

# Logistics and Administration *Quarterly Report*



Children from the afterschool program examine a fossil skull.

**Prepared by: Bessie Rogers, Western Arctic Research Centre**

**Date: 1 October to 31 December, 2012**

## Logistics at the Western Arctic Research Centre

The Western Arctic Research Centre (WARC) provides a wide range of support to researchers on a year-round basis. Support is also provided to the communities surrounding Inuvik, businesses, and educational institutions.

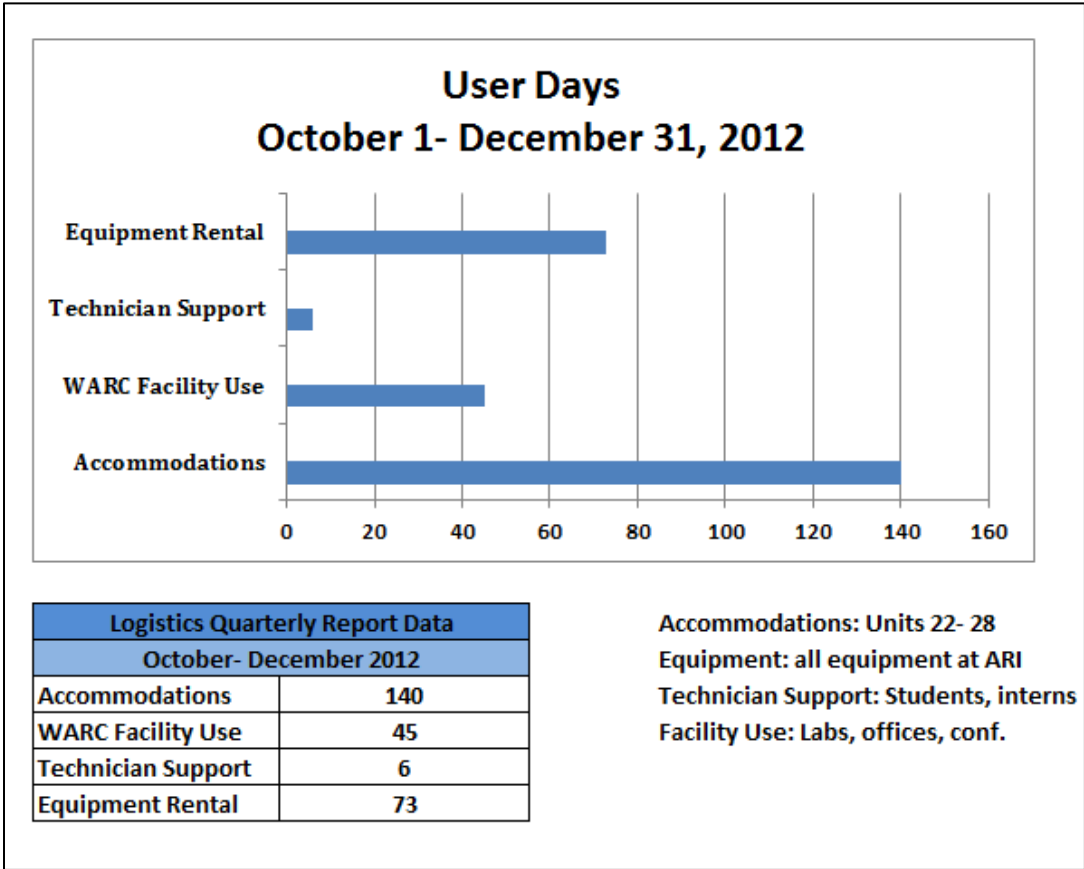
WARC provides housing to researchers at a low cost. Each house includes a full kitchen, bath, laundry services, a living room and six beds. Other features include basic cable television, wireless internet, and a front deck with a barbeque. Rates include daily, weekly and monthly fees, which vary depending on user category (students, Canadian users, and non-Canadian users).

We have a large selection of equipment that is also provided year-round. Big items include, but are not limited to, boats, snow machines, and toboggans. Smaller items include, but are not limited to, tents, augers, and frost depth probes. Our facility provides a great space for research. We have a shared research office space with up to 10 individual desk spaces. We have three labs, which include a Clean Lab, a Dirty Lab and a Wet Lab. We have a classroom, which is used quite often. And lastly, we have two meeting spaces: a large conference room and a smaller meeting room.

WARC supports many user groups throughout the year. Our facility provides a variety of resources to all researchers and groups working in the western Canadian arctic, and in the communities surrounding Inuvik. We provide in-kind support to groups and individuals on a regular basis as a way to give back and provide support for their work.

## User Days of Support

I created a graph to record the number of user days of equipment rental, accommodations, facility use, and technician support ((which included requests for assistance from both technicians, as well as two casual staff; **Figure 1**). For equipment, the total number of user days from October 1 to December 31, 2012, was 73. For technician support, the total number of user days was 6. For WARC facility use, the total number of user days was 45. For accommodations from October 1 to December 31, 2012, the total was 140 user days.



**Figure 1:** The number of user days for equipment rental, accommodations, facility use, and technician support from October 1 to December 31, 2012.

**General Logistics Support  
October- December 2012**

Principal Researcher	Affiliation	ARI Support
1 Don Andre	Arctic Energy Alliance	Accommodations
2 Michael Young	Royal Roads University	Accommodations
3 Chrystal Lennie	BDEC	Large Conference room
4 Sarah Rogers	Parks Canada	Large Conference room
5 Claire Marchildon	AANDC	Accommodations
6 Chris Derksen	Environment Canada	Accommodations, equipment
7 Philip Marsh	Environment Canada	Accommodations
8 Fred Wrona	Environment Canada	Accommodations, tech. support, equipment
9 Molly Kirk	Parks Canada	Small Meeting Room
10 Steve Outlet	Arctic Energy Alliance	Accommodations
11 Kristi Benson	Gwich'in Social	Accommodations
12 Jennifer Smith	Wildlife Mngt	Small Meeting Room
13 Peter van wyck	Concordia University	Accommodations
14 Steve Kokelj	AANDC	Accommodations
15 Kate Snow		

**Figure 2:** Logistical support provided by WARC between October 1 and December 31, 2012.

**Activities of Note**

From October 1 to December 31, 2012 a number of events took place at WARC. A total of 15 different requests were submitted for logistical support (Figure 2). During this time a lot of groups and individuals passed through our facility, making use of the resources that we offer. This quarter certainly kept the WARC logistics team on their toes, during what is generally considered a slow time of year. It was interesting to see all the different ways that we could support researchers and community organizations.

***Grant Zazula, Fossil Research and Show-and-Tell Events***

Dr. Grant Zazula, a Paleontologist with the Yukon Government, visited WARC and Inuvik during November 2012. Below is a summary report that was composed by Jolene Lennie, GIS and Library Intern:

“During the week of November 19<sup>th</sup>, WARC and ARI hosted a special visitor. Dr. Grant Zazula, a paleontologist with the Yukon Government, travelled to Inuvik to present some of his work and to share his passion for ice age fossils.

Dr. Zazula arrived on Monday and gave a public presentation that evening to thirty people. The presentation was on fossil discoveries in the Klondike Goldfields in the Yukon; it went extremely well and everyone enjoyed the questions and discussion that followed. On Tuesday, Dr. Zazula went to East 3 Secondary School and presented to Ms. Doucette’s grade 7 class. The students were keenly interested and amazed that we have fossils in our backyards! They especially enjoyed the hands-on activities with

the fossils that Dr. Zazula brought with him. We may now have some future paleontologists in the making!

Also on Tuesday, the Inuvik Preschool Society's afterschool program came to WARC and Dr. Zazula presented to them. There were eleven children between the ages of 6 and 12, and they were very excited and asked many questions. The students learned about what creatures did and did not co-exist



during different prehistoric time periods – for instance, they now all know that dinosaurs and humans never co-existed!

On Wednesday, Dr. Zazula inventoried ARI's fossil collection. He numbered and labeled the fossils and showed me how to do this in the future. In addition, Dr. Zazula took some samples that will be radiocarbon dated. This will tell us how old some of the ARI fossils are. That evening there was a "Fossil Show and Tell" at ARI. With twenty people showing up it was yet another successful gathering

to learn and share about fossils, including where they were found and what they tell us. To wrap up his visit, on Thursday morning Dr. Zazula presented to 25 students and faculty at the Aurora College Community Learning Centre in Inuvik. The entire week provided sharing and learning experiences for the many people who were fortunate enough to attend one of the presentations. A huge thank you to Dr. Zazula for sharing his knowledge on fossils in the western arctic!"


### ***Christopher Burn, Conoco Phillips Speaker Series***

Erika Hille, Laboratory Technician, coordinated the Fall installment of the Conoco Phillips Speaker Series. She submitted the following report on Dr. Christopher Burn's visit to the western Arctic:

"Dr. Christopher Burn gave four presentations in Inuvik and Aklavik, NT. Presentations took place on Monday November 26 and Tuesday November 27, 2012.


The first presentation was entitled "How do we know that permafrost is responding to climate change?" It was held at the Aurora Research Institute (ARI) in Inuvik. The presentation was approximately 1 hour long and was attended by 30 - 35 students, who were from the Aurora College Learning Centre. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice, and an assortment of cookies were provided. Dr. Burn gave a very interactive presentation. He never read off of his slides and made sure to actively engage the students by asking them questions, which tested their knowledge of climate warming and permafrost in the Mackenzie Delta region. The presentation was followed by a discussion, which lasted for about 20 minutes.





**Scientific Speaker Series**  
**Permafrost science and climate change at Herschel Island, 1826-2012**


Presented by...



**Dr. Chris Burn & Douglas Esagok**

**Monday November 26, 2012 at 7:00 pm**  
**Aurora Research Institute**

**Coffee, tea, soup, bannock, and donuts will be provided**

Contact: Erika Hille at 777-3298 

The second presentation was entitled “Permafrost science and climate change at Herschel Island, 1826 to 2012”. It was held in the conference room at ARI. The presentation was approximately 90 minutes long and was attended by 25 - 30 members of the Inuvik community. Attendees were provided with coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice, soup, donuts, and cookies. The soup and donuts were made by an elder living in Inuvik, NT. Having food available at the presentation made people feel welcome and comfortable at the research center. It also gave Dr. Burn the opportunity to interact with the community socially. The age of the audience ranged from 20 to 70, with one audience member who was under 10 years of age. Similar to his earlier talk, Dr. Burn gave an interactive presentation. He engaged the community, asking them questions about what they knew about Herschel Island and encouraging them to tell their own stories of the land. The presentation was followed by a

45 minute discussion period. Notably, one of the local elders told several stories about his experiences on Herschel Island, as well as what he has heard from other elders in the community. Following the presentation, left over soup and donuts were given to the local homeless shelter, where they were happily received.

After spending one day in Inuvik, Dr. Burn travelled to Aklavik. His third presentation was entitled “What’s happening to the permafrost in the Mackenzie Delta region?” It was held at the Aurora College Learning Centre. The presentation was 1 hour long, with approximately 15-20 students in attendance. Students were provided with coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice, cookies, and homemade donuts. Dr. Burn actively engaged the students, testing their knowledge of the subject matter. This group of students was particularly engaged. They were asking relevant questions throughout the presentation and were always ready to participate. The final presentation was entitled, “What people were places named after? And, why were they important?” It was held at the Town Council Chambers in Aklavik. The presentation was attended by three people. So, instead of giving a formal presentation, Dr. Burn used a map of the Yukon Coast in order to facilitate a discussion. The three attendees were actively engaged and shared a number of stories about their experiences along the Yukon Coast, comparing traditional names with those given by Franklin on his expedition. Attendees were provided with coffee, tea, hot chocolate, soup, and bannock. The soup and bannock were made by an elder living in Aklavik. Left over soup and bannock was given to the elder’s home. On Wednesday November 28, 2012, Dr. Burn travelled to Yellowknife, NT, for two additional presentations that were facilitated by the North Slave Research Centre, ARI.

### **Noell Lake Research with Environment Canada and University of Victoria**

In late November, Peter DiCenzo from the University of Victoria came to Inuvik to do work on the Noell Lake Project. WARC staff provided assistance for this project. The field team travelled to Noell Lake by helicopter to do four days of work; this included water sampling and deploying a series of under-ice equipment that would take repeated water quality measurements over the winter.

### **ArcticNet Conference**

From 10-14 December 2012, the Aurora Research Institute had a booth at the ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting in Vancouver BC. The booth was staffed by Jolie Gareis (Manager of the Western Arctic Research Centre) and Donald Ross (Technician). During the 4-day conference, many past, present and possible future collaborators stopped by the booth to discuss logistics support for research in the



western Arctic, licensing requirements, and services offered by WARC and ARI.

Don participated in the ArcticNet Student Day conference, where he presented “The Arctic Toolkit”, with hunter and trapper Joey Angnatok from Nunatsiavut. The Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami requested that Don also help them judge the student posters at the conference. To do this, Don had to read the student posters in advance, and then circulate through the poster displays and talk to all the students to find out more about their research projects. While Don was

talking to students during the poster sessions, Jolie stood in front of the ARI poster “Geographic Access to Historical Research Information in the NWT”. This poster communicated information about the People-ACE project, which is a partnership between ARI and the von Braun Center for Science & Innovation. The objective of the People-ACE project is to make historic and current research licence information for the NWT publically accessible via an online database and searchable Google Earth layers. Many researchers, students and administrators stopped by to discuss the project, and displayed a great deal of interest in the information that would be made available online.

Finally, one of our project partners, Klaus Gantner, asked Don to co-lead an oral presentation with him. The presentation was titled “CSI Husky Lakes: Evaluation of hydro-climatic drivers of contaminant transfer in aquatic food webs in the Husky Lakes watershed, NWT, Canada”. Klaus and Don discussed the project goals, the activities done to date on the project, and their preliminary results. Their presentation was very well received, and was followed by several questions from the audience. Overall, the ArcticNet conference was a very successful and busy week.