

SCHOOL OF RENEWABLE RESOURCES

2007/2008 NEWSLETTER

Integrated Environmental Planning • Recreation, Fish & Wildlife • Forest Technology
B.S. and Advanced Diploma in Geographic Information Systems

Hello all,

Here is the 2007 School of Renewable Resources Newsletter. It is packed with stories and information about the past year, which has been a very busy time here at the College. Some of the highlights include the National Accreditation of Recreation Fish and Wildlife Technology, the start of the Bachelor of Geographic Information Systems, work towards the launch of a common core first year of the diploma programs, and work towards a new program in Renewable Energy Technologies.

As in the past, graduates are finding many good employment opportunities as they graduate. This past year has been exceptional with new and numerous employment opportunities across all the disciplines. That said, the challenge of new student recruitment continues to be the priority and as always if you know of someone who may be interested in the Selkirk College experience, we would love to hear from them.

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Please stay in touch.

Take Care,
Pete



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Selkirk RRS set to Launch BC and Western Canada's First Program in Renewable Energy

Selkirk is on the verge of launching a new diploma in Renewable Energy Technology (RET). The program has been a dream of Selkirk IEP Instructor, Robert Macrae. He and RRS Dean Angus Graeme have been working tirelessly at turning this dream into a reality. Set to launch in September 2007, the RET program as currently envisioned will include three components:

1. Entry level electrical trades training
2. On-line and class room courses on energy conservation and renewable energy technologies; geoexchange, design, installation, integration, and control renewable energy systems
3. A work placement or participation in a student exchange whereby Renewable Energy Technology students can travel to colleges in Québec, North Dakota, California, or Mexico.

School of Renewable Resources

The Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre

The Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre (SGRC) was established in 2003 with funding from federal and provincial agencies and local communities and businesses. It is a state of the art Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Geomatics Lab focusing on education, research and application development. SGRC faculty and staff, include, Ian Parfitt, Dr. Robert Magai, Chris Gray, and several part-time instructors.

The Centre offers a 12 month Advanced Diploma in GIS program, which has graduated over 50 students in the past four years. Our instructors include full-time Selkirk faculty and outside practitioners, providing a balance of theory and practice. Students also participate in real world projects including research work undertaken at the SGRC.



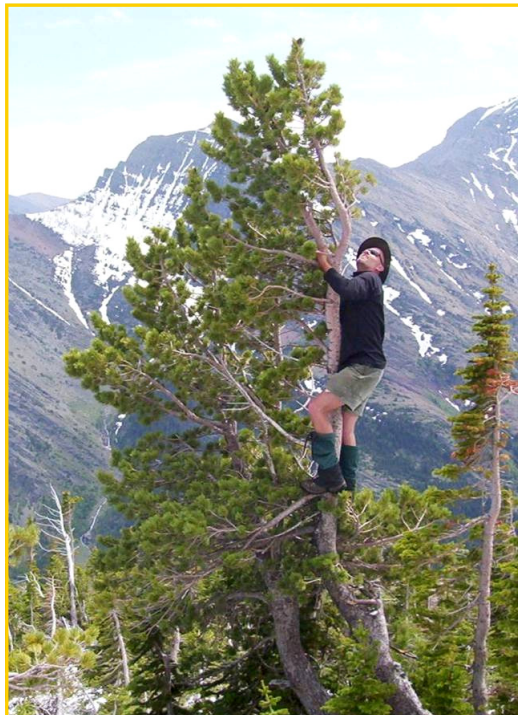
An exciting development this year was the announcement of approval by the BC Ministry of Advanced Education for Selkirk College's first bachelor program, a Bachelor's degree in GIS.

The SGRC offers continuing education courses through Selkirk's Community Education office and as custom courses. Our flagship course is a two day Introduction to ArcGIS Research.

Centre faculty and staff are also involved in a wide range of geomatics research and GIS software application development. Go to the Selkirk website or contact us to learn more about the Centre and our programs.

Whitebark Pine Restoration on the Continental Divide

Over the past 4 years, students from the School of Renewable Resources have participated in a project focused on restoration of whitebark pine in the Canadian Rockies. Whitebark pine is a high elevation tree species that is an important part of subalpine ecosystems in the Canadian Mountain National Parks. This tree has been described as a "keystone" species, as its seeds provide an important food source for a number of animals including squirrels, bears, and in particular, the Clark's Nutcracker, a high elevation bird species. College Instructor Dr. Brendan Wilson has been working on this project with Parks Canada for most of the last decade.



Dr. Wilson's "High Tech" Collection Techniques

Over the past 15 years, managers have come to acknowledge that whitebark pine in the Canadian Rocky Mountain National Parks face several significant conservation problems. These include substantial white pine blister rust infection, increasing mountain pine beetle infection, fire suppression, and climate change. In response to some of these issues, Brendan, with other researchers, has developed a restoration plan and embarked on a number of activities aimed at improving the chances of maintaining whitebark ecosystems in National Park landscapes. The project has involved many Selkirk RRS students, alumni and faculty, including, Helene Marcoux, Adrian Leslie, Iain Smith, Cory Cheriére, Danielle Backman, Niki Hiem, and Ian Parfitt.

National Accreditation

Recreation Fisheries and Wildlife, Forestry and Integrated Environmental Planning have all completed the rigors of the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists national accreditation process. The awarding of accreditation denotes that our programs have met defined quality criteria concerning the content, delivery and learning outcomes. The mark of accreditation helps to inform students, employers, government ministries, and the public that the program meets or exceeds the national standard for the education and training of technologists and technicians.

Our accreditation signifies that our graduates have the academic qualifications and meet the requirements for registration with the constituent member organizations of the Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists (CCTT) and its constituent members. Our graduates will also have their academic credentials recognized, without additional formality, by an increasing number of countries.



Partner organizations include: Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of British Columbia (ASTTBC), and the Association of British Columbia Forest Professionals (ABCFP). RFW has also gained accreditation with the North American Wildlife Technology Association (NAWTA)



The School of RRS and Responsibility to the Environment by Derek Marcoux

Answering a recent call for the School to step up to the walk our talk, we have begun to look at ways to for the School and the College as a whole to operate in a more ecologically conscious manner. The College has established an Environmental Sustainability Committee and RRS has established its own subgroup on sustainability.

Potential initiatives include:

Van fleet – monitor kilometer usage by program and set targets for GHG emissions through the van fleet for 2008,

Water consumption – promote the use of the College's excellent well instead of using bottled water,

Recycling – create a better profile of the recycling that currently occurs in the College and RRS School through improved signage,

Paper copying –investigate providing duplex printing at the college and use of post-consumer recycled paper in printers,

Paper reduction – promote use of digital media via course websites where appropriate to reduce paper consumption in the classes,

Biodiversity and land management – report on the biodiversity and forest management of the college's private lands (college grounds and Skattebo Reach) as well as the tenured woodlot lands.

Carbon sequestration – develop an applied research report to be generated by a student in 2008 that attempts to calculate the carbon sequestration and storage by ecosystem on the college lands.

Faculty and Learner commitment – Create a synopsis of the faculty commitment to the environment for Fall, 2007 and engage the College student body.

It is hoped that the initiatives listed above will provide a start for an "Environmental Commitment" in the School of RRS to meet the Selkirk College's *Renewed Vision to 2012*.



