

VOICEPIPE

Issue 56

October 2012

The Newsletter of the BIO-Oceans Association

BIO Expo 2012 has 9,000 Visitors



School children and the general public streamed through the gates at BIO once again 19-23 September 2012 to look at the exhibits, talk to staff about their work, tour the CCGS *Hudson* and touch the ever popular live and dead fish. BIO-Ocean Association members were prominent at the BIO Open House, renamed this year the BIO Expo since all the exhibits were on the ground floor by the jetty. BIO-OA members were at the BIO-OA booth (# 28) in the Boat Shed as well as at many other exhibits, and served as volunteers to help visitors find their way around. As one of those volunteers, I spent Sunday afternoon at the Jetty Gate welcoming the public. People continued to arrive right up to closing time at 3 pm. As the afternoon progressed, I was thanking most people as they left instead of greeting them. With the exception of a few very tired children, all the visitors said "Thank you" and offered very positive comments about their visit. They were often disappointed that BIO only held this type of event only every four to five years. — *Andy Sherin*

Photo captions (clockwise from top): Don Connolly (right), host of CBC Radio's Information Morning, interviews Shelley Armsworthy during the CBC's remote broadcast from BIO during the BIO Expo; Angela Silva and colleague talk with a visitor at the 'Finding Baby Lobsters' Exhibit (#47); Ross Boutilier describes the autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) used to survey under the ice in the Arctic Ocean for Canada's Law of the Sea boundary submission.

Happy 50th Birthday
Bedford Institute of
Oceanography
25 October 2012

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Photo captions: left, Michelle Paon (in red shirt on the right) talks with visitors in the crowded tent with the touch tanks and the sharks on ice, and right, Betty Ann Power greets visitors at the northern entrance.

David Mosher delivers the September BIO 50th Public Lecture on Earthquakes and Tsunamis



On 12 September 2012, the BIO Ford Auditorium was again filled with an eager audience, this time to hear Dr. David Mosher, GSC Atlantic, speak on earthquakes and tsunamis. He recounted his trip with several other BIO staff to Indonesia to survey the seafloor following the devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean in 2004: “We mobilized in Singapore and sailed through the Strait of Malacca and fortunately did not get attacked by pirates”. Closer to home, he described the tsunami caused by a subsea landslide that hit the Burin Peninsula in Newfoundland in 1929 and took 27 lives.

Photo captions: left, David Mosher listens to a question from the audience, and right, he describes how a tsunami is generated by displacing water.





FROM THE PRESIDENT

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. The OA picnic held at the seaside home of Ted and Georgina Phillips on St. Margaret's Bay was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Thanks to Georgina and Ted for the wonderful setting and hospitality. As reported elsewhere in this issue of *VoicePipe* the BIO Expo was also a rousing success. Shortly after this Issue goes to press, we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of BIO with the Gala celebration which will honour those surviving original employees of BIO. The Gala celebration will also honour the past scientific achievements of BIO through the Crystal Awards that will be presented. The OA has been able to help with the organization of the Gala, and on the eve of the event, 24 October 2012, we will host a reception for honorees and OA members at the Brightwood Golf and Country Club (SOLD OUT). Also, excellent progress is being made on the forthcoming OA book '*Voyage of Discovery*', a chronicle of 50 years of marine science at BIO. Although the book will not be published in time for the Gala, it is expected to be available by March 2013. Intermixed with all of these formal and social activities, we have had the opportunity to attend numerous public lectures highlighting advances in the marine sciences. This has truly been a year of celebration of marine science at BIO.

Unfortunately, all of this excitement and celebration is tempered by recent cuts to marine science programs in federal laboratories including BIO. My source of information is similar to most readers of this newsletter -- press reports and conversations with current employees -- and so, I can offer no special 'inside' view. I recently attended the Annual Science Conference of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in Bergen, Norway. The news of the cuts to Canadian research programs was widespread in that community and was greeted with incredulity. For example, part of my work with ICES was the development of an integrated approach to assessing the potential impact of contaminants in the marine environment, i.e., measure contaminant levels and determine biological effects. This approach has been embodied in environmental regulation in the European Union which now requires the use of integrated assessments. In contrast to this, the Canadian government has ended the integrated contaminant research in the Experimental Lakes Area and also biological-effect studies by the Centre for Off-shore Oil and Gas Environmental Research. It is certainly the feeling of my international colleagues that the 'driver of research' in Canada is headed in the wrong direction. We need to work with our friends and colleagues to draw the attention of our decision makers to the state of marine research in Canada and its importance for the future of the country.

But it is also important that we celebrate the 1970s and 1980s that were the 'golden years' for marine science in Canada (for example, see account of Claudia Currie's career as a marine scientist, p. 12). There is much to be learned from those

years, not only from the results of the research programs conducted, but also from the way that the programs were managed, funded, and administered. Through its sponsorship of the '*Voyage of Discovery*', the OA is taking an important step in insuring that the record of these past achievements is not lost.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Gala on 25 October 2012, BIO's 50th anniversary! — Paul Keizer

NO FUTURE ... WITHOUT THE OCEAN WE NEED

The High Seas Alliance RIO+20 Closing Statement

The ocean received an unprecedented level of attention during the Rio+20 Conference held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, becoming one of the most high visibility issues and the last piece of text to be resolved.

In contrast to 1992, attention on the ocean was significant and led to protracted and heated debate within the negotiations. Some of the ocean outcomes were positive, while others fell a long way short of what marine scientists and campaigners had hoped and worked for.

