

## Pacific Biological Station Celebrates Centennial Anniversary, 1908–2008

by Mary Thiess



*Pacific Biological Station (PBS) in 1912 (above) and 2008 (below). The original structure was demolished to accommodate in 1948 what is now known as the Clemens Wing (arrow inset).*

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year of scientific research and discovery at the Pacific Biological Station in Nanaimo, British Columbia, Canada. The Station was established by the Government of Canada in 1908 to provide a facility for fishery and aquatic research on the Pacific coast. It quickly became a destination for many types of investigators, including marine biologists, naturalists, professors and keen amateur volunteers who explored the riches of the Pacific coast.

Research expanded to include fisheries science, botany, oceanography, aquaculture and enhancement, limnology, and many multi-disciplinary areas in between. The earliest studies focussed on collecting, identifying and enumerating the vast array of aquatic (and terrestrial) plants and animals near Departure Bay. Many noteworthy scientists have called the Station home during their lifetimes. William Ricker (fisheries), John Tully (oceanography), J. Roland Brett (physiology), Leo Margolis (parasitology), and Daniel Ware (ecology) were intimately linked to the research conducted at the Station during their lifetimes. Today, the Pacific Biological Station remains an eminent centre for fishery



*PBS scientists in 1958 (photo taken at c. 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary). Seated (l-r): J.R. Brett, R.E. Foerster, A.W.H. Needler (Director), F.H.C. Taylor, J.D. Strickland, N.P. Fofonoff, W.E. Ricker, (Editor – Fisheries Research Board of Canada); standing (l-r): L. Margolis, F.C. Withler, F. Neave, F.C. Barber, W.P. Wickett, D.J. Milne, K.S. Ketchen, J.C. Stevenson (Assistant Director).*

and aquatic research along the Canadian Pacific coast, and work conducted at the site continues to influence fisheries science around the world.

Many special events honoured the centennial. An Open House late April drew approximately 20,000 visitors. Staff created nearly 60 exhibits that highlighted current research programs. The Research Vessel *W.E. Ricker* was on hand for tours, and specially designed tanks showcased examples of local fishes and invertebrates. A public lecture series continuing throughout the summer and fall, started with a presentation by Mark Angelo, a Vancouver-based river conservationist and adventurer. A second lecture occurred in June with a panel discussion on climate change. The third lecture, scheduled for mid-September, will feature Alaskan artist/scientist Ray Troll. In Ottawa, during the Annual General Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canadian aquatic science laboratories will be celebrated at an evening reception. An October gala in Nanaimo will wind up the centennial festivities with a reception and lectures by three of the Station's scientists.



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