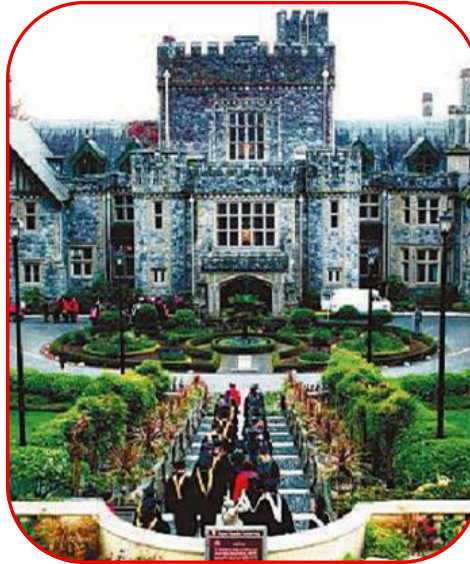
IEP Merry Creek Clean-up Crew

Contact Derek Marcoux with any ideas or insights at: dmarcoux@selkirk.ca

School of Renewable Resources

Articulation Agreements and Common Core First Year

Although many of our grads are leaving Selkirk and going directly into the workforce, almost an equal number are choosing to enter degree programs at Canadian and American Universities. We have been working diligently over the past few years to negotiate articulation agreements with many universities. These agreements serve to facilitate a smooth and fair transfer of Selkirk course credits to the partner university. The goal, of course, is to ensure full acceptance of all work done at Selkirk towards a four degree or other credential.

