

In Memoriam



Neal Phillip Perry Simon, PhD
December 30, 1973 – September 23, 2006

The late Neal Phillip Perry Simon (1973-2006) passed away suddenly in a tragic boating accident while duck hunting at Gosling Lake, Happy Valley – Goose Bay. Neal was one of the founding members of the Labrador Woodland Caribou Recovery Team (2001) and co-authored a paper on the George River Caribou Herd at the 9th North American Caribou Workshop in Kuujuaq, Quebec (23-27 April 2001).

Neal was born in Labrador City on Sunday December 30th, 1973. In 1998, he was employed by the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources at Happy Valley – Goose Bay in the position of Regional Ecologist of the Labrador portion of the Province. Between 1996 and 1998, Neal worked as a contract biologist for the College of the North Atlantic. He held a B.Sc. (Hons.) from Memorial University of Newfoundland with a major in Ecology and Evolution and a minor in Statistics, and an M.Sc.F. in Forestry and Environmental Management from the University of New Brunswick. Neal completed his Ph.D. in the faculty of Forestry and Environmental Management at the University of New Brunswick in 2006, and was about to embark on his Post-Doctoral research at the Université du Québec à Montréal in the spring of 2007.

Neal's research interests included effects of forest management and changing forest structures on plants and animals, habitat selection, competitive interactions, and evolutionary histories of songbirds. He authored over 20 peer-reviewed journal publications and several internal reports on these topics. Neal also worked with St. Mary's University and the Innu Nation in developing and instructing course modules for the Innu Environmental Guardian Program. Neal was a member of the Society of Conservation Biologists, The Wildlife Society, the Atlantic Regions of the Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptations Research Network, the Atlantic Cooperative Wildlife Ecology Network, the Labrador Woodland Caribou Recovery Team, the Labrador Wolverine Working Group, and the Committee for the General Status of Wildlife in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Dr. Neal Simon Memorial Scholarship award was created in 2006 through the many donations of friends, family, and colleagues. The annual scholarship, valued at \$1,000.00, intends on providing financial assistance to residents of Labrador pursuing a post secondary diploma or degree in the natural resources, ecological, biological or environmental fields. The awarding of the scholarship will be based on financial need, community and/or school volunteer activities, academic ability, and environmental conservation interests.

The first Dr. Neal Simon Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Ms. Samantha Joy Irene Churchill of Happy Valley – Goose Bay, Labrador in May 2008. Ms. Churchill, a graduate of Mealy Mountain Collegiate in Happy Valley – Goose Bay, intends on pursuing post secondary studies in biology at the University of New Brunswick (very fitting as Neal completed both his M.Sc. and Ph.D. at UNB).

All proceeds from the Workshop's Silent Auction will be donated to the Dr. Neal Simon Memorial Scholarship in Neal's memory. His friends will best remember Neal as a shining though comedic intellectual, with a love of life and a passion for the outdoors.

Tony E. Chubbs, Chair
Dr. Neal Simon Memorial Scholarship Committee

