

# THECURRENT

Issue 1 March 4, 2012

Newsletter of  
the Society  
of Canadian  
Limnologists

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Sunrise over South Bay, Lake  
Huron (photo credit: Mike Rennie)



## Greetings from the president of SCL

By Jules Blais



Water is essential to all life, and we as humans are faced with the challenge of responsible and optimal use of available water, while leaving a sufficient supply available for all other forms of life that depend on it. The science of limnology, the study of inland waters, stems from this basic human responsibility that requires us to properly understand how aquatic ecosystems function and to

assess their resilience to human and natural perturbations. As Canada's only aquatic science society, SCL stands as the voice of Canada's freshwater, our most precious resource. With Canada's endowment of 8 percent of the world's freshwater, Canadian limnologists are tasked with a tremendous responsibility for scientific excellence, environmental stewardship and responsible management of aquatic resources. In that spirit, and building on our reputation as world leaders in the aquatic sciences, Canada's limnologists face enormous challenges for the twenty-first century. Invasive

species, climate change, eutrophication, algal toxins, pathogens, bulk water exports, dams and river diversions, and industrial and residential pollution are just some of the problems that will rely on aquatic science in the coming years. These are considerable challenges facing our small scientific community; Canada's limnologists have our work cut out for us, and as we have in the past, we must rise to meet these challenges.

SCL continues to play an essential role in the advancement of aquatic science in Canada. Our annual meetings, in partnership with the Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research (CCFFR) and the Society of Wetland Scientists, are an essential part of scientific discourse for aquatic science in this country. This year's meeting in Moncton NB had 190 registrants. Though small by our standards, over half of those participants were students, an encouraging sign of ongoing training and education for the future of aquatic science. SCL continues to directly support student training in limnology through the Clements-Rigler Travel Fund, which, in partnership with CCFFR, supported

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travel for 85 students to our Moncton meeting. SCL will be expanding its involvement in scientific meetings in the coming years, partnering with the Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution for a conference in Montreal in May 2014, while keeping our tradition of holding annual meetings with the CCFR every January.

Recently, SCL has embarked on several initiatives to improve our visibility, both within our membership and to the public at large. We hope these initiatives will serve to revitalize SCL into a more dynamic and interactive Society, providing new platforms for engaging our membership and facilitating collaboration, the sharing of new ideas and new developments in the aquatic sciences. In the past year, we have increased the regularity of communication with members and we are currently developing a new SCL website. We now have a regular, bi-annual newsletter to bring attention to news, meetings, and new developments in Canadian aquatic science. SCL will also soon have a new face. We will be asking our membership to help us select a new logo chosen from a number of concepts developed in partnership with a design firm. New ideas to improve

communication are also being developed to appeal to a new generation of aquatic scientists, including a Twitter feed and Facebook page. Most importantly, we want to hear more from you, our membership, to better serve the interests of aquatic scientists in Canada. To facilitate this, our executive has established an SCL visioning committee to draft a vision statement for SCL following a consultation with our membership, and they will report their recommendations to the SCL Business Meeting in Windsor in January 2013. We welcome your suggestions and we are open to new ideas. I invite you to send any ideas you may wish to share to my email address shown below. With your help, we can bring aquatic science in Canada to its rightful position as a foundation for informed dialogue on the most pressing environmental issues facing Canada and the world.

Jules Blais  
 President, Society of Canadian Limnologists  
 Professor of Biology and Environmental Toxicology  
 University of Ottawa  
[Jules.Blais@uottawa.ca](mailto:Jules.Blais@uottawa.ca)

## Introducing your 2012 SCL executive



**President**  
**Dr. Jules Blais, *Professor of Biology***  
 University of Ottawa



**Vice President, Francophone**  
**Dr. Yves Prairie, *Professor of Biology***  
 Université du Québec à Montréal



**Vice President, Anglophone**  
**Dr. Alison Derry, *Assistant Professor of Biology***  
 Université du Québec à Montréal



**Secretary-Treasurer**  
**Dr. Roberto Quinlan, *Associate Professor of Biology***  
 York University



**Communications Officer**  
**Dr. Michael Rennie, *Research Scientist***  
 Fisheries and Oceans Canada



**Student Representative**  
**Vanessa Swarbrick, *PhD Candidate***,  
 University of Regina

**Special thanks to our outgoing executive members!**

**Past-president, Dr. Martha Guy**, Environment Canada

**Outgoing Vice President (Anglophone), Dr. Jim Rusak**, Ontario Ministry of Environment



**Student Representative**  
**Morgan Botrel, *MSc Candidate***,  
 Université de Montréal

## Lobster rolls and μmols Moncton 2012

By Roberto Quinlan

The 2012 CCFRR-SCL-CWS meeting took place in Moncton, NB from January 6–7, 2012 at the Delta Beausejour Hotel. Of 190 registered attendees to the meeting, nearly 25% registered as affiliated with SCL. This year's F.H. Rigler Memorial Award recipient was Dr. Paul del Giorgio from the Université du Québec à Montréal, and his plenary talk was titled "Terrestrial carbon, lake metabolism, allochthony and the role of lakes in the landscape." This year's Rob Peters Award recipient was Jennifer Korosi. Jennifer's talk initiated the "Multiple stressors" session following the plenary talks. Her talk was entitled "Lakewater calcium decline and the aquatic food web: implications for algal production in softwater lakes."

Some notable highlights from the business meeting: For the fiscal year 2010–2011, SCL membership reached 97 members, the highest membership since 2005–2006. There was a 'trial run' of payment of membership dues via PayPal this year. (This appears to be successful, as 46 of 73 SCL and/or SIL memberships had been paid via PayPal at the time this article was written). The SCL executive and gathered members



**Top:** 2012 Rigler Award recipient Paul del Giorgio, Université du Québec à Montréal. His talk: "Terrestrial carbon, lake metabolism, allochthony and the role of lakes in the landscape."

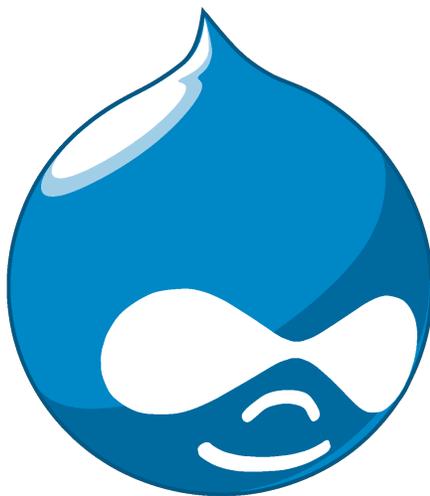


**Bottom:** 2012 Peters Award winner, Jennifer Korosi (PhD candidate, Queen's University), for her paper "Anomalous rise in algal production linked to lakewater calcium decline through food web interactions. Proceedings of the Royal Society (Lond.), Series B. doi:10.1098/rspb.2011.1411.

supported new initiatives to revamp the society's website, which includes a new website address, and logo to act as a website banner and letterhead logo. The next meeting in 2013 will be held in Windsor, while the 2014 meeting will be held in Yellowknife. The executive and membership discussed if extra funding would be provided for travel to the Yellowknife meeting, however no commitments were made. The executive

and membership also discussed and supported partnership in the May 2014 Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution (CSEE) meeting in Montreal.

**Minutes from the 2012 SCL business meeting as well as those from past meetings can be found on-line at [uregina.ca/~scl/society-minutes.htm](http://uregina.ca/~scl/society-minutes.htm).**



### Dru-what?

Communications officer Mike Rennie is climbing the learning curve of Drupal, the content management system that the new SCL site will be built. This is the "druplicon", the logo for the software, which somewhat fittingly resembles a cheeky water droplet.

## A new website for SCL

By Mike Rennie

After many good years of service, the old SCL website has been put on notice. We are currently working to totally revamp the SCL website into something that will be fundamentally more interactive and provide greater service to the membership. The site is being built on a content- management platform, as opposed to clunky (and easy-to-break) html and ccs-based sites. The new site will ultimately allow for a stylistically-coherent site, with a number of features present on the old site, including member profiles (eventually), but will be more intuitively organized compared to the existing site, and will provide for simpler management of the site by the executive. The initial release of the site will contain the basics, and we will add on features to

build the site, with feedback from society members.

In addition, the site will provide a fresh face for the society, and we hope it will be a forum for members to interact, as well as a source of society information.

As part of the redesign, we have commissioned a new logo for the society (see "Limnology by design", page 5), which will appear on our next newsletter as well as the website.

In the meantime, we will continue to maintain the old site with relevant news and stay engaged with current members over email for society announcements, job opportunities and other news of interest to our members.

If you have any thoughts about what you'd like the new site to look like, or how it should function to better serve the society, let me know:

[scl@uregina.ca](mailto:scl@uregina.ca).

## Putting the “U” in SCL We welcome member suggestions!

By Mike Rennie

As a scientific society, SCL depends on its membership for guidance as to where we should be placing our priorities. By staying connected to the membership, we are enabled to provide what we hope members feel is value for the dues we ask for every year to support society activities (for a breakdown of annual costs and income by the membership, please take a look at the financial reports in our business meeting minutes on our website ([uregina.ca/~scl/society-minutes.htm](http://uregina.ca/~scl/society-minutes.htm))).

Now is one of those times where we require your input. The membership will be asked to vote on a **new logo design** very soon (see “Limnology by design”, page 5). A committee has been struck to create a **vision statement** for the society (see “Vision quest”, this page). There is ongoing discussion among the executive for the need to **revise our bylaws** ([uregina.ca/~scl/society-bylaws.htm](http://uregina.ca/~scl/society-bylaws.htm)). A **new website** is also currently under construction (“A new website for SCL”, page 3). All of these tasks will at some point require the engagement of the society for feedback and approval.

While these are ongoing projects, there are surely things that you’ve thought of that we haven’t. So let us know. We are interested in any ideas from the membership as to what we should or could be doing that we aren’t already. Of course, we’re also happy to have volunteers to help with society activities.

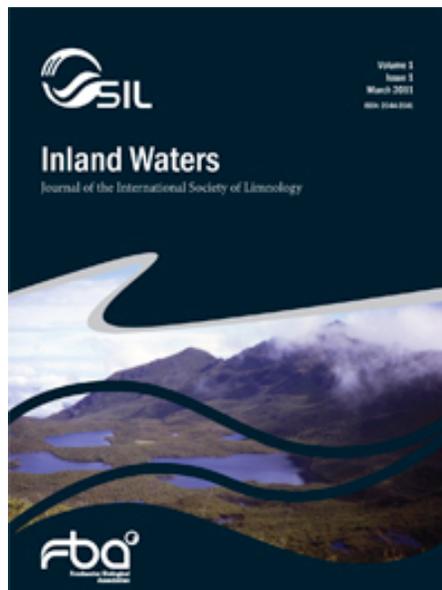
Here are some potential things that we might engage in, if there was positive feedback from the membership:

- An SCL Twitter feed
- Social networking (e.g., creating an SCL group for LinkedIn)
- Playing a greater role for advocacy of relevant issues to the society
- Playing a role in public outreach on topics of water quality, limnology and aquatic ecology

In the end, what we do will be guided by our membership. So, if you have any thoughts, please feel free to

contact any one of us personally, or at [scl@uregina.ca](mailto:scl@uregina.ca).

## Inland Waters SIL’s new journal seeks top-quality papers



By Mike Rennie

As some of you may already know, our parent organization, SIL (the International Society for Limnology) has decided to take a new direction in publishing.

In contrast to the previous system of publishing the conference proceedings from the meetings held every three years, SIL has launched its own journal, through the Freshwater Biological Association titled *Inland Waters*. It is a peer-reviewed journal, published by the Freshwater Biological Association. A quick glance at the [editorial board](#) indicates that this stands to be a strong journal for the publication of limnological research. The journal is also interested in special issues. For more information on the journal, including submission procedures, please visit their website: <https://www.fba.org.uk/journals/index.php/IW/index>.

## Vision quest Drafting a vision statement for SCL

By Jim Rusak

Some time has passed since SCL looked seriously at its collective direction and

vision. A membership survey in 2004 led to discussion at the 2005 business meeting regarding the direction of the society, but given the passage of time since then, a re-examination of our governance, values and goals as a society is due.

Former members of SCL’s executive, Jim Rusak and Andrew Paterson, have agreed to co-chair a committee to revisit these important issues. They will be drawing on past executive members to serve on this committee, but would also very much like to hear from the membership. Input from the general membership will be solicited over the course of the coming year, and draft recommendations will be presented at the SCL Business Meeting in January 2013 for further discussion. If you wish to provide initial comments and ideas, please contact Jim and Andrew directly at:

[Andrew.Paterson@ontario.ca](mailto:Andrew.Paterson@ontario.ca) and  
[Jim.Rusak@ontario.ca](mailto:Jim.Rusak@ontario.ca)

## SCL Student website Come and Visit!

Student members, don’t forget to check out the student website for recent posts and student events. Thanks to Student Executive Vanessa Swarbrick for taking the initiative to build and maintain the site. You can find the student SCL website at the link below:

[sclforum.wordpress.com](http://sclforum.wordpress.com)

## SCL is on Facebook!

You can now follow all the goings-on of SCL via facebook. We now have an SCL facebook group: [facebook.com/groups/society.canadian.limnologists](https://facebook.com/groups/society.canadian.limnologists). Note that only group members can post to the wall. Please contact Vanessa Swarbrick to become a member of the group. Thanks to Vanessa Swarbrick to getting this set up.

## Remembering Peter Delorme Health Canada Director with limnology roots dies too soon



**By Derek Muir**

We are saddened by the news that Peter Delorme passed away on February 18, 2012 due to a brain aneurysm. He received his doctorate in Zoology

(Ecotoxicology) from the University of Manitoba. He conducted his PhD research at ELA from 1988 to 1992, supervised by Lyle Lockhart (DFO) and Fred Ward (U of M). He worked closely with ELA staff including Ken Mills, Sandy Chalanchuk, and Doug Allan, conducting a very challenging experiment involving intraperitoneal injection of the pesticide toxaphene in live-captured lake trout and white suckers in Lake 260, followed by continued monitoring of these fish by recapturing and spawning the fish over five field seasons (details in Delorme et al. 1999, ET&C 18:1992-2000). Peter joined the Pest Management Regulatory Agency of Health Canada in 1994 and rose to the level of Director of Product Assessment, within the Environmental Assessment Directorate. He was responsible for evaluation of environmental fate and effects of new and current use pesticides in Canada. Peter was an articulate and fervent proponent of the need for science based solutions in order to protect Canadians and the environment. He will be missed, especially by colleagues at ELA and in the exposure and risk assessment sciences in government, industry and academia. He leaves behind his wife of 25 years, Denise Doherty-Delorme and their three boys, Everett (20), Christian (17) and Sébastien (10).

## A brief history of SCL Piecing our past back together

**By Jules Blais**

The SCL executive has started an effort to track down the society's history from

its earliest days. This is what we have so far. If you can add to this history, please contact us ([scl@uregina.ca](mailto:scl@uregina.ca)).

SCL developed following a wide perception that Canada's freshwater scientists must find better ways to communicate with one another and speak with a common voice. The earliest presidents of SCL included Marcel Ouellet (1979–1981), and Michael Dickman (1981–1984) at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. SCL initially evolved from earlier societies, including SIL-Canada under the directorship of F.J. Ward at the University of Manitoba and Diane Malley at the Freshwater Institute in Winnipeg, as well as the Canadian Society for Environmental Biologists (CSEB) who held annual meetings with the Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research from 1976–1979. SCL first participated in a joint national conference in partnership with the Canadian Conference For Fisheries Research in 1979, and has participated in annual meetings with CCFFR every year since then. SCL began recognizing lifetime achievement in Limnology with its Rigler Prize starting in 1985, and student achievement started being recognized with the Peters Award starting in 2007.

## Limnology by Design A new face for the society

Society of Canadian Limnologists



# SCL

Société canadienne de limnologie

### Getting a facelift

Our long-beloved logo will soon morph into something more modern

**By Mike Rennie**

Because we're putting on a new face with the website, we've decided to go whole-hog and get a new logo as well. With the help of our design firm Pilot Interactive ([pilotinteractive.ca](http://pilotinteractive.ca)), we have come up with a shortlist of four designs that we are asking the membership to vote on. Designs and

instructions for voting will be circulated to the membership via email. Be sure to vote for your favourite!

## Upcoming meetings

### SCL Meetings

- 2013 (with CCFFR/SWS): Windsor, ON (dates TBA, expect early January)
- 2014 (with CCFFR/SWS) Yellowknife, NWT (dates TBA, expect early January)
- 2014 (with CSEE, CSZ) Montreal, Quebec (tentatively May 16–21)

### SIL Meetings

- 13th EWRS International Symposium on Aquatic Plants & 2nd International SIL Workshop of Working Group on Macrophytes (August 27–31, 2012) Poznan, Poland. Contact: Dr Krzysztof Szoszkiwicz (Email: [kszoszk@au.poznan.pl](mailto:kszoszk@au.poznan.pl))

### Other meetings

- 2012 meeting of the International Association of Great Lakes Research, Cornwall, ON, May 13–17, 2012
- 2012 ASLO Aquatic Sciences meeting, Lake Biwa, Japan, July 8–13, 2012 ([aslo.org/meetings/japan2012](http://aslo.org/meetings/japan2012))
- 2012 Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology (CSEE co-sponsored), July 6–10, Ottawa, Canada ([www.confersense.ca/Evolution2012/index.htm](http://www.confersense.ca/Evolution2012/index.htm))
- 97th Annual Meeting of ESA, Portland, Oregon, August 5–10, 2012 ([esa.org/portland](http://esa.org/portland))
- Ecological and Evolutionary Ethology of Fishes, Windsor, Ontario, June 17–21, 2012 ([web2.uwindsor.ca/eeef](http://web2.uwindsor.ca/eeef))
- 142nd Annual meeting of AFS, St. Paul, Minnesota, August 19–23, 2012 ([afs2012.org](http://afs2012.org))

## Share your stories

Have a photo or an idea for a story you'd like to see in the next issue of The Current? Want to make your own submission? Please contact Mike Rennie ([scl@uregina.ca](mailto:scl@uregina.ca)) to discuss member contributions. We will request ideas and stories again in the summer, for our next issue, coming fall of 2012. **FIN**