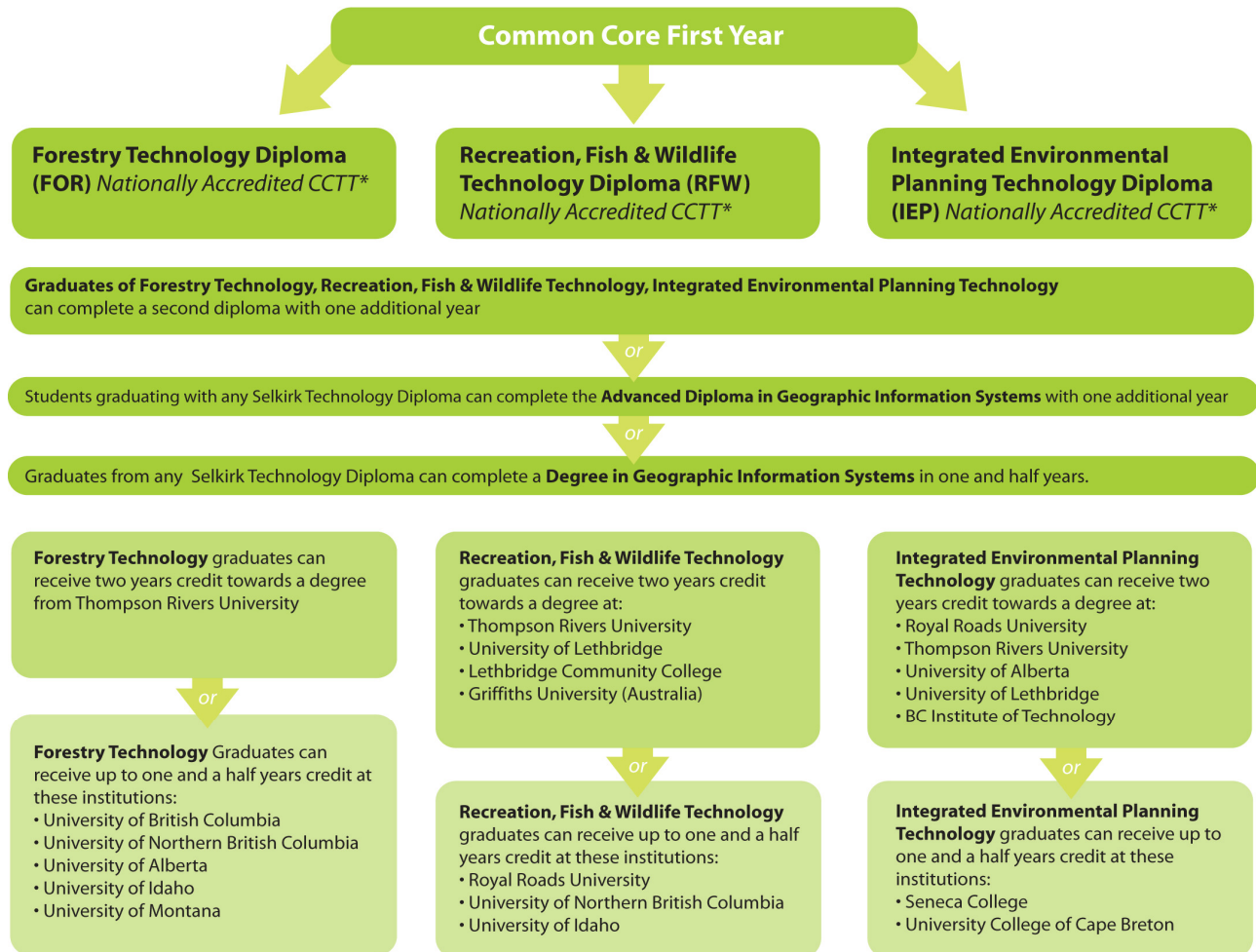


Royal Roads University, Victoria BC

Another new development is a RRS “Common – Core” first year that is being launched in the Fall of 2007. The common core will allow our diploma grads to transfer into any of our other programs and gain a second diploma in a year or less. It will also allow students to learn more about our different natural resource and environmental disciplines before committing to a specific diploma program.

The diagram below outlines the internal and external options available to our students and grads. Please contact the college for more detailed information on these options.

Selkirk College Renewable Resources Technology Pathways



*Canadian Council of Technologists & Technicians

School Briefs

Congratulations to School Chair **Peter Schorder**, who recently signed on for another three years at the helm of the School of Renewable Resources. **Angus Graeme** continues as the Dean of Instruction overseeing RRS and the School of Health and Human Services, and the Kootenay School of the Arts in Nelson. Meanwhile, his true claim to fame may end up being his son Mike's skateboarding acrobatics, Go to YouTube and search for "Pieces Skateboarding Video." Critics are calling it "Insane", 5 stars.

Derek Marcoux completed his MSc. degree through Royal Roads University. His course work focused on sustainable management, environmental law, systems theory, and environmental toxicology. His thesis was conducted on Long Term Soils Productivity research sites and it was aided by the use of high resolution digital remote sensing technology at Selkirk's Geospatial Research Centre. The thesis has been published through the National Library of Canada and several research papers are in the works.

RFW instructor **Tim Thurston** recently oversaw the installation of a gravity defying cable car over Carney Creek in the Purcell Wilderness Conservancy. He was assisted by **Darcey Lutz** (RFW 1995). His next endeavor is the installation of an aluminum foot bridge in Kokanee Glacier Park. RRS students and grads - **Andrea Gollmer** (RFW 2006) **Jenn Avery** and **Kelsey Lemoine** (both of FOR 2008) will be assisting. In August, Tim and fellow RFW instructor **Keyes Lessard** are planning a challenging Mt Robson summit attempt via its ominous North Face.

IEP instructor **Peter Holton** has been conferred full membership status in the Canadian Institute of Planners. Recently he was appointed President and Chief Executive Officer of the Environmental Stewardship Foundation; a California based non-profit land conservancy.



Test Pilots Tim Thurston and Darcey Lutz (RFW 1995) Carney Creek Cable Crossing

The Selkirk Interview

Name: **Rena Elisabeth Vandenbos**, Instructor, Renewable Resources and Recreation, Fish, and Wildlife

Courses: Fish and Wildlife Ecology, Fisheries Management, Field School and Applied Research

Education: MSc Environmental Biology and Ecology, University of Alberta, BSc Ecology, University of Calgary

Years teaching at Selkirk: Nine

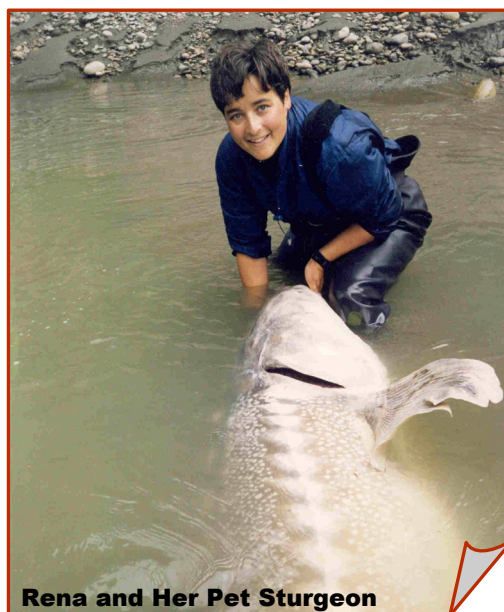
Best part about her job: Getting people excited about fish and getting out on our Kootenay streams, rivers, and lakes

