

◆ Wet Coast Interlude

Among the many names Canadians have for British Columbia, the westernmost of 10 provinces (and three territories), the term *wet coast*—which describes the area reasonably accurately during the long, damp winter but also is a little play on *wet coast*—is one that is frequently heard. That wet period typically ends around Victoria Day, when the CSE had its 51st annual meeting, but one can never be sure. That was only one of many concerns that Iain Taylor and I had when we agreed to cochair the Program Committee for the meeting. However, we also knew that whatever the weather would be like, visitors to Vancouver generally are pretty happy with this vibrant city tucked between the magnificent Coast Range and the Pacific Ocean.

Similarly, the location was a perfect fit for the meeting's theme, "A Climate for Change". Vancouver and British Columbia are almost synonymous with *green*, and many of Canada's environmental groups started or have their strongest support here. Green in another sense too: it used to be the site of the best development of the

west coast rain forest, the Pacific Conifer Forest, which stretches from northern California to southeastern Alaska. When European explorers and then settlers first arrived at the mouth of the Fraser River, they found Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco) trees, whose heights rivaled those of the tallest redwoods in California. Those magnificent forests were pretty much logged in and around the city, but one can still capture a bit of the feel of those ecosystems in remnant groves like that in Stanley Park and the now maturing second-growth forests like those where the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden is.

The setting made it easier for us to accept the honor of chairing the program committee. The enthusiasm and hard work with which committee members approached their charge made it even easier. They were filled with ideas for session topics and for speakers, they carried through with getting commitments from the speakers; and the result was the meeting we all enjoyed. We've said it many times in the past, but it became very clear to me: CSE mem-

bers include some of the best volunteers around. I want to personally thank all those volunteers—those who organized the sessions, spoke on panels or in plenary sessions, moderated sessions, reported on sessions, and made the whole program work. With her experience as chair of last year's Program Committee, Patty Baskin gave sound advice and direction to get us started and then helped with many sessions. Seth Beckerman patiently reminded us of impending deadlines. I particularly want to thank Iain, who kept after everyone, made sure the program got put together and completed, and then participated in many of the sessions.

Bruce Dancik

BRUCE DANCIK was cochair of the 2008 Program Committee. He and Iain Taylor extend their best wishes to the chair of the 2009 Program Committee, Diane Sullenberger.

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