

## ***Original Workshop Program and Abstracts***

### **Date**

Evening Arrival — Wednesday, February 25, 2004

Workshop Sessions — Thursday, February 26 and Friday, February 27, 2004

Departure — 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 27, 2004

### **Location**

Leslie M. Frost Centre, Dorset, Ontario

### **Participants**

Maximum of 40 including speakers and organizers

### **Program**

#### **Day 1 — Thursday, February 26, 2004**

**8:00–8:45 a.m. Registration** and ice-breaker, informal introductions, refreshments and breakfast snacks, and viewing of posters and displays.

**8:45–9:00 a.m. Welcoming remarks**

Barton Feilders and others

**9:00–10:00 a.m. Theme 1 — Understanding Climate Change**

*Ellsworth LeDrew*

Professor, Department of Geography, University of Waterloo

The purpose of this presentation is to give participants a broad understanding of the nature and some of the intricacies of climate change, the kind of evidence available for it and its reliability, some of the general methods used to map and describe unanticipated changes and their advantages and disadvantages. The idea is to set a broad science-based context in which to think about the ways in which we might adapt, especially with respect to environmental changes that affect rural areas, parks, nature conservation and related policies and programs. The weight of the presentation will be on establishing the nature of anticipated changes, the evidence for them and the uncertainties involved.

**10:00–10:30 a.m. Refreshments**

**10:30–11:30 a.m. Theme 2 — Gathering, Modelling, and Using Knowledge and Research in Support of Informed Decision-making About Climate Change**

*Dan Scott<sup>1</sup> and Christopher Lemieux<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup>Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of Waterloo

<sup>2</sup> PhD Candidate, Department of Geography, University of Waterloo

Much of our understanding of climate change is based on the building and use of models. These have advantages and disadvantages with respect to their approximation of reality. Some of these models have been applied to the regions and localities in which parks are located and implications drawn for their effects and their implications for planning, management, and decision-making. This presentation will address these topics and suggest ways in which the resulting information can be used in making informed decisions about adaptation to climate change in Ontario's parks.

**11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Questions and discussion**

**12:00–1:30 p.m. Lunch**

**1:30–2:30 p.m. Theme 3 — Climate Change, Protected Areas, and Tourism**

*Geoff Wall*

Professor, Department of Geography, University of Waterloo

Among the major anticipated changes arising from climatic change are those affecting recreation and tourism. Climate change can bring changes in vegetation and wildlife and also in temperatures, precipitation, snowfall, and other current characteristics of parks and protected areas. These changes in turn can affect the environment for recreation and tourism. For example, changes in temperature and aridity can favour more fire, reduce water supplies, and decrease opportunities for skiing and winter sports. Climate change can also affect water levels, the position and condition of the shoreline, and other key characteristics of the coastal environment for recreation and tourism. Considerable research has been done on such anticipated effects and this work will be discussed in this presentation along with its anticipated implications and research needs.

**2:30–3:00 p.m. Questions and discussion**

**3:00–3:30 p.m. Refreshments**

**3:30–4:30 p.m. Panel Discussion and Questions — Climate Change**

**Research and Its Implications for Ontario Park Planning and Management**

(Ellsworth LeDrew, Dan Scott, Christopher Lemieux, Geoff Wall, and others)

**4:30–6:30 p.m. Break**

**6:30 p.m. Refreshments**

**7:00–8:00 p.m. Dinner**

**8:00 p.m. Posters, exhibits, free time**

**Day 2 – Friday, February 27, 2004****7:30 a.m. Breakfast****9:00–9:45 a.m. Theme 4 — What should park managers do in the face of climate change?***David Welch*

Head, Environmental Quality, Parks Canada

There may be debate over causes, but most scientists agree that climate has changed, is changing, and will change. Park organizations can respond to climate change in several ways, none of them exclusive of others. Examples are:

- \* Participating in government leadership programmes, e.g., (1) greenhouse gas emission reduction, and (2) education and outreach.
- \* Sharing in science, e.g., (1) development of indicators for parks and benchmark monitoring, and (2) modelling of species and ecosystem responses.
- \* Redefining the purpose of protected areas, e.g., (1) to act as extreme event buffers for the rest of society, and (2) to no longer represent extant biomes.
- \* Assisting nature's adaptation, e.g., (1) translocating species and (2) restoring ecosystems to an anticipated future state rather than an actual recent one.

However, park organizations face many other challenges that compete directly for or that divert resources and attention to other matters. Examples are: species at risk now; budget restraint; competing resource demands on lands around parks; tourism pressures; exotic invasive species; air and water pollution; fire management; public safety; and more. Directed adaptation will remain problematic as long as climate change is perceived to be a long-term problem rather than an immediate one, as long it is perceived to be inevitable, and as long as major uncertainties remain in the science of ecosystem responses to altered drivers.

**9:45–10:30 a.m. Theme 5 — Thinking and Planning Strategically***Paul Gray*

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Current trends and modelled predictions indicate that known and potential impacts of global warming during the next century will be significant and widespread. All ecosystems and their constituent organisms, including people, will be affected. And there are significant implications to management programs, including protected areas. While it is logical to assume the best solutions for a sustained future will result from combinations of cultural-social-economic-ecological decisions, determining optimal mixes of decisions in a rapidly changing world (ecosphere) will be difficult, and in large part will depend on how well societies think and plan strategically. This presentation describes the role that strategic planning can play in helping people concerned with the long-term management of protected areas understand climate change, predict and mitigate the impacts of climate change, and adapt to climate change.

**10:30–10:45 a.m. Refreshments**

**10:45 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Working Groups**

**12:15–1:15 p.m. Lunch**

**1:15–2:30 p.m. Plenary: Report on the Working Groups Results**

**2:30–3:30 p.m. Panel Discussion and Questions — Planning and Thinking Strategically  
about Climate Change in Ontario's Parks**

**3:30 p.m. Refreshments**

**4:00 p.m. Depart**