of its natural history spanning the last 10 thousand years, recent changes and future prospects. The Great Lakes comprise the world's largest freshwater system, containing 95 percent of North America's freshwater and close to 20 percent of the planet's total supply. Its drainage basin area is also home to 40 million people and is the heart of the continent's industry and agriculture, features that

place this unique freshwater system at great risk. The book goes far beyond water, however, describing in detail the geology of the region, the boreal and Carolinian forests that surround the lakes, and the flora, fauna, and wildlife of the region. Most significant is Grady's startling review of the recent changes that have been recorded during the last 100 years owing to human assaults on the lakes through the introduction of industrial wastes (PCBs, DDT, dioxins, phosphates, mercury, lead, cyanides, oil by-products, etc.) and domestic raw sewage and garbage. Some hope is given by the results of corrective actions taken since 1987 and the increased awareness of the problem by people and politicians. But global warming with expected increases in evaporation and drops in lake levels presents a new threat. This is a book that is deserving of a wide readership and will be treasured by anyone with an interest in this freshwater wonder of the world.

Haycock, Maurice. 2007. On Site With Maurice Haycock: Artist of the Arctic. Edgar Kent Publishers, Saskatoon, SK. 112 pp. Hardcover, \$39.95 (ISBN 0888666551). – This beautiful work, the paintings of Maurice Haycock, compiled by his daughter Kathy Maury Haycock after his death, stands as a remarkable testament to the painter's passionate love of northern Canada and arctic history. His passion for the North began in 1926, during a year spent living with the Inuit of Pangnirtung, Cumberland Sound, Baffin Island, travelling and hunting. On his return trip south in 1927, he had a chance meeting with 'Group of Seven' artist A.Y. Jackson who was on board the ship that came to take him home. This meeting with Jackson influenced Haycock's life greatly, first by initiating a desire to paint and then by becoming a regular painting partner of Jackson's. Following a painting trip with Jackson to Great Bear Lake, NWT, in 1949, Haycock began to paint at sites throughout Arctic Canada virtually every year until his death in 1988. He was also an accomplished geologist, receiving the Massey Medal in 1980 from the Canadian Geographic Society for his outstanding contributions to the geography of northern Canada. This gem of a book is filled with paintings, drawings and descriptions that reveal the geological vastness and beauty of our northern lands, as well as Inuk life and its challenges, the history of European exploration, and white man's impact on this compelling land and its people. This collection of paintings and sketches of historical sites in Arctic Canada is a "must buy" for anyone interested in northern Canada, from scientists and historians to armchair arctic dreamers!

Knox-Johnston, Robin. 2007. Force of Nature Racing Around the World: A True Story of the Courage and the Adventure. Michael Joseph Ltd., London, UK. 320 pp. Hardcover, \$39.00 (ISBN 0718153243). – Robin Knox-Johnson is synonymous with sailing solo, non-stop, around the world. In 1968 he became the first person to do so, and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for his outstanding achievement. More recently, 67-year-old Sir Robin set off on

another demanding circumnavigation as a participant in the 2006-07 Velux 5 Oceans Race. This book is his account of the race, the challenge of returning to the demanding and punishing world of single-handed round-the-world competitive sailing. And what a read it is! Inspiring and informative for anyone interested in offshore racing and the challenge of the oceans, delivered in a manner that is captivating showing what dreams, the zest for life, and sheer determination can accomplish. An exciting and exhilarating read for all!

Matthiessen, Carey G. 2007. Forage Fish and the Industrial Fisheries. Quebec-Labrador Foundation, Atlantic Center for the Environment, Ipswich, MA. 94 pp. Softcover, \$15.00 (includes shipping & handling) [available from: QLF Atlantic Center for the Environment, 55 South Main St., Ipswich, MA 01938, USA; ph: 978-356-0038; e-m: ealing@qlf.org]. – This summary review of the state of the oceans' commercial fish stocks by marine biologist C.G. Matthiessen highlights the intensive harvesting of forage fish and associated consequences. It underlines the vital links in the marine food chain that species of forage fish play, and their overall importance to marine food webs and ecosystems. Once forage fish and their role within marine food chains are identified and defined, reviews are presented for individual species (Menhaden, Pacific Sardine, Northern Anchovy, Peruvian Anchovy) and geographic regions (NW & NE Atlantic, SW Atlantic, NE & W Pacific, Central Europe & West Africa, Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean). The second half of the book focuses on predator/prey relationships, industrial fisheries, aquaculture and cultured carnivores, and the environment versus overfishing along with distributional maps for 26 forage fish species. Overall, conclusions drawn present a bleak outlook for future prospects of the industrial fishing industry.

Steene, Roger, 2007. Oceanic Wilderness. Firefly Books Ltd., Buffalo, NY. 340 pp. Hardcover, \$59.95 (ISBN 1552979997). – Roger Steene, master underwater photographer, takes the reader on a journey into an underwater realm that few know exists, touring the marine environments of the Caribbean, the Central, South and West Pacific, Japan, the Austral-Indonesian archipelago, the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea. The more than 600 colour photographs and associated descriptive text provide a stunning visual feast of life forms, colour and motion, revealing an amazing array of marine plants and animals including some previously unknown to science. The luscious and astonishing colour variations and rich photographic detail make this book hard to put down. Add to this an introductory text that provides information on the habitats explored and photo captions that include details on location, lighting, size and scale of objects shown, and sometimes even the lens used, and you have one of the most remarkably beautiful books produced on the ocean in a very long time. Get a copy and see for yourself -- 'Oceanic Wilderness' will not disappoint you!

JOLEEN GORDON WINS THE 2007 PORTIA WHITE PRIZE

On 18 October, Premier Rodney MacDonald presented Joleen Gordon with the 2007 Portia White Prize at a gala dinner in Sydney, NS. Wife of Don Gordon, Joleen has been a part of the BIO community for many years and in 1965 was one of the first women to sail on the CSS *Hudson*.

The Portia White Prize is named in honour of Portia White, a Nova

Scotian contralto who achieved international acclaim. Established in 1997, the prize is presented annually to a Nova Scotian artist who has achieved artistic excellence and who has made a significant contribution to the cultural life of the Province.

Joleen was selected because of her dedicated work over the past 35 years in preserving and promoting the traditional basketry of Nova Scotia combined with her own masterful basketry artistry. Serving as a volunteer research

associate with Nova Scotia Museum, she has worked with the Black, Mi'kmaq, Acadian, and European cultures of Nova Scotia. The results of her research are well documented in publications and her own basketry has been on display in galleries and exhibit centres around the world. In 1988, she founded the Nova Scotia Basketry Guild which she continues to lead to this day.

The prize, worth \$25,000, is the largest arts award given by the Province. The winner gives

\$7,000 of the prize to an individual or cultural organization that exhibits the potential to embody the pursuit of excellence and spirit of generosity characterized by Portia White herself. Joleen selected the Ross Farm Museum in Lunenburg County. Previous winners of the prize have included Georg Titner, George Elliot Clarke, Alistair MacLeod, Walter Borden, and Charlotte Wilson-Hammond.



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The Bedford Institute of Oceanography Oceans Association was established in 1998 to foster the continued fellowship of its members; to help preserve, in cooperation with the Institute's managers and staff, BIO's history and spirit; and to support efforts to

increase public understanding of the oceans and ocean science. Membership is open to all those who share our objectives. Most current members are present or past employees of BIO or of the federal departments of Environment, Fisheries and Oceans, and

Natural Resources (or their predecessors) located in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Membership is \$10.00 per year, \$40.00 per half decade, or \$150.00 for a lifetime membership.

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