Members of the High Seas Alliance (HSA) attending the Conference said the final outcome should be a catalyst for action. Susanna Fuller*, Coordinator of the HAS said: "If Rio+20 achieves nothing else, it should mark the end of empty promises and the beginning of strong ocean action. If it catalyzes actual change, along with implementation of and compliance with the measures already promised, then it will have achieved something."

Examining what implementation of the text could and should mean "on the water", the HSA identified six clear areas for international and national action: fulfillment of the UN resolution to end deep-sea bottom fishing; an end to overfishing; requirement that regional fisheries management bodies be accountable to the UN; national action to eliminate harmful fisheries subsidies; closure of ports to illegally obtained fish; and establishment of national and high-seas marine protected areas.

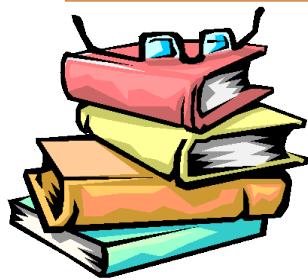
The major disappointment at the meeting centred around the push to launch negotiations for a new agreement to protect the high seas. Such an outcome is disappointing because it defers a decision for two and a half years.

Professor Alex Rogers of the International Programme on the State of the Ocean said: "There will never be the future we want without the ocean we need. We have to use Rio+20 to draw a line under the talking and start the doing."

*Editor's note: Dr. Fuller is also Marine Conservation Coordinator with the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax, NS.

In Memoriam

David Paul Krauel, died 28 September 2012, Coastal Oceanography 1964-74



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. Contributions of book reviews to 'Noteworthy Reads' are welcome – send via e-mail to David Nettleship: dnnlundy@navnet.net (phone: 902-826-2360).

SPECIAL PUBLICATION:

A COMPELLING MARITIME HISTORY

Fagan, Brian. 2012. *Beyond the Blue Horizon: How the Earliest Mariners Unlocked the Secrets of the Ocean*. Bloomsbury Press, New York, NY. 336 pp. Hardcover, \$32.50 (ISBN 978-1608190058). – Brian Fagan, renowned anthropologist/archaeologist, marine historian and accomplished sailor, has written another compelling book of maritime history that is fascinating and hugely impressive. Like his many other recent best-sellers – *Elixir* (2011), *Cro-Magnon* (2010), *The Great Warming* (2008), *Fish on Friday* (2006), *The Long Summer* (2004), *The Little Ice Age* (2000) – 'Beyond the Blue Horizon' captivates the reader at the outset by the grand scale of the subject being addressed and retains interest by a scholarly and thoughtful narrative that unravels the exciting story of what drove humans to want to understand and master the oceans, and how the acquisition of seafaring skills changed the course of human history. This work provides a vivid portrait of the conditions faced by the first intrepid mariners to venture across oceans and major seas, to the Egyptian, Greek, and Norse sailors and subsequent voyages of Columbus and Cook. How the early mariners unlocked the secrets of winds, currents and tides, and stars for navigation is answered with compelling and gripping detail. Overall, this book is a 'goldmine' of information into the prehistory and ancient history of the intriguing and intricate inter-relationship between ocean, climate, and humankind.

SHORT REVIEWS:

Fall/Winter Selected Reading List
(clear-out of worthy 2011-12 titles)

British Antarctic Survey (BAS). 2012. *Antarctic Peninsula: A Visitor's Guide*. Natural History Museum, London, England. 128 pp. Hardcover, \$28.00 (ISBN 978-0565093082). – BAS experts give an excellent overview of this remote region and its unique characteristics: geography, exploration, geology, climate, glaciology, plants and animals.

Chandler, Paul, Rachel Chandler and Sarah Edworthy. 2011. *Hostage: A Year at Gunpoint with Somali Gangsters*. Mainstream Publishing Company, Edinburgh, Scotland. 272 pp. Softcover, \$17.95 (ISBN 978-1845967956). – A gripping account of piracy and kidnapping of the Chandlers from their sailboat off the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean and their harrowing one-year ordeal of survival against all odds as captives on land in Somalia.

Coulson, John C. 2011. *The Kittiwake*. T. & A.D. Poyser (A & C Black), Calton, England. 312 pp. Hardcover, \$78.00 (ISBN 978-1408109663). – An important summary of more than 50 years of research into the behavioural ecology of this medium-sized gull that provides essential information on the species with implications for all colonially-breeding seabirds.

Davis, Wade. 2011. *The Sacred Headwaters: The Fight to Save the Stikine, Skeena and Nass*. Greystone Books, Vancouver, BC. 176 pp. Hardcover, \$50.00 (ISBN 978-1553658801). – Part of an attempt to save three key salmon rivers and wildlife sanctuary in northern British Columbia from destruction by mining and methane gas developments.

Derocher, Andrew E. and Wayne Lynch. 2012. *Polar Bears: A Complete Guide to Their Biology and Behavior*. John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD. 249 pp. Hardcover, \$40.00 (978-1421403052). – A celebration of Polar Bears that will captivate, inspire, and fascinate through informative words and outstanding photographs.

Djoghla, Ahmed and Felix Dodds (Eds.). 2011. *Biodiversity and Ecosystem Insecurity: A Planet in Peril*. Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group), New York, NY. 264 pp. Softcover, \$41.95 (ISBN 978-1849712200). – A multi-authored review of biodiversity and vulnerable ecosystems.

Gangloff, Roland A. 2012. *Dinosaurs Under the Aurora*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, IN. 177 pp. Hardcover, \$40.00 (ISBN 978-0253000804). – An exciting and detailed account of the discovery of evidence of dinosaurs along the Colville River in Alaska.

Gardener, Mark. 2011. *Statistics for Ecologists Using R and Excel: Data Collection, Exploration, Analysis and Presentation*. Pelagic Publishing, Exeter, England. 324 pp. Softcover, \$47.00 (ISBN 978-1907807121). – The scientific process and testing data in ecology.

Gould, J.L. and C.G. Gould. 2012. *Nature's Compass: The Mystery of Animal Navigation*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. 294 pp. Hardcover, \$29.95 (ISBN 978-0691140452). – An impressive and up-to-date review of animal navigation and the evolution of migration including the influence of climate and habitat change.

Hall, David. 2011. Beneath Cold Seas: The Underwater Wilderness of the Pacific Northwest. Greystone Books, Vancouver, BC. 160 pp. Hardcover, \$45.00 (ISBN 978-1553658702). – A magnificent coffee-table photo book, truly a piece of art, which transports us to the extraordinary diverse marine world that exists below the sea's surface in the cold-water ecosystem of our Pacific coast.

Harris, M.P. and S. Wanless. 2011. The Puffin (2nd Edition). T. & A.D. Poyser (A & C Black), Calton, England. 256 pp. Hardcover, \$78.00 (ISBN 978-1408108673). – An update on the outstanding 1983 monograph of the Atlantic Puffin, a colonially-breeding seabird of the North Atlantic that has declined sharply owing to overfishing and global warming.

Hazen, Robert M. 2012. The Story of Earth: The First 4.5 Billion Years, From Stardust to Living Planet. Viking, New York, NY. 320 pp. Hardcover, \$29.50 (ISBN 978-0670023554). – A grand tour of our planet that will inform and transform the way you see the world.

Hilborn, Ray and Ulrike Hilborn. 2012. Overfishing: What Everyone Needs to Know. Oxford University Press, New York, NY. 150 pp. Softcover, \$18.00 (ISBN 978-0199798148). – An interesting overview of the broad issues associated with overfishing and the likely impacts of current fishing practices on marine ecosystems worldwide.

Macdougall, Doug. 2011. Why Geology Matters: Decoding the Past, Anticipating the Future. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA. 288 pp. Hardcover, \$30.50 (ISBN 978-0520266421). – The use of geoscience to explore and identify phenomena that have affected our lives and clues to the future of the planet.

Martinez, Alberto A. 2011. Science Secrets: The Truth about Darwin's Finches, Einstein's Wife, and Other Myths. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, PA. 344 pp. Hardcover, \$24.95 (ISBN 978-0822944072). – A unique study of how myths have evolved in the history of science.

Mills, Eric L. and Lance Laviolette. 2011. Birds of Brier Island, Nova Scotia. Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science (Special Issue), Volume 46, Part 1, Halifax, NS. 107 pp. Softcover, \$25.00 (ISSN 0078-2521). – Description of Brier Island and its birds to mid 2011.

Montgomery, David R. 2012. The Rocks Don't Lie: A Geologist Investigates Noah's Flood. W.W. Norton, New York, NY. 288 pp. Hardcover, \$28.50 (ISBN 978-0393082395). – A delightful volume that traces the history of geology through field observations and the thinking that progressively debunked the great-flood myth, and demonstrates vividly that 'the rocks don't lie'.

Moore, Charles and Cassandra Phillips. 2011. Plastic Oceans: How a Sea Captain's Chance Discovery Launched a determined Quest to Save the Oceans. Avery (Penguin Group), New York, NY. 358 pp. Hardcover, \$30.00 (ISBN 978-1583334249). – An account of the shocking dis-

covery of a vast 'garbage dump' of plastic in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre in the summer of 1997 and subsequent action by sailor and environmentalist Captain Charles Moore.

Mulder, Christa, Wendy Anderson, David Towns and Peter Bellingham (Eds.). 2011. Seabird Islands: Ecology, Invasion, and Restoration. Oxford University Press, New York, NY. 492 pp. Hardcover, \$70.00 (ISBN 978-0199735693). – An important multi-authored work that provides the first large-scale cross-system compilation, comparison, and synthesis of the ecology of seabird island systems and their restoration.

Muller, Richard. 2012. Energy for Future Presidents: The Science Behind the Headlines. W.W. Norton, New York, NY. 288 pp. Hardcover, \$28.50 (ISBN 978-0393081619). – An overview of the impact that the demand for energy has on our lives – a must-read guide to our energy priorities now and in the future.

Oppenheimer, Clive. 2011. Eruptions that Shook the World. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England. 392 pp. Hardcover, \$30.95 (ISBN 978-0521641128). – An exploration of the geological, historical and palaeoenvironmental records to explain some major volcanic events of the past quarter of a billion years.

Paterson, Andy. 2012. Pelagic Birds of the North Atlantic: An Identification Guide. New Holland Publishers, London, England, UK. 32 pp. Softcover, \$15.00 (ISBN 978-1780092287). – The perfect guide to have on hand to help with the identification of all the pelagic seabird species likely to be encountered on both sides of the North Atlantic.

Peirce, Elizabeth (Ed.). 2011. In the Great Days of Sail: 14 Sea Stories. Nimbus Publishing, Halifax, NS. 126 pp. Softcover, \$17.95 (ISBN 978-1551098210). – Fourteen stories taken from four of Archibald Macmechan's classic book publications now out of print.

Philbrick, Nathaniel. 2011. Why Read Moby-Dick? Viking, New York, NY. 144 pp. Hardcover, \$29.00 (ISBN 978-0670022991). – An impassioned and enthusiastic read that explains why Herman Melville's 161-year-old classic 'Moby Dick' remains relevant now more than ever before.

Pietsch, Theodore W. 2012. Trees of Life: A Visual History of Evolution. John Hopkins University Press, Baltimore, MD. 358 pp. Hardcover, \$57.00 (ISBN 978-1421404790). – A review of 230 'trees of life' selected from the many produced from the sixteenth century to the present day.

