

The Geographical Distribution of Eastern Snow Conference Meetings 1949–2000

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ABSTRACT

An anecdotal history of the Eastern Snow Conference has been published in three previous proceedings. A written history is important because the membership is fluid; a history provides both long-time and newer members some sense of the accomplishments of previous meetings.

Key Words: Eastern Snow Conference, ESC

INTRODUCTION

The anecdotal history of the Eastern Snow Conference (ESC) has been published in three previous proceedings: in Volume 39 (1982) by Liv Lansing; in Volume 42 (1985) by Peter Adams; and most recently by Don Wiesnet, in Volume 50 (1993). In an organization such as the ESC, which can be best described as an annual but nomadic get-together of an eclectic group of men and women who study snow and ice in all its forms, such periodic remembrances give the ESC some sense of permanency. The existence of a “history” is important because the membership is fluid; it provides both long-time and newer members some sense of the accomplishments of previous meetings. Also, because the ESC has no official permanent home, and the ESC Executive is constantly changing (read dynamic), drawing in new blood from a wide range of professions and interests, periodic update of our history is important; members can quickly become familiar with (or remember) how the ESC works, what worked in the past for meetings, and how and why various committees came into existence (or disappeared). In this regard alone, it will soon be time for the history to be updated again.

This article attempts two things. One, to put the past fifty-six meetings into some sort of geographical perspective. The ESC delineates its territory (see any proceedings) as “being based in the northeastern United States and Canada.” I decided to see how well the past meetings had managed to cover this entire area.

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There are no set criteria used by the ESC Executive in determining (future) locations for annual meetings, which are usually planned two years in advance, except that as more Canadians have become active in the ESC, it has evolved that the annual meetings should be between the two countries. Very often a decision on a meeting locale results from a kind offer made by an ESC member who volunteers to organize our meeting at a location with which he or she is familiar, and that has some link to snow and ice. It may be something as simple as a site that experiences abnormal amounts or types of snow and ice, or it may be at a facility (i.e., a department in a university, or research facility) where the study of snow is mandated to some level.

With this in mind and knowing from my experience as the ESC Executive that finding new venues to hold our meetings is concomitant with our desire to showcase the ESC to potential new members, I undertook the second part of the exercise to see if I could identify significant geographical areas as yet unvisited, and within them sites that may have potential for upcoming ESC meetings in the new millennium.

ARCHIVAL SEARCH

As keeper of the proceedings, it was a relatively easy task to leaf through each one and make note of the location of the meetings. The summation of this endeavour is provided in Table 1. For the record, Table 1 also lists the President of the ESC for each of the meetings in the belief that a person's name is sometimes a better memory trigger than a location; thus this table may be of help for some long-time member of the ESC when (s)he writes the next chapter of our history. I believe that it is the first complete compendium of these people, although I hasten to add that all members of the Executives over the years are duly (and rightly so) recognized in each proceedings. Lastly, I note here that I cