

How I spent my summer vacation

By WENDY CARPENTER

I spent my summer in a part of our country that few people have seen.

Wood Buffalo National Park is the largest park in North America. It is situated one-third in the Northwest Territories and two-thirds in Alberta and its administrative centre is located in Fort Smith, N.W.T.

Wood Buffalo National is noted for its bison and whooping cranes. The whooping crane areas are inaccessible as they are an endangered species but there are plenty of bison to be seen. Travel is often stopped for short periods of time along the southern roads to allow bison to cross. These may be lone bulls wallowing along the roadside or herds of up to 30 or more.

On the Peace-Athabasca Delta near Lake Claire in the southern part of the Park, herds of up to 100 or more can be seen. It is also exciting to listen to the howl of wolves on the Delta where they keep close track of their food supply, the weak members of the bison herds. These are not the only animals to be found in the Park however. There is an abundance of smaller wildlife and birds. The call of the sandhill crane and the loon add a distinctive atmosphere to camp outs.

The huge size of the Park gives it varied vegetation types. A large portion of the Park is forested. Typical of the

northern boreal forest, the major species are black spruce, white spruce, jack pine and trembling aspen. There are also large areas of marshes in the northern portion of the Park and huge plains in the south. The mighty Peace River also runs through the Park.

The town of Fort Smith itself is a combination of native Dene Indians and non-natives from all over the world. Some of these people moved to the area for jobs with the government or as teachers and some just seemed to end up there and liked it so much that they decided to stay.

How did I end up working in Fort Smith?

I was working with a team associated with the Fire Science Centre here at UNB under the direction of Dr. Ross W. Wein. I am a biology student and am studying the effects of fire on bison habitat. This team, however, is covering many other areas besides biology and ecology. Studies are being done using satellite imagery and computers to describe the Park both in time and space. Other studies include measuring the amount of radioactive elements in the plant and animal material of the area, the sociological impact of fire suppression policies on the natives and non-natives, and anthropological studies examining the prehistoric uses of fire in the area.

Not only personnel from the University of New Brunswick that are working in the Park. A



large group from Nagoya University in Japan worked in the Park this summer as well as students from the University of Alberta, the University of Toronto, the University of British Columbia and Laval Universite.

My salary and the salary of other students working in the North this past summer came from grants and contracts to faculty members doing research in the North. However, all my travel expenses and living expenses during the summer were supplied by monies from the Northern Scientific Training Program, a program under the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. We have a Northern Studies Committee on campus composed of faculty members who are conducting research in Canada's north.

Any students (senior undergraduates and graduate students) who are interested in working in the North can get funding for travel and subsistence.

Anyone interested in applying for this money should go to the Fire Science Centre (Room 3, Head Hall) and talk to Janice Moore. You'll be given information on the program and, if you're interested, an application form to fill out.

I thoroughly enjoyed my summer in the Northwest Territories. I hope you can visit there someday and gain the same appreciation for the North that I now have.

Civil Eng. Present Senior Reports

As one of the final and most important degree requirements, senior Civil Engineering students will present their Senior Reports at a conference. The Senior Reports are the result of four months study on a topic of the students' choice. Topics come from a wide variety of Civil Engineering fields including structural, geotechnical engineering, hydrotechnical, construction, etc.

On November 26, 1986 twenty-two senior students will present their senior reports in the Dineen Auditorium, Head Hall on the UNB Campus. The conference opens at

8:30 a.m. and will continue with breaks, throughout the day until 8:30 p.m. when the awards will be presented.

Three awards are presented by the class organizing the conference while the faculty present one award for technical merit. The awards given by the students are of original design each year and represent some aspect of Civil Engineering.

Many civil engineering problems and issues unique to New Brunswick will be discussed. The students and faculty of the Civil Engineering Department at UNB welcome the public to the conference. Admission is free.

AN EXTRACT FROM A FRESHMAN HISTORY ESSAY

In the 14 hundreds most Englishmen were perpendicular. A class of yeowls arose. Finally, Europe caught the Black Death. The Bubonic Plague is a social disease in the sense that it can be transmitted by intercourse and other etceteras. It was spread from port to port by inflected rats. Victims of the Black Death grew boobs in their necks. The plague also helped the emergence of the English language as the national language of England, France and Italy.

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