Robin, Alain. 2011. Encyclopedia of Marine Bivalves, Including Scaphopods, Polyplacophora and Cephalopods. Ikan Unterwasser-Archiv, Munchen, Germany. 302 pp. Hardcover, \$98.00 (ISBN 978-3939767404). – A visual colour presentation of more than 2,000 species of marine molluscs with over 5,000 photos to help with the identification of colour forms.

Rubin, Jeff. 2012. *The End of Growth: But is that all Bad?* Random House Canada, Toronto, ON. 288 pp. Hardcover, \$29.95 (ISBN 978-0307360892). – A multi-dimensional description of world economics and the major driving force of economic growth: cheap and abundant fuel and resources.

Ruse, Michael. 2012. *The Philosophy of Human Evolution.* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England. 282 pp. Hardcover, \$87.00 (ISBN 978-0521117937). – A unique discussion of human evolution from a philosophical viewpoint.

Sagarin, Rafe. 2012. *Learning from the Octopus: How Secrets from Nature can help us fight terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and disease.* Basic Books, New York, NY. 284 pp. Hardcover, \$30.00 (ISBN 978-0465021833). – An engaging account of what we can learn from the natural histories and adaptations of other animals to meet their environmental challenges – entertaining and often informative.

Sands, Joseph P., Stephen J. DeMaso, Matthew J. Schnupp and Leonard A. Brennan (Eds.). 2012. *Wildlife Science: Connecting Research with Management.* CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL. 333 pp. Hardcover, \$89.95 (ISBN 978-1439847732). – Strategies for bridging cultural and communication gaps between research and management, and developing management plans from the results of research.

Sepkoski, David. 2012. *Rereading the Fossil Records: The Growth of Paleobiology as an Evolutionary Discipline.* University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL. 432 pp. Hardcover, \$56.00 (ISBN 978-0226748559). – A discussion of the central place of paleontology in evolutionary biology.

Smith, Cameron M. 2011. *The Fact of Evolution.* Prometheus Books, Amherst, NY. 346 pp. Softcover, \$21.00 (ISBN 978-1616144418). – A good and important read that delivers an eloquent and fresh presentation of evolution as an obvious reality of our world.

Stager, Curt. 2011. *Deep Future: the Next 100,000 years of Life on Earth.* HarperCollins Publishers, Toronto, ON. 284 pp. Hardcover, \$31.99 (ISBN 978-1554686629). – An ecologist, a paleo-climatologist, and science writer, Curt Stager delivers both a scientifically and an ethically crucial book.

Stewart, Ian. 2011. *The Mathematics of Life.* Basic Books, New York, NY. 358 pp. Hardcover, \$32.50 (ISBN 978-0465022380). – A gifted writer who demonstrates vividly the importance of math in the biological sciences with both clarity and style from cellular organization to the behaviours and evolution of living things.

Stump, Edmund. 2011. *The Roof at the Bottom of the World: Discovering the Transantarctic Mountains.* Yale University Press, New Haven, CT. 272 pp. Hardcover, \$29.00 (ISBN 978-0300171976). – A comprehensive and fully

illustrated history of the discovery and exploration of this remote and continental-scale mountain system.

Theobald, Sprague and Allan Kreda. 2012. *The Other Side of the Ice: One Family's Treacherous Journey Negotiating the Northwest Passage.* Skyhorse Publishing, New York, NY. 240 pp. Hardcover, \$28.95 (ISBN 978-1616086237). – A family adventure and life-changing journey of sailing 8,500 miles from Newport, Rhode Island, through the Northwest Passage and around Alaska to Seattle, Washington.

Thurston, Harry. 2011. *The Atlantic Coast: A Natural History.* Greystone Books (D&M Publishers), Vancouver, BC. 328 pp. Hardcover, \$45.00 (ISBN 978-1553654469). – A revealing portrait of a key region of the world, with exceptional colour photos by Wayne Barrett.

Voigt, Matthias and Dietmar Weber. 2011. *Field Guide for Sharks of the Genus Carcharhinus.* Verlag Dr. Friedrich Pfeil, Munchen, Germany. 151 pp. Softcover, \$63.00 (ISBN 978-3899371321). – A guide to more than 33 shark species providing complete details of their biology and behaviours through the annual cycle including coloured figures to highlight certain characteristics.

Williams, Wendy. 2011. *Kraken: The Curious, Exciting, and Slightly Disturbing Science of Squid.* Harry N. Abrams, New York, NY. 224 pp. Hardcover, \$25.95 (ISBN 978-0810984653). – An introduction to the science of one of the most fascinating inhabitants of the sea: the squid.

Wilson, E.O. 2012. *The Social Conquest of Earth.* Liveright Publishing (W.W. Norton), New York, NY. 331 pp. Hardcover, \$29.50 (ISBN 978-0871404138). – The latest monumental work by the world's greatest living evolutionary biologist – a highly readable 'tour de force' on the human condition that should be read by all.

NR Editor's erratum note: Contrary to what was stated in 'Noteworthy Reads' in VoicePipe 54: 7 (April 2012), Alan Ruffman's '*Titanic Remembered*' (1999) is still in print; autographed copies of the current edition can be obtained from the author for \$17.00 tax free: A. Ruffman, Geomarine Associates, P.O. Box 41, Station 'M', Halifax, NS B3J 2L4 (phone: 902-477-5415).



