



Greetings and welcome to the December 2012 Newsletter for the Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution (CIEE)! There's been a lot of activity during the past six months so we wanted to update you on our recent and future activities. This circular is intended to be part of a regular series of communications to our members, and seeks to supplement our website (<http://ciee-icee.com/>).

## Art Weis steps down as Director of CIEE

After four years of superb service, our founding Director, Dr. Art Weis, has stepped down to focus on his [research](#), as well as operation of the [Koffler Scientific Reserve](#) at University of Toronto. For those of you who have met him, you will know that it's no exaggeration to say that CIEE's success arises mainly because of Art's hard work and dedication. Replacing visionary leadership is always difficult, so the CIEE Board, lead by [Stephen Heard](#) of University of New Brunswick, took several months to complete the competition for a new director. Following this search, Dr. [Peter Leavitt](#) of University of Regina was selected as the new Director of CIEE. Peter's appointment is for a three year term, starting in Sept 2012. Peter is an ecosystem ecologist specializing on lakes, is presently the Canada Research Chair in Environmental Change and Society, and has served previously as President of the [Society of Canadian Limnologists](#), on the Board of Directors of the [Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography](#), and as subject matter editor at [Ecology](#) since 2002. In the near future, you will be able to reach Peter via email at [CIEE-ICEE@uregina.ca](mailto:CIEE-ICEE@uregina.ca), but he's easy to contact now via his Regina [email](#).



Art and Donna



Peter

## New facilities for CIEE

As you know, CIEE supports four main types of [activities](#) – thematic programs, synergy workshops, advanced (graduate) training, and visiting fellowships. In the past, most activities have been housed at the [Koffler Scientific Reserve](#) which also served as the CIEE headquarters. In addition, all CIEE programs, workshops and mini-courses can be conducted at any [member institution](#), such as is the case with the *Thermal Scaling and Body Size* working group (see below). Such a distributed model allows CIEE members to take advantage of regional nodes of expertise and optimize resource uses to produce the best science.

To better support our members, CIEE will soon open a Synthesis Centre and advanced training facilities within the Institute of Environmental Change and Society (IESC) at the University of Regina. Operations in this \$30-million, 6500 sq-ft research facility are scheduled to commence in February 2013 and will be able to host CIEE activities during the following academic summers (May-Sept). As seen below, the Synthesis Centre includes dedicated meeting facilities, break-out rooms, a microcomputer laboratory, and on-campus housing, while plans are underway to develop additional computational capability through the [WestGrid](#) network.



Synthesis Centre



Institute of Environmental Change and Society (IECS)



Breakout room

## New staff for CIEE

By the time you read this, CIEE will be well-progressed towards selection of a new [Assistant Director](#)! Funded by the University of Regina, this new position will provide effective administrative management of CIEE and facilitate its integration within IECS. The main activities for the Assistant Director will be to organize and facilitate scientific workshops at CIEE and remote locations, provide financial support services, communicate activities and achievements of CIEE, help secure and expand membership in CIEE, develop member services, and play a key role in maximizing financial support of CIEE. Development of dedicated staff is a central to the success of any professional organization, so we see the addition of an Assistant Director as a major step forward in the development of CIEE. You should be able to contact the Assistant Director via email at [CIEE-ICEE@uregina.ca](mailto:CIEE-ICEE@uregina.ca) starting February 2013.

## New advanced training course at CIEE

To take advantage of our new facilities at University of Regina, CIEE will be offering a graduate short course in *Stable Isotope Ecology and Methods* in early summer 2013. Intended to be the first of several different practical research mini-courses, *Stable Isotope Ecology* will be a week-long offering presented by [Dr. Björn Wissel](#) in May or June of 2013. Dr. Wissel is Associate Director the [Environmental Quality Analysis Laboratory](#) and has over 20 years of research and teaching experience using stable isotopes.

CIEE will provide room and board for successful graduate student applicants, as well as all course materials and analytical supplies. Further course details will be available in the New Year. As the relationship between CIEE and IESC matures, we anticipate future short courses on *Environmental Proteomics*, *Genomic Analysis of Field Research*, *Evolutionary and Ecological Uses of R*, and *Multivariate Statistics*. Please bookmark the [News and Announcements](#) page of the CIEE website and check for our (soon to be!) regular updates.

## **New Logo for CIEE**

Time to dust off your artistic aspirations, CIEE needs a new logo and we'd like you to design it! The basic plan is this: using the CIEE [statement of intent](#) as a conceptual framework, our members are invited to design a new bilingual logo to illustrate our mission. All designs received by 01 May 2013 will be posted on the CIEE website, and members asked to vote on them in order of preference. The most popular design will be selected as our new logo and will be displayed on the revised website (more on that next time), in CIEE communications, and as part of our outreach activities. And, as an added bonus, the designer of the winning entry will receive a year's free membership in the [Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution](#) (CSEE)!

## **New CIEE members**

One of the central activities of the CIEE staff will be to coordinate a membership drive during the New Year. At present, CIEE is supported by financial contributions of five Canadian Universities ([British Columbia](#), [Carleton](#), [McGill](#), [Regina](#), [Toronto](#)), and the [Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution](#). In addition, a request for support is pending at the Government of Saskatchewan. While a promising start, our membership group represents less than 10% of potential CIEE partner organizations, therefore, in 2013, the Director and Assistant Director will be co-ordinating national membership drive through most of the year. As part of this activity, we will be seeking CIEE members at all Canadian universities to act as representatives and liaisons to local their administration. At present, annual membership in CIEE is very reasonable, ranging from \$2000 to \$8000 for Universities, and \$10 per member for non-university societies such as CSEE. Importantly, all of the funding obtained from member organizations is used for direct support of CIEE thematic programs, synergy workshops, and advanced training initiatives, whereas in-kind contributions help maintain staff and synthesis facilities. Our new agreement with the University of Regina also allows us to avoid overhead charges to member organizations, thereby focusing our resources on advancing evolutionary, ecological and environmental sciences. As a result, the more members we have, the more activities we can support! Further information on the membership drive will be available early next year, or from [Peter Leavitt](#), but we are always very interested in hearing from anyone interested in acting as a CIEE representative.

## **CIEE working group updates**

This was a very busy year for members of the CIEE *Thermal Scaling and Body Size* working group, with an inaugural meeting at Loon Lake, British Columbia, in June 2012 and a successful application to the US [National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis](#) (NCEAS) for additional meetings during 2013. This group is lead by [Mary I. O'Connor](#) of the University of British Columbia and [Hamish Greig](#) of University of Canterbury and includes scientists and students from universities in Stockholm, Toronto, Los Angeles, Guelph, San Diego, Yale, Vancouver, Davis, and Wisconsin.

The *Thermal Scaling* group is advancing consumer-resource theory to develop predictions for how temperature affects species interactions via general effects on physiology and performance. By integrating general relationships between body size, temperature and interaction strength parameters, specific theoretical predictions will be articulated and tested against observations from warming experiments. In particular, this work seeks to produce a unified framework to integrate theory and empirical studies and better determine how climate warming affects trophic interactions.

While at the Loon Lake meeting, the group initiated several projects, including:

1. A bio-energetic framework for understanding how warming affects trophic interaction strengths;
2. A meta-analysis of the effect of warming on top-down control;
3. A novel analysis of how temperate species may be well-tempered to environmental variation?

With a motto of *'Make bold decisions and live with them'*, participants in the *Thermal Scaling and Body Size* working group will hold their next meeting this month at NCEAS, with a third meeting tentatively scheduled for late 2013. More information the *Thermal Scaling and Body Size* group and other working group activities will be available shortly [Research Program and Events](#) page of the [CIEE website](#).

### **New Call for proposals**

A new call for proposals will be issued by March 2013 to support new thematic programs, synergy workshops, and advanced training activities. This announcement was delayed by the Director to allow CIEE to transfer administrative activities from University of Toronto to University of Regina, develop funding opportunities with provincial partners, develop the Assistant Director position, and provide flexibility in support of on-going working groups (e.g., *Thermal Scaling*) and graduate training activities (e.g., *Stable Isotopes*). With the increased focus on membership, we anticipate being able to fund 2-3 new activities in 2013 and look forward to receiving your diverse and exciting proposals! Precise details on the next call for proposals will be posted on the [CIEE website](#)

### **Your input**

As always, we are pleased to receive your questions, comments or concerns about the Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution. In particular, please let us know if you have an idea for a new member services or research activity! Once we complete the transfer of CIEE administration to the University of Regina, you will be able to use our [CIEE email](#), however, in the interim, please contact [Peter Leavitt](#) directly, or via the CIEE website ([www.ciee-icee.com](http://www.ciee-icee.com)).

Thank you all for you continued support of CIEE! We hope you have a very happy holiday season and that you have a terrific New Year.

Cheers and best wishes for 2013!

peter

Peter R. Leavitt  
Director, Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution