

Additional ALECC Conference Information

August 19-22, 2010

Cape Breton University: Sydney, Nova Scotia

University location

Cape Breton University is located a short distance outside Sydney, approximately ten minutes by taxi or twenty minutes by public transit. This has influenced our planning decisions around accommodations and food, because it means that people who prefer to spend as little time as possible in vehicles will want to stay on campus. However, there are certainly viable options in Sydney, including two conference hotels, so the decision is yours.

If you expect to fly to Nova Scotia, please note that Sydney is approximately five hours by car from Halifax, or seven hours by bus. It may make for an easier trip if you fly directly to Sydney.

This part of Canada is of course a wonderful place to visit. If you are considering extending your time here (and really, who isn't considering that?), some additional information will soon be available on the not-yet-live conference web site (<http://www.cbu.ca/alecc>), but here are some places to start:

- Cape Breton Island: <http://cbisland.com/index2.php>
- The Cabot Trail: <http://www.cabottrail.travel/>
- Nova Scotia: <http://www.novascotia.com>, and <http://www.explorenovascotia.com/>

Field trips

Each individual field trip will only run if there are sufficient numbers to make it feasible.

As well, anyone going on a field trip will be required to sign an insurance waiver form releasing ALECC and CBU from liability. Anyone going on a trip with a commercial component (such as the kayaking trip) may also be required to sign a waiver by the commercial operator, but that is at the discretion of the operator rather than of ALECC or CBU.

Date	Title	Details
Thursday, 11:00- 3:30	Sydney Tar Ponds	We'll get a guided look at some of the work being done at Canada's best-known ecological restoration site, as well as one of its largest. Boxed lunch provided.
	Hiking	The location is still TBA, but it will be within a short drive of Sydney and will be informally guided. Boxed lunch provided.
	Louisbourg	The Fortress of Louisbourg is a fascinating site in relation to both cultural and natural history in the Maritimes. There are two restaurants at the fort, from which you may purchase lunch.
Saturday, 6:00- 8:30 a.m.	Birding	This early-morning excursion will be led by CBU biology professor David McCorquodale. The fee will depend on how many people sign up for this trip. To express definite interest, please email Richard Pickard at rpickard@uvic.ca .
Sunday, 8:30- 6:00	Cape Breton Highlands	Departing 8:30 a.m., returning approx. 6:00 p.m., this field trip will include the 2-hour drive each way to and from Cape Breton Highlands National Park; a boxed lunch; and an informally guided hike on a trail chosen by the group. Likely choices would be Coastal, Franey, Clyburn Valley, or Branch Pond.
Sunday, 7:45- 1:30	Kayaking	Departing 7:45 a.m., returning approx. 1:30 p.m., the kayaking excursion will be guided by North River Kayak Tours. Lunch included.

Accommodation

Rooms in the student residences at Cape Breton University are available at a cost of \$46 for single occupancy, or \$60 for double occupancy (including taxes). To book a residence room, email Sylvia Clements at Sylvia_clements@cbu.ca or call the main office at 902-563-1792.

As well, rooms can be booked for the conference at the Delta Sydney (\$117) or the Cambridge Suites (\$130).

- Delta Sydney: <http://www.deltahotels.com/en/hotels/nova-scotia/delta-sydney/>
- Cambridge Suites: <http://www.cambridgesuitessydney.com/>

Additional information will appear on the not-yet-live conference web site (<http://www.cbu.ca/alecc>).

Dining

Because CBU is located outside Sydney, as noted above, arrangements have been made with Chartwell's for dining to be available on campus throughout the conference. (It will be next to impossible to eat off-campus during the lunch break and return in time for the next session.) There are a number of restaurants in Sydney, though, if you would prefer to eat off-campus, and we encourage you to explore the city or to ask a local for suggestions.

At the Saturday evening banquet, there will be vegetarian options available. If you have additional dietary restrictions, please email Richard Pickard about them at rpickard@uvic.ca.

Activities

We hope that attendees will take part in assorted activities throughout the conference, and that people will feel free to build their own adventures while in Sydney. At this point we've had interest expressed in lunchtime yoga and general walking tours, but think hard about what you'd like to do with your fellow attendees!