

UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

Prepared by the Communications Department, S 802 Ross, 667-3441

Field-Tripping the Tundra

A group of York biology students found themselves pushing their boats over a mile of ice floes last summer, while the town council of Igloolik enjoyed the spectacle from the shore.

That adventure was an unplanned - but educational - part of the Biology Department's High Arctic Tundra Field Course. Under the direction of Prof. Martin Lewis and Prof. Duncan Cameron of the Biology Department, fourteen students from York and one from Carleton spent three weeks in Igloolik and Sarcpa Lake, earning two academic credits and immeasurable experience of the ecology of the tundra.

The ice floes appeared unexpectedly - to the white visitors - on their return from a day trip by outboard - motorized canoes to the eastern end of Igloolik Island. The group had started out on a fine July day shortly after the pack ice had disappeared from Turton Bay, which separates the settlement from the eastern end of the island.

"The bay was full of ice at five o'clock" Prof. Lewis recalled. "The men had to get out onto the ice and push the boats over more than a mile of floes. While warning everyone to be careful, I was the only one who fell in."

After that trial by ice, the native inhabitants of Igloolik (an isolated settlement in the District of Franklin, N.W.T., at 69 degrees north latitude) were much more friendly to the visitors.

"Apparently we made a great hit with them; it was obvious that we were neither government officials nor tourists," Prof. Lewis laughed.

The group arrived in Igloolik July 20 and spent a week there doing field work and adjusting to the tem-

perature, generally around six degrees Celsius (40 Fahrenheit) and the midnight sun. They then flew to Sarcpa Lake, some 50 miles west of Hall Beach, the site of an abandoned DEW Line station.

Here the real work got underway. The DEW Line station had been gutted of equipment and somewhat damaged by the American crew when they left, both to prevent it "falling into enemy hands" and to keep the material from being re-used, Prof. Lewis said.

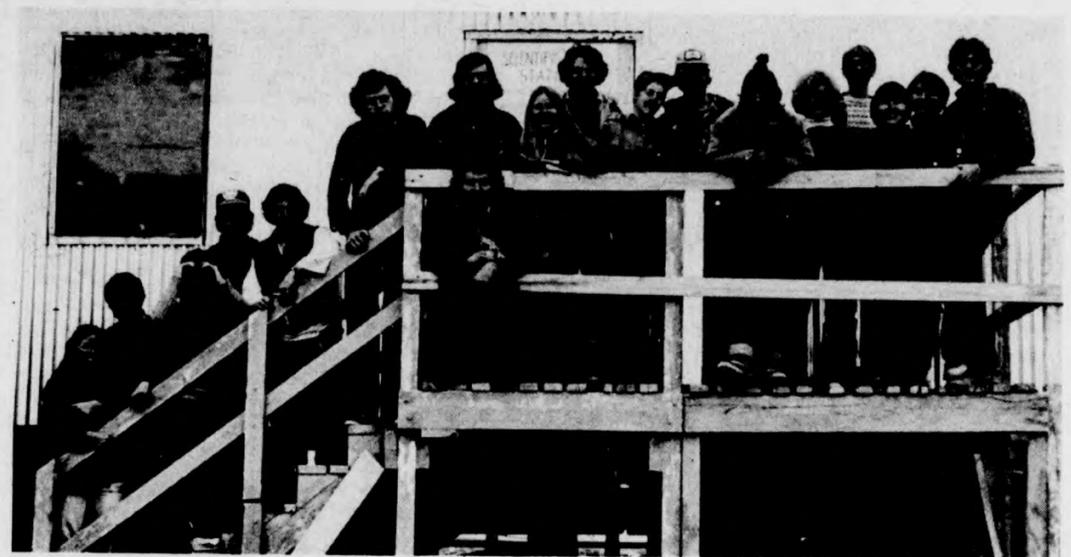
The York group turned the station into a biology field lab in two weeks of hard work, while completing research projects on the local ecology, keeping journals, and collecting herbariums of local plants. Life in the midnight sun led to some odd schedules: "In the first week everyone managed to get by on three or four hours a night of sleep, going to bed about four in the morning and getting up at seven or eight" said student Valerie Story.

The only period during which the isolation and climate affected the group emotionally occurred during the last of five cloudy days, when some people seemed edgy. But on the whole, the experience was exciting and unique.

"I think a large percentage of the people who went up would be keen to go back" said another student, Steven Matthews. "You just can't get the feeling of the tundra from photos or slides, you have to be there."

Although treeless and windswept, the landscape contained many attractions for the students. "It was only three weeks so you couldn't take anything for granted" Valerie Story explained. "Seeing a caribou up close remained a thrill."

Other animals frequently spotted



The High Arctic Field Course group poses for a picture on the steps of their field laboratory. Prof. Martin Lewis, trip organizer, is fifth from the left.

included arctic fox, lemmings, seals, and abundant bird life. Ornithologist Andrew Hodges assisted in identifying the latter. Graduate student Dave Belyea, as head chef, kept the group going with gourmet meals of caribou, arctic char, and trout.

An Inuit named Thomassie, who decided on his own initiative to accompany the group, kept them well-supplied with meat through his hunting skills. Other provisions were flown in; and since the Sarcpa Lake site has one of the best airstrips in the Arctic, one impromptu party resulted when a planeload of geologists visited during bad weather.

