

## **CAG Award for Geography in the Service of Government Dr Peter G. Bush**

Dr. Peter Bush, a career geographer for a quarter century, has made outstanding contributions of biogeographic knowledge to all major sectors of society including government, industry, academia, and non-government organizations.

At the time of completion of a bachelor's degree in environmental geography, Peter's professional employment career began with service to Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) for which, during summers of 1990 and 1991, he was engaged in field survey work for a variety of species. His master's thesis at Lakehead University was closely aligned with OMNR's habitat suitability modelling program, and his findings were used by the OMNR Northeast Science and Technology unit to improve the forest habitat modelling for pileated woodpecker. Peter's PhD dissertation was also dedicated to improvements in habitat modelling, this time for northern goshawk. That work was also influential in OMNR's habitat modelling program development.

During his time working as a research associate and post-doctoral fellow at Dalhousie University, Peter was engaged, under the leadership of Dr. Peter Duinker, in a study of old-growth conservation in the forests of southwest Nova Scotia. A major part of that project, in intimate collaboration with the Bowater-Mersey Paper Company, was a series of modelling exercises where alternative approaches to managing Bowater-Mersey's forests for old growth were tested for both biodiversity enhancement and wood supply. Peter handled all the spatial simulation modelling for the study, spending much of his modelling time in the woodlands offices of Bowater-Mersey.

Peter's latest assignment as a bio-geographer, since summer 2010, has been serving as Protected Areas Coordinator for the central region of Nova Scotia. In that portfolio, Peter has implemented a wide range of both hands-on and leadership activities associated with the Government of Nova Scotia's agenda to complete its protected-areas network by 2015.

Peter Bush has recently taken up a new position with the NS Department of Natural Resources (DNR) entitled "Provincial Forester (Landscape Ecology)". Such an appointment is strong testament to government's respect for Peter's biogeographic capabilities. Peter now has an opportunity to make very significant contributions to environmental conservation across the entire province by applying his biogeographic expertise within DNR.

In our view, Peter Bush is most deserving of the CAG Award for Geography in the Service of Government or Business. His nomination in this category should not allow Peter's long and extensive contribution to universities to be overlooked, however. He holds adjunct status in Dalhousie's School of Planning and School for Resource and Environmental Studies, as well as Saint Mary's University's School of Geography. His colleagues in those departments hold his work in the highest esteem, in part because of the applied examples and problem-solving opportunities he brings to those he teaches and whose research he oversees. He brings great energy, rigour and intellectual mastery to fostering a new generation of biogeographers in Halifax; on top of his direct contributions to government and business we can credit these skilled individuals who he has mentored.