Bedford Institute of Oceanography 50th Anniversary Supplement: Photo Portrait from the BIO Archives

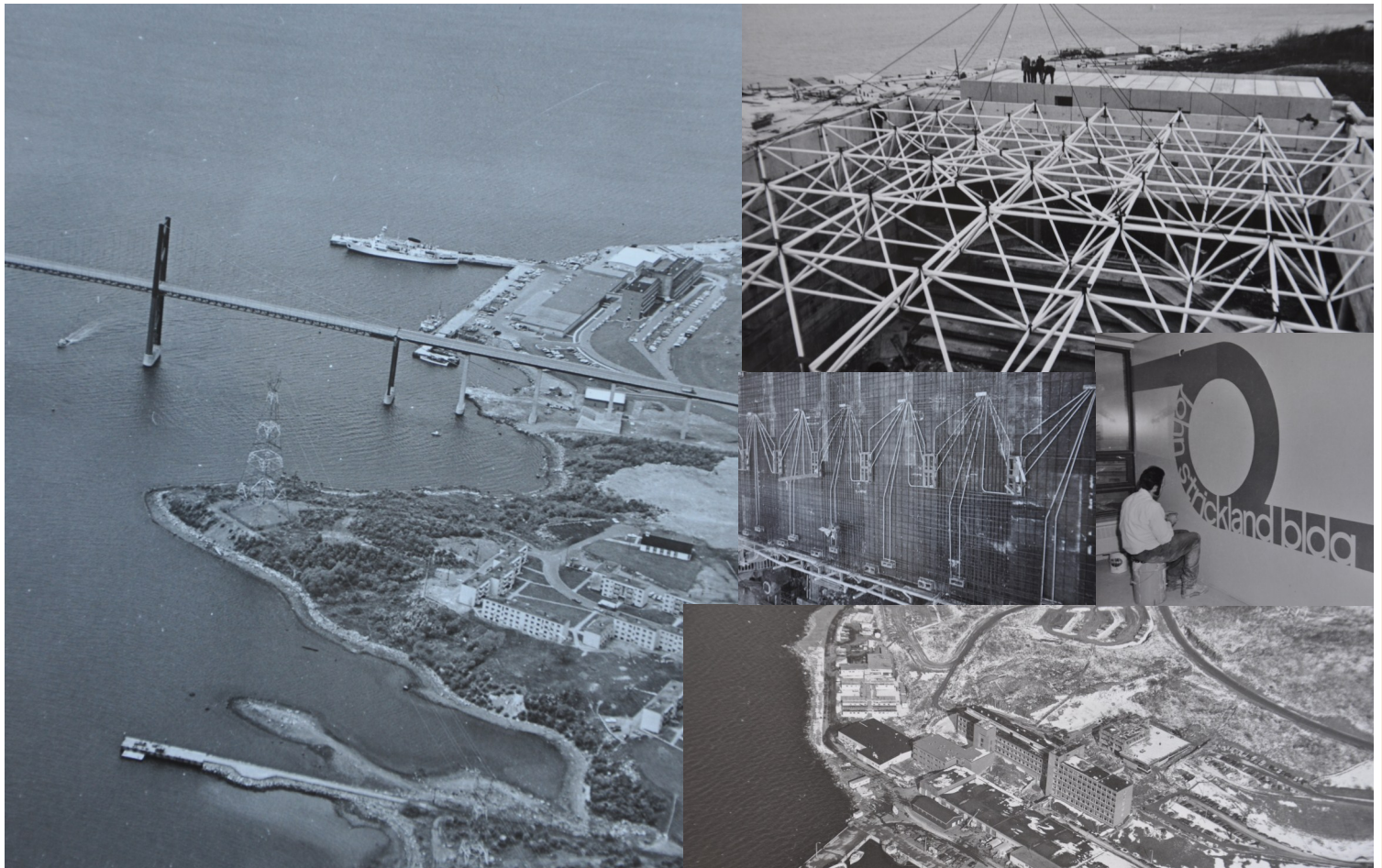


Photo captions (clockwise from top left): BIO from the air; installing the roof of the Ford Auditorium; painting building names so you know where you are; left, intricate web of conduit before pouring the concrete; BIO during the end of construction of the Murray Building; original front entrance to BIO; and construction of the A. Murray McKay Bridge.





CSS Hudson and CSS Baffin

Photo captions (clockwise from top left): the new CSS *Hudson* arrives at BIO; CSS *Baffin* docks in Georgetown, Guyana; CSS *Baffin* underway; and CSS *Hudson* returns from 'Hudson '70', the circumnavigation of the Americas in 1970-71.





Other BIO research vessels

Photo captions (clockwise from top):
 CSS *Acadia*, launched in May 1913;
 CSS *Dawson* in the Baie des
 Chaleurs; CSS *Dawson*'s sister ship
 CSS *Parizeau* in the Beaufort Sea dur-
 ing the 'Hudson '70' expedition; and
 CNAV *Sackville* underway.



**Photo Quiz**

Send your guesses on the identities of the people in these photos to the Editor: oanewslettereditor@gmail.com. An allegedly fabulous prize will be awarded to the person who correctly identifies the largest number of people.