Worst part about her job: Cleaning up after the fish dissection labs

Outside projects: Member of the Upper Columbia River White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative, Malaspina College Electrofishing Instructor, outside fisheries consulting work

Cool things you do in your courses: Camp on Little Slokan Lake and sample fish using nets and traps, electrofishing, dissecting fish and looking at stream 'bugs'

Favorite fish: White Sturgeon (not to eat) – **Why?** Because they are prehistoric species (lived in the time of the dinosaurs) that can live over 100 years. I was part of the crew that captured one of the largest sturgeon on record in the Fraser River (850 lbs and over 13 feet long). It was radio tagged and released.



Rena and Her Pet Sturgeon

School of Renewable Resources

Life after Selkirk College

The range of different job placements and the number of placements seems to be up significantly. We are excited for our grads and summer field placements for continuing students, and of course, very proud. Graduates across our programs are gaining employment with government ministries, private consulting firms, and non governmental organizations as well. Notable recent placements include:

BC Parks
Bear Smart
BC Hydro
Teck Cominco
Tera Consulting
Masse & Miller
BioSustain
BC Timber Sales
Highland Valley Copper
Water Survey of Canada
BC Conservation Corp
Ministry of Environment
DWB Forestry Services
Golder Associates



SNC Lavalin Environment
BC Ministry of Transportation
Purcell Wilderness Conservancy
West Coast Timber Consultants
Strategic Forest Management
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Lower Similkameen Band
Environment Alberta
The Nature Conservancy
British Columbia Ministry of Forests
Regional District Kootenay Boundary
Cowichan Valley Regional District
BC Integrated Land Management Bureau
Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Project

The Selkirk Interview

Colin Hamilton, Selkirk Integrated Environmental Planning Class of 2003



How did you become interested in the environmental field?

Part of growing up is realizing what you don't want to do with your life. Opportunities related to this field have always presented themselves to me and I was finally ready to start a career using these life experiences.

What are you doing now?

I am an environmental technologist at SNC Lavalin Environment in Prince George, BC. It is a consulting firm specializing in environmental remediation. I work with a group of dynamic professionals, travel regularly with work, and continue to meet the most interesting people as part of the job. It's fantastic.

Do you cross paths with other Selkirk RRS grads?

I have kept in touch with not nearly enough of my classmates. For RRS grads that I have met, or worked with, there remains a common bond amongst us. Conversations invariably touch on such topics as Stewart's surveying midterm or Big Rob's air chemistry final.

How do you see the future of employment in the environmental field?

Lucky are those who are ready to complete the RRS program. It is an exciting time to be in this field. It's also a field big enough that I believe people may define their own opportunities.

School of Renewable Resources Faculty:

Allison Lutz
Tim Thurston
Stu Deverney
Carol Andrews
Rhys Andrews
Barry Janzen
Derek Marcoux
Keyes Lessard
Brendan Wilson
Rena Vandenbos
Lui Marinelli
Peter Holton
Rob Macrae
Ian Parfitt
Robert Magai
Pete Schroder
Laura Adams
Al Macdonald
Rita Williams
Frank Fowler



Rhys Andrews

Service Instructors:

Doug Henderson
Gord Turner
Ross Bates
David Feldman
Suzanne von der Porten

Staff & Assistance:

Leanne Reitan
Ron Orton
Sue Blakeway
Chris Gray

2007 RRS Grads



Forestry Technology



Integrated Environmental Planning



Recreation, Fish, and Wildlife



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Postage

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