



CANADIAN COUNTERCULTURES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

by Edited by Colin M. Coates

ISBN 978-1-55238-815-0

THIS BOOK IS AN OPEN ACCESS E-BOOK. It is an electronic version of a book that can be purchased in physical form through any bookseller or on-line retailer, or from our distributors. Please support this open access publication by requesting that your university purchase a print copy of this book, or by purchasing a copy yourself. If you have any questions, please contact us at ucpress@ucalgary.ca

Cover Art: The artwork on the cover of this book is not open access and falls under traditional copyright provisions; it cannot be reproduced in any way without written permission of the artists and their agents. The cover can be displayed as a complete cover image for the purposes of publicizing this work, but the artwork cannot be extracted from the context of the cover of this specific work without breaching the artist's copyright.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE: This open-access work is published under a Creative Commons licence. This means that you are free to copy, distribute, display or perform the work as long as you clearly attribute the work to its authors and publisher, that you do not use this work for any commercial gain in any form, and that you in no way alter, transform, or build on the work outside of its use in normal academic scholarship without our express permission. If you want to reuse or distribute the work, you must inform its new audience of the licence terms of this work. For more information, see details of the Creative Commons licence at: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>

UNDER THE CREATIVE COMMONS LICENCE YOU MAY:

- read and store this document free of charge;
- distribute it for personal use free of charge;
- print sections of the work for personal use;
- read or perform parts of the work in a context where no financial transactions take place.

UNDER THE CREATIVE COMMONS LICENCE YOU MAY NOT:

- gain financially from the work in any way;
- sell the work or seek monies in relation to the distribution of the work;
- use the work in any commercial activity of any kind;
- profit a third party indirectly via use or distribution of the work;
- distribute in or through a commercial body (with the exception of academic usage within educational institutions such as schools and universities);
- reproduce, distribute, or store the cover image outside of its function as a cover of this work;
- alter or build on the work outside of normal academic scholarship.



Acknowledgement: We acknowledge the wording around open access used by Australian publisher, **re.press**, and thank them for giving us permission to adapt their wording to our policy <http://www.re-press.org>



EDITED BY **Colin M. Coates**

**CANADIAN
COUNTERCULTURES
AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

**CANADIAN
COUNTERCULTURES
AND THE
ENVIRONMENT**

Canadian History and Environment Series

Alan MacEachern, Series Editor

ISSN 1925-3702 (Print) ISSN 1925-3710 (Online)

The Canadian History & Environment series of edited collections brings together scholars from across the academy and beyond to explore the relationships between people and nature in Canada's past. Published simultaneously in print and open-access form, the series then communicates that scholarship to the world.

ALAN MACEachERN, FOUNDING DIRECTOR

NiCHE: Network in Canadian History & Environment

Nouvelle initiative canadienne en histoire de l'environnement

<http://niche-canada.org>

- No. 1 · **A Century of Parks Canada, 1911–2011**
Edited by Claire Elizabeth Campbell
- No. 2 · **Historical GIS Research in Canada**
Edited by Jennifer Bonnell and Marcel Fortin
- No. 3 · **Mining and Communities in Northern Canada:
History, Politics, and Memory**
Edited by Arn Keeling and John Sandlos
- No. 4 · **Canadian Countercultures and the Environment**
Edited by Colin M. Coates



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Press

EDITED BY **Colin M. Coates**

CANADIAN COUNTERCULTURES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Canadian History and Environment Series
ISSN 1925-3702 (Print) ISSN 1925-3710 (Online)

© 2016 Colin M. Coates

University of Calgary Press
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, Alberta
Canada T2N 1N4
www.uofcpress.com

This book is available as an ebook which is licensed under a Creative Commons license. The publisher should be contacted for any commercial use which falls outside the terms of that license.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA CATALOGUING IN PUBLICATION

Canadian countercultures and the environment / edited by Colin Coates.

(Canadian history and environment series, 1925-3702 ; no. 4)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Issued in print and electronic formats.

ISBN 978-1-55238-814-3 (paperback).-ISBN 978-1-55238-816-7 (pdf).-

ISBN 978-1-55238-817-4 (epub).-ISBN 978-1-55238-818-1 (mobi).-

ISBN 978-1-55238-815-0 (open access pdf)

1. Environmentalism--Canada--History--20th century. 2. Counterculture--Canada--History--20th century. 3. Canada--Environmental conditions--History--20th century. I. Coates, Colin MacMillan, 1960-, editor II. Series: Canadian history and environment series ; 4

GE199.C3C33 2015

333.72097109'047

C2015-907613-7

C2015-907614-5

The University of Calgary Press acknowledges the support of the Government of Alberta through the Alberta Media Fund for our publications. We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada through the Canada Book Fund for our publishing activities. We acknowledge the financial support of the Canada Council for the Arts for our publishing program.



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des Arts
du Canada



Cover photo: MAB group die-in, Montreal, 1976. Source: MAB Archives.

Editing by Alison Jacques

Cover design, page design, and typesetting by Melina Cusano

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	<i>vii</i>
Contributors	<i>ix</i>
1. COLIN M. COATES, Canadian Countercultures and their Environments, 1960s–1980s	<i>1</i>
Section 1: ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM	<i>27</i>
2. SHARON WEAVER, Back-to-the-Land Environmentalism and Small Island Ecology: Denman Island, BC, 1974–1979	<i>29</i>
3. NANCY JANOVICEK, “Good Ecology Is Good Economics”: The Slocan Valley Community Forest Management Project, 1973–1979	<i>55</i>
4. KATHLEEN RODGERS, American Immigration, the Canadian Counterculture, and the Prefigurative Environmental Politics of the West Kootenay Region, 1969–1989	<i>79</i>
5. RYAN O’CONNOR, Countercultural Recycling in Toronto: The “Is Five Foundation” and the Origins of the Blue Box	<i>103</i>

6. DANIEL ROSS, “Vive la Véloration!”: Le Monde à Bicyclette and the Origins of Cycling Advocacy in Montreal	127
Section 2: PEOPLE, NATURE, ACTIVITIES	151
7. HENRY TRIM, An Ark for the Future: Science, Technology, and the Canadian Back-to-the-Land Movement of the 1970s	153
8. MATT CAVERS, Dollars for “Deadbeats”: Opportunities for Youth Grants and the Back-to-the-Land Movement on British Columbia’s Sunshine Coast	179
9. DAVID NEUFELD, Building Futures Together: Western and Aboriginal Countercultures and the Environment in the Yukon Territory	201
10. MEGAN J. DAVIES, Nature, Spirit, Home: Back-to-the-Land Childbirth in BC’s Kootenay Region	229
11. ALAN MACEachern, WITH RYAN O’CONNOR, Children of the Hummus: Growing Up Back-to-the-Land on Prince Edward Island	259
Index	287

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Fifty years after the counterculture began to have an impact on Canada, this collection revisits the way that various groups who contested mainstream norms in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s approached the environment. In 2011, most of the authors in this collection met at an initial workshop, hosted by the Heron Rocks Friendship Centre Society on Hornby Island, British Columbia. Hornby Island, like other Gulf Islands and indeed many other rural parts of British Columbia, experienced the direct impact of the counterculture. On Hornby Island, many people who came to the islands at that time stayed, and they remain key figures in the economy and politics of the island.

The Heron Rocks Friendship Centre Society (heronrocks.ca) is a nonprofit society dedicated to maintaining the vision of local activists Hilary and Harrison Brown and encouraging community and sustainable stewardship of the land. The society provided us space in their exquisite setting under the oak tree and offered us meals. The society's executive, along with its membership, welcomed us with grace and generosity. Rudy Rogalsky played a particularly key role as liaison with the society. Some members attended the workshop, as did other interested people from Hornby and Denman islands, and they shared their views on our discussions. Jan Bevan provided particularly poignant reflections. Margaret Sinclair prepared a photo exhibit on the counterculture period on the island and displayed it at the Hornby Island Co-op. We would like to thank the people on Hornby Island who provided such beautiful accommodations for our early July meeting.