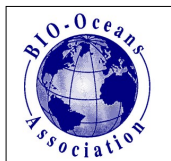


**Christmas Parties and Scientific Expeditions:
Can you identify the people?**



From the Editor's Keyboard: BIO's 50th anniversary is upon us. There has been a grand build up to the final day, monthly public lectures and the BIO Expo in September. On 24 October, just before the Gala Celebration on 25 October, a symposium on climate change and its impact on the oceans will be held in the Ford Auditorium. In preparing for this expanded issue of the 'VoicePipe', I have been spending time in the BIO Archives. The photographs in the Photo Portrait Supplement were taken from the photo albums and they only scratch the surface of the treasures hidden there. One gem I came across was a set of oral histories collected in 2007 from many BIO luminaries. I intend to 'mine' these for future arti-

cles. For those who are not suffering anniversary fatigue, 2013 marks the 100th anniversary of the launching of the CSS *Acadia*. The photograph of a voice pipe on our masthead was taken on the *Acadia*. I also must comment on the message in the 'High Seas Alliance' statement. I recently received a copy of 'Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland'. Simon Coveney, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine said it was a statement from the Irish government that "marine matters". The opening of BIO in 1962 was just such a statement from the Government of Canada. We need to accept the challenge to make marine matter again in Canada in 2012 and get on with the doing. *Andy Sherin*



ABOUT THE BIO-OCEANS ASSOCIATION

The Bedford Institute of Oceanography-Oceans Association (BIO-OA) 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 for five years, or \$150.00 for a lifetime membership.

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PR AND MEMBERSHIP
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COMMITTEES / WORKING GROUPS: CHAIRS

BELUGA AWARD
BIO COMMEMORATIVE STAMP
EQUIPMENT ARCHIVES
GRAPHIC DESIGN
HMCS SACKVILLE HISTORY
LIBRARY ARCHIVES
LIAISON Huntsman & BIO 50th
NSIS LIAISON
OUTREACH
SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Patrick Potter see above
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David McKeown see above
Art Cosgrove 443-7945
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Don Gordon see above
Bob Cook see above
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Claudia Currie (from January 2013)

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Robert Reiniger (1998-2000), Dale Buckley (2000-02), David Nettleship (2002-04), Donald Peer (2004-06), Betty Sutherland (2006-08 and 2010-11), Bob O'Boyle (2008-10)

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Going to Sea – Some Personal Reminiscences

by Claudia Currie



Claudia on Cruise 82-031 (1982).

When I was asked to write an article about my experiences at sea, I said “NO” immediately because, as we all know, what goes on at sea stays at sea! ‘WGOASSAS’ is what we would say in the tweeting and texting world.

After second thoughts and reflecting for a moment about going to sea, a whole lot of stories came to mind that I thought I might like to share. So, for a few moments, I’ll forget ‘WGOASSAS’ and reminisce a bit about sailing as a woman on our BIO vessel fleet over four decades.

An Early Stowaway

The nineteen sixties can seem like yesterday to me. That’s when I got my first seagoing experience, but not with BIO. ‘Word to the Wise’ (WTTW): Don’t try to be a stowaway on your father’s RCMP boat *The Wood* when it leaves Halifax to patrol the waters off Newfoundland. Yes, I got caught, and



RCMP boat *The Steele*.

worse than if it had been the police, by my own father. I got in big trouble, but lucky for me I was only seven years old, and all was forgiven. The next attempt was on another RCMP boat *The Steele*. I was ten and old enough to know better, so I turned myself in and scored a good meal on board with my dad before he set sail again!

Skip forward to the mid 1970s at Dalhousie University's Studley Gym where I was kicking this guy's butt in ‘one on one’ basketball. Provoked by his humiliation, he said he would buy the winner a beer. (Ha! That was exactly my plan!) That guy turned out to be the Canadian Hydrographic Service's (CHS) Herman Varma, and if you ask him the outcome of the game, you will hear a totally different version, but don't be fooled. Over a beer, he told me the CHS at BIO was looking for student hydrographers to go to sea on CSS

Baffin. Having unresolved stowaway issues, I went straight to Manpower Canada where I applied (you had to walk or take a bus, no internet convenience yet). I didn’t hear back, and assumed it was not to be.



RCMP boat *The Wood*.

It Happened on *Baffin*

When exams were over, I took off for Whistler, B.C. - that’s what college kids did back then. While staying at the youth hostel at Alta Lake in Whistler, I got a call on the hostel's main phone - the youth hostel woman had to yell “long distance for Claudia” to find me, that’s how it worked then. The call was from my mom who said that BIO had contacted her and I was to sail on CSS *Baffin* with CHS in two days. I was very excited to get an opportunity to go to sea, and I didn't blink when they said the ship was going north and would not return until November. I wasn’t worried - when you are nineteen, the options seem endless, and details like finishing school will just work themselves out.

‘WTTW’: Don’t fly all night and join a ship that morning for your first sailing experience ever! Sea-going green was my colour. My first impression about the people I would spend the next six months with came from Glenn Rodger (aka the Hippie Dippie Hydrographer - but Glenn says not Dippie!). He was at the gangway to greet me and proceeded to show me around the ship, and help me make the transition from university brat to sea-going hydrographer. And he was nice about it the entire time! When you are one of three women on an 80-man ship heading up north for six months, you appreciate having a friend like Glen.

CSS *Baffin* was Roy’s ship. Roy Gould was Captain, and his fear of rough seas allowed us to visit a lot of arctic ports along the coasts of Labrador and Baffin Island. I stood watch with Roy Amero of CSS *Acadia* fame. Roy was charged with teaching me how to con the ship along the HiFix lines. ‘WTTW’: Don’t instruct the mates on the bridge to navigate the ship in a circle - they won’t let you forget it.

Another job I had on board was to load the black-punch tape into the onboard mainframe computer for its daily power up. That was my first ever computer task. Day-to-day ship life was fun for me, especially because I wasn’t a stowaway. At



CSS *Baffin*.

sea, you become friends with some very interesting people. One such person was chief engineer Tommy Gay. He was talented and skilled on the lathe, and he made all three girls on board a beautiful brass candelabra which I still use every Christmas. The Chief Mate was Casey DeVries. He had bought a husky pup in Hall Beach and we had fun playing with it as we steamed home. (Casey had to do the poop scoop part though!)

I've got nothing to wear Really Not-A-Thing!

'WTTW': NEVER put your laundry in a black garbage bag in your cabin and then go on watch! Apparently this will be the one story I will remember forever about my time at BIO. Many people have asked me if it was really true. Well, you can get confirmation from CHS, as they reimbursed me several hundred dollars to replace all my clothes that got thrown overboard with the garbage that day. More 'WTTW' advice: don't procrastinate on doing your laundry at sea until all your clothes are in that garbage bag that I advised you to never use.

I still cringe at the memory of the shipboard pipe that went out asking for men on board my size to donate pants, shirts (I turned down the tighty-whities), etc. Someone donated brown corduroys which I wore for the 3½ week journey home.

Working with CHS was a wonderful experience: I learned more than I could have imagined about surveying and shipboard life. But I was hangin' with a bunch of geologists who kept insisting that I get back to Dal to finish my geology degree. Heiner Josenhans and Gordon Fader said that the Atlantic Geoscience Centre was the place to be.

Mudflats, Carl's Angels, and Great Roommates

Flash back to the era of Charlie's Angels - BIO style. Carl Amos put together a team of fresh graduates to work with him and Don Gordon on the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Study. Five female graduates, two of us geologists, the rest biologists, became known as Carl's Angels. (Chris Rozon in CHS is another member). The project involved very eclectic field work. It encompassed walking transects across the Windsor mudflat at low tide in hip deep mud, measuring sediment thickness, doing small craft surveys across the mudflat at high tide, helicopter work every second week over the Bay of Fundy and, of course, a BIO cruise to the Bay of Fundy.

This time I was sailing on CSS *Dawson*. 'WTTW': take anti-seasickness drugs before sailing on CSS *Dawson*. Having sailed six months on CSS *Baffin* with zero seasick symptoms, it never occurred to me I could be seasick. It was on this cruise that I met Bob Murphy. He has taught me many valuable lessons in our 30-years of field work together, but none more important than learning to hang a bucket around your neck and puke while you work!

Fortunately for me, we headed into pack ice and the seasickness went away, never to return. For that I am grateful ... for the bucket around my neck, not so much.

My roommate on CSS *Dawson* was Jackie Dale (2005 BIO-OA Beluga Award winner) She served as a mentor for me, and I learned a lot from observing her in action. She showed grace under pressure at all times. We have become close friends in life outside BIO, generated by our close sea-going bond.

Another roommate of note for me was Kathy Ellis. We roomed on *Hudson* in 1982 when we were on the SAFE Expedition (Sedimentology of Arctic Fjords Experiment). She and I became great friends back on shore. She introduced me to BIO water polo. (A great inter-departmental activity where I met my husband Randy Currie.) In four decades of field work, the cruise to the Baffin Island fjords was by far the most fun! I was chief of operations for this expedition which included sailing into ten fjords in 10 days. The expedition ran 24-hours a day with combined field operations that saw *Hudson* survey/sampling, two launches surveying, and a field party on shore all day. The scenery changed every day, but was spectacular and breathless for the entire cruise. It was truly an experience of a lifetime!

Chilling Experiences, Mentors and Games

One day, we almost had to leave the shore party and two launches behind in MacBeth Fjord, Baffin Island, while *Hudson* fought a fierce battle with an exceptionally strong katabatic wind event that required all four engines to save her from going aground. On the shore party was the Chief Scientist James Syvitski and on the launch was second-in-charge Charles Schafer. I was a little nervous about my



Katabatic wind in MacBeth Fjord, Baffin Island, 1993.

pending duties had the ship lost this battle that would leave the two chiefs on shore. Lucky for us, Captain Fred Mauger (one of the best captains in our fleet) was at the helm along with top engineers to save the day. Tense moments for sure, we prevailed and a party ensued: 'WGOASSAS'!

On a previous *Hudson* cruise I learned the value of my floatersuit. 'WTTW': don't go into the aft cooler without telling someone. I have two fears, one is of the cold and the other is of the dark. At that time we stored our samples, cores, etc., in a starboard aft walk-in cooler. With my floatersuit on, as per fear #1, and needing to curate samples, I went into the cooler and left the door ajar as I was working. Someone walked by, saw the door ajar and the light on, then quickly shut the door, and turned the light off, unaware of my presence. There I was in the dark in a freezing cold cooler. No, I did not think of any cool MacGyver methods to get out - I just pounded on the 30 cm thick bulkhead for what seemed to be an eternity. Of course, no one heard me. After being missed for several hours, Brian MacLean needed samples and opened the cooler to be surprised by my very grateful welcome. (There is now an alarm installed on the inside of this cooler, installed coincidentally not long after my experience!)

Brian MacLean was the best mentor a young geologist could have. He had tremendous patience and kindness that encouraged learning on all aspects of marine geology. On a mid 1980s *Hudson* cruise, Brian fell ill for a short time and he turned the operation of the cruise over to his second, Dr. Graham Williams and myself. Graham and I were soon to realize the depth of responsibility, knowledge, and experience that was required to run a survey. Brian made these day-to-day chores seem effortless. However, when Brian once again took charge, we had developed a whole new appreciation for his skill at running a smooth cruise.

'WTTW': don't underestimate a senior research scientist's ability to out play the entire *Hudson* crew. I didn't bet that evening on the skinny Graham Williams in the game of 'stretch and place the quarter'. I foolishly bet on coxswain Greg MacClellan: after all, Greg is six foot something while Graham is a bit smaller. Big mistake! Graham Williams beat every crew member at EVERY game they threw at him, until well past midnight; even the talented Bosun Stan Myers could not defeat Graham. I quickly caught on, and started

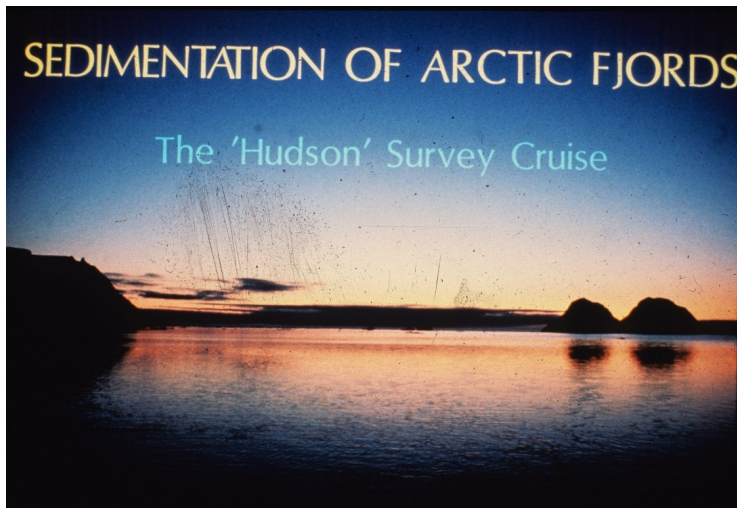


CSS *Hudson* off Baffin Island near a large iceberg.



Google Earth Image showing the location of Kangerlussuaq Fjord, East Greenland, where the *Hudson*-iceberg collision occurred in 1993.

backing Graham at 6-1 odds; soon I was back in the black. The amazing part of this story is that by 7 a.m. each morning, Graham was in the chart room planning the day as Brian's equal. The awe, respect, and admiration Graham earned from crew, officers, and science staff was off the charts! He truly is super and I am very grateful to have been at sea with him and Brian.



Cover of the cruise report from the SAFE project.

Fires, Berg Encounters, and Aboard *Hudson* Again

‘WTTW’: If you are on a ship and smell smoke, be worried! Thanks to the safety training we all had, the time elapsed from the moment I called the bridge to hearing “fire out” was under nine minutes. Thankfully, the clothes dryer that caught fire was just below the General Purpose (GP) lab, and smoke rises. All those fire drills do make a difference. Also, lucky for me, it was not my clothes that disappeared this time!

What is most memorable after four decades of trips with endless adventures, like non-stop breaking ice, slinging gear in minus 25°C weather, rough seas, endless days and nights of sampling? A good candidate is the great collision with a berg that happened on *Hudson* in 1993 in Kangerlussuaq Fjord, Greenland. ‘WTTW’: If you are 30 nautical miles up an uncharted Greenland fjord in 9/10 icecover, be afraid!

The arrow on the image (in the middle of page 14) shows the location of Kangerlussuaq Fjord where *Hudson* collided with a multi-year iceberg in 1993. It opened a 5-foot dogleg shape breach in her hull. I was on watch in the GP lab just after 8 a.m. We were steaming away from the head of the fjord when there was an extremely loud sound. My initial thought was that a helicopter had crashed on the flight deck.

I ran to the bridge, but stayed back as it was a very busy place. Within a minute of the loud impact, we lost all power and the ship listed a significant amount. My first concern was to wake anyone still in their bunks and alert them of the danger. Dr. John Shaw was also doing the same. Captain Strum immediately placed a call to the Danish Navy. They radioed back that they would not bring a ship into an uncharted fjord with 10/10 icecover, and so our rescue would have to consist of a helicopter dropping off three Danish navy divers to look at the damage. *Hudson* is indeed a lucky ship; the crack was determined (very quickly by *Hudson*’s engineers) to be in a fuel tank and not in a vital part of the hull.



Iterbilung Fjord, Baffin Island.



Danish navy diver in Kangerlussuaq Fjord, Greenland, being lowered onto *Hudson*’s foredeck to check the damage from the iceberg collision.

Now quiet and dead in the water in this remote place, our precious *Hudson* lay injured. Decisions would be made on how to get her home. Just like an episode of Star Trek, Scotty comes to the rescue. *Hudson's* engineers would very quickly ballast the ship, get her power back on and she would sail safely back to Reykjavik, Iceland. The science staff departed from there leaving a skeleton crew to sail her home. It was not a life-threatening event because of the integrity of the ship's hull and the fast reaction of the mates, crew and engineers on board. It truly made the top line of the four-decade adventure list.

After some years away from going to sea on our fleet, I returned this past fall (2011) to the Bay of Fundy aboard *Hudson*. Still the same sturdy ship, but this time it was a cruise free of catastrophe and filled with camaraderie, sing songs, and the same BIO tradition of excellence in data acquisition and science that was there 36 years ago when I first stepped foot on one of our fleet of ships. And, of course, there is no longer the need to be the stowaway that 50 years earlier had drawn me to the ocean.

Photo captions (clockwise from top right): Kathy Ellis pointing to our current location on Baffin Island; Bob Murphy (front left) and Claudia (centre) showing off T-shirts (also in the picture: Kathy Ellis and Jess Nielsen); Claudia on deck sampling in 1993; Claudia demonstrating fixing with a sexton on the launch during Cruise 82-031 (1982), note the floater suit; Sun setting in Sunnesshine Fjord, Baffin Island; Claudia sampling multi-year ice with Kumiko Azetsu-Scott the day before *Hudson* hit the iceberg in Kangerlussuaq Fjord, Greenland; Claudia and Bob Murphy in 1981, note the floater suit; Claudia and Dave Heffler on the *Hudson's* foredeck in Kangerlussuaq Fjord, Greenland.