Although the Biology department runs several field trips, this was the first to the High Arctic. "Field trips

are organized in co-operation with three other Ontario Universities" explained Prof. Lewis. Since York students can enroll in, and receive credit for, field trips sponsored by other participating universities, they can study the local ecology of many places between the Arctic and the West Indies.

"It was a tremendous success this year" he concluded, "and the students left a real monument as proof of their efforts, a completely usable field lab at the Sarcpa Lake site."

The costs of the trip were paid for partly by the students and partly by the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, as the field station will be of use to government researchers - as well as future York field trips.

"I became interested in specializing in Arctic biology after the trip" said Steven Matthews. Another York group will be able to test their survival skills this summer during the same time period; the Sarcpa station is seventy miles from any settlement, and about twelve hours from the nearest hospital.

Prof. Lewis noted that the Scientist - in-Charge of the Igloolik station, Dr. Andy Rode, was instrumental in local arrangements for the 1977 field trip.

The originator of the idea to establish a field station at Sarcpa Lake was Moose Kerr, an Ottawa administrator with DINA who helped obtain the DINA funding for the project, and visited the group at the site.

Xmas Dancers



York dancers rehearse for the upcoming concert, while snow is reflected on the windows of the Fine Arts Building.

Two parts of a major new work choreographed by Acting Chairman Grant Strate will be featured at the Dance Department's annual Christmas Concert.

The concert, which includes seven dance works choreographed by students as well as faculty members, will be presented the nights of Tuesday, December 13, Wednesday, December 14, and Thursday, December 15. Each evening's performance begins at 8:00 p.m. in Burton Auditorium.

Although tickets are not necessary, a donation of one dollar toward the Scholarship Fund will be asked at the door.

Prof. Strate explained that his contribution to the Concert represents "two parts of a major work which will be presented in its entirety downtown next spring."

The first part, titled "Circlings" includes seven women dancing as a group; the second, "Findings" presents overlapping solos by nine men.

"There is no exact time at which each soloist enters" Prof. Strate said. "It will vary from performance to performance depending on relations with the others already on stage."

The music for both parts will include live and taped compositions by Michael Byron, a Dance Department faculty member.

The other pieces are choreographed by Terrill Maguire, Susan Cash, Karen Bowes, Jean Moncrieff, Ingrid Remkins, and Joe Bietola. The evening should provide welcome respite from the 999th performance of the Nutcracker Suite, a more traditional Christmas dance concert held elsewhere.

Footnotes

Book Marks

At a luncheon held Thursday, November 24, in the Founders College Masters Dining Room, the Faculty of Arts honoured recipients of the 1977 Book Prize for outstanding academic achievement. The winners, who achieved the highest grade point average of students in their year of study in 1976-77, were:

Year I — Michele Straka and Lisa Zucker;
Year II — Fulton Bell (Economics);
Year III — Janet MacLean (English) and Cynthia Patterson (English);
Year IV — Patricia Temple (Economics); Josef Bartl (History); Bruce Rowe (English); and John Riach (Philosophy).

In addition to the Chairmen of the Departments involved and the Divisions of Humanities and Social Science, the luncheon was attended by faculty members who had taught the winners. As well, President Macdonald, Dean Eisen, Associate Deans Byers and Whitla, and staff members of the Dean's Office were present. Each of the recipients was given a book and a cheque for \$100.

IDRC \$

The International Development Research Centre has announced two separate Ph.D. research award programs.

The first allows a stipend of between \$6,000 and \$8,500 for Canadian Ph.D. students. Travels costs and research costs are also included.

The award is normally for research in a developing country, to be initiated before January 1979, by a student who has completed all Ph.D. requirements except the thesis.

The second set of awards are for students from developing countries in Canada on a student visa. Intended to aid completion of the Ph.D. thesis in the student's home country, the amount of the award is variable.

Five awards are offered in each category. The deadline for applications to: Thesis Research Award - Ph.D., International Research Development Centre, P.O. Box 8500, Ottawa K1G 3H9, is January 31, 1978.

Emergency Award

A research fellowship to encourage disaster research and emergency planning in Canada, tenable at the Disaster Research Centre, Ohio State University, is now open to applications.

Candidates should hold a Master's degree in sociology or related discipline, but may be considered with a first degree in sociology. The amount of the award

is \$6,000 per annum, for a duration of three years (in most cases).

The deadline for applications is March 1, 1978. Applications and information may be obtained by writing: Awards Officer, National Programs Division, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, 151 Slater St., Ottawa K1P 5N1.

Oh To Be In England

Summer courses in English drama, culture, and literature are held at several British universities each summer.

The Universities of Birmingham, Kent, and Oxford offer courses from July 3 to August 11. Courses given by the University of London and the Scottish Universities are scheduled from July 10 to August 18.

Intended for graduates, or undergraduates who have completed all but the final year of a degree course, and teachers, the courses cost between 445 English pounds and 550 English pounds.

Further information and application forms, which must be sent in by March 21, 1978, are available from: Awards Officer, National Programs Division, Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, 151 Slater St., Ottawa K1P 5N1. A filing fee of \$20 must accompany applications.