We would also like to thank the external reviewers of the University of Calgary Press for their helpful and constructive comments. This project, like so many others, stems from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council–funded Network in Canadian History & Environment/Nouvelle initiative canadienne en histoire de l’environnement. Alan MacEachern, the founding director of NiCHE, was a participant at our workshop, and he played an essential role both in ensuring that this project take place and in encouraging it along the way. On behalf of the contributors to this volume, I would also like to thank Mary-Ellen Kelm, Kathy Mezei, Bob Anderson, Lauren Wheeler, Peter Evans, and Terry Simmons, colleagues who also attended the workshop and provided thoughts on this project. Peter Enman and Melina Cusano at the Press assisted us through the process, and Alison Jacques contributed her exemplary copyediting skills. Finally, many participants in the countercultural activities that are covered in this book shared their memories, interpretations, and documents, and other scholars kindly provided research notes and documents that they had uncovered in the course of their own projects. The subject of countercultures and the environment clearly inspires generosity.

CONTRIBUTORS

MATT CAVERS studied historical geography at the University of British Columbia and Queen's University. He now works as a brewer at a craft brewery and hop farm on British Columbia's Sunshine Coast.

COLIN M. COATES is director of the Robarts Centre for Canadian Studies, and he teaches environmental history and Canadian studies at York University. He is past president of the Canadian Studies Network–Réseau d'études canadiennes.

MEGAN J. DAVIES is an associate professor at York University and a BC historian with research interests in madness, marginal and alternative health practices, old age, rural medicine, and social welfare. Her recent projects include *After the Asylum*, a research site about the history of deinstitutionalization in Canada, and the documentary film *The Inmates Are Running the Asylum: Stories from MPA*.

NANCY JANOVICEK teaches Canadian history and gender history at the University of Calgary. She is the author of *No Place to Go: Local Histories of the Battered Women's Shelter Movement* (UBC Press) and co-editor of *Feminist History in Canada: New Essays on Women, Gender, Work, and Nation* (UBC Press).

ALAN MACEACHERN teaches history at the University of Western Ontario and is the founding director of NiCHE: Network in Canadian History & Environment. He has written extensively on Prince Edward Island in the 1970s, including *The Institute of Man and Resources: An Environmental Fable* (2003).

DAVID NEUFELD, an environmental historian living and working in the Yukon Territory, studies the intersection of knowledge and practice in settler and First Nations approaches to their shared subarctic boreal homeland. His reflexive research approach is grounded in thirty years as a community-based cultural researcher for Parks Canada.

RYAN O'CONNOR Ryan O'Connor is the author of *The First Green Wave: Pollution Probe and the Origins of Environmental Activism in Ontario* (UBC Press, 2015). An Associate Member of the Centre for Environment, Heritage and Policy at the University of Stirling (Scotland), he maintains a research blog at www.ryanoconnor.ca.

KATHLEEN RODGERS teaches sociology at the University of Ottawa. She is the author of *Welcome to Resisterville: American Dissidents in British Columbia* (UBC Press) and co-editor of *Protest and Politics: The Promise of Social Movement Societies* (UBC Press).

DANIEL ROSS is a PhD candidate in history at York University. He studies urban, political, and environmental history and is currently completing a dissertation on the politics of development and public space in downtown Toronto from the 1940s onwards.

HENRY TRIM is a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada fellow at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he studies forecasting and sustainability in North America. He has written about science and American counterculture, environmental politics, and Canadian energy policy.

SHARON WEAVER completed her PhD at the University of Guelph in 2013. Her dissertation, "Making Place on the Canadian Periphery: Back-to-the-Land on the Gulf Islands and Cape Breton," is a comparative study of back-to-the-landers in Cape Breton and on the Gulf Islands of British Columbia. She is an independent scholar who lives in Fredericton, New Brunswick.