

# New UPEI Research Chair impressed by vision, expertise at vet college

*Ian Gardner's work in aquatic epidemiology will help regulators make science-based decisions*

**By Jim Day**  
THE GUARDIAN

UPEI may be a much smaller institution than Ian Gardner is accustomed to but he is more than impressed by the vision and expertise bubbling over at his new workplace for aquatic epidemiology.

Gardner, 59, left his work as professor of medicine and epidemiology at the Davis School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California to become the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Aquatic Epidemiology at UPEI.

He takes up the prestigious chair — one of just 19 across the country — as a faculty member of the university's Atlantic Veterinary College.

"For me, it was just a nice challenge at this stage of my career to come from what is essentially a large institution ... to come to something that is smaller and nimble," he said.

Having worked with members of the AVC's Centre for Veterinary Epidemiological Research for many years, Gardner says he shares a similar vision.

UPEI Wade MacLauchlan, he adds, has a "fantastic vision" that Gardner has bought into by accepting the CERC post that Industry Canada is committing \$10 million over seven years towards for research work under Gardner's leadership.

"Right from the top of the organization down, I've been really impressed with the people," he said.



Ian Gardner is getting started in his role as Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Aquatic Epidemiology at UPEI's Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown. Industry Canada is funding the CERC \$10 million over seven years to help Gardner spearhead research aimed at improving the health of aquaculture. GUARDIAN PHOTO BY HEATHER TAIWEL

"So that's really often what makes the difference at the end of the day ... it's not about me. It's about the team and the people we bring on board."

An internationally renowned veterinary epidemiologist, Gardner will examine health interactions between farmed and wild fish populations and develop cost-effective testing strategies and surveillance programs for the prevention and control of diseases in aquatic food animals.

His research will help aquaculture regulators in

Canada to make science-based decisions to maintain healthy food production in our marine environments, as well as provide knowledge needed to help improve nutrition for human populations around the world.

"Ultimately one of the goals of the CERC is to provide benefits to Canadians and Canadian society and emphasize economic growth," he said.

"So clearly we are looking at ways for the industry to better control and prevent diseases, make that produc-

tion more economically beneficial and at the same time we're going to have a strong focus on aquaculture systems."

The domestic part of his work will focus on salmon culture and sea lice with Gardner categorizing the latter as the No. 1 issue facing the aquaculture industry today.

"A lot of it (research) is directed to moving us to the next level and having capacities that react to emerging issues as they come up," he said.

"I think from a purely

## PROFILE

▶ Starting multi-year term as Canada Excellence Research Chair in Aquatic Epidemiology at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown.

▶ Previously was professor of medicine and epidemiology at the Davis School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of California.

▶ Holds a PhD and master's degree in preventative veterinary medicine from the Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

▶ Worked in his native Australia as a veterinary officer specializing in pig and poultry diseases.

▶ Married to Elma, a kitchen designer. They have three children. Enjoys golf and cycling.

altruistic viewpoint helping feed the future population — the growing population of the world — is a really important Canadian contribution."

Katherine Schultz, UPEI's vice-president of research and development, says Gardner will help continue UPEI's growth in focused research excellence.

"The university is ranked number one in the country for research income growth and intensity growth for the first decade of the 21st century," said Schultz.

"With new appointments such as these, we will continue to soar in the next decade."

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## Whistler mayor encourages Charlottetown to base decisions on its vision for future

*Ken Melamed shares his community's sustainability success story*

Charlottetown should envision the city it wants to be in the future and base all decisions on that vision, says the mayor of Whistler, B.C.

Ken Melamed shared his sustainability story with more than 200 people at Confederation Centre's Memorial Hall last week.

"We all need to think globally, not locally," Melamed said.

Melamed helped develop and now champions Whistler's long-term sustainability plan, Whistler2020.

He directed Whistler's planning for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Charlottetown, in partnership with the Town of Stratford, brought Melamed in to share Whistler's successes with community

Just look at the reduction in carbon emissions from the Salt Lake City Olympics to the emissions during the Whistler Olympics. Their plans work. Sustainability is good business."

Carbon emissions from the Salt Lake Games were 240,000 tonnes in 17 days. Emissions from Whistler — 170,000 in the past seven years.



Ken Melamed, mayor of Whistler, B.C., has helped that mountain resort town become a world leader in sustainability. He gave an address to more than 200 people in Charlottetown last week. Laura MacPherson, sustainability co-ordinator for the City of Charlottetown, collected comment cards from attendees and plans on following up on suggestions they might make for the P.E.I. capital. SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Displaced Air Cadets need home

The Kiwanis Club of Charlottetown is appealing to residents to help find a squadron of Air Cadets a new home.

David MacCallum, sponsorship chair of the club, said No. 60 Squadron Air Cadets in Charlottetown recently lost part of their training area in St. Jean School when the Eastern School District ordered it closed due to the discovery of water leakage and potential of mould in the basement.

"This is a very difficult time for the cadets," MacCallum told The Guardian.

"This is very important in their training."

The Air Cadets used part of the area in St. Jean for marksmanship training with air rifles.

The marksmanship range was only set up about a year ago following safety and security requirements. That cost the sponsors approximately \$1,000. The Kiwanis club is a co-sponsor.

"This setup was ideal as the cadets also use the gym of St. Jean School for other kinds of training on Saturday mornings," MacCallum said.

"Now they have nowhere convenient to practise their marksmanship training."

Part of the sponsoring committee's responsibilities is to find suitable training facilities for the cadets.

The squadron does conduct some of its training at the Queen Charlotte Armouries, but the army militia and army cadets have priority.

"In any case, it is not suitable or convenient to use for indoor marksmanship practice. We have been unable, so far, to find another suitable location to set up the marksmanship range on a permanent basis."

MacCallum is hoping someone reading this story can help.

He said the cadets need an indoor space, measuring about 50 feet in length and 25 to 30 feet wide at no, or very little, cost.

The cadets need it for a couple of hours on Saturdays.

"If there are any good citizens out there who have a facility that could be used for this we would appreciate it."

Anyone interested in helping out is asked to call MacCallum at 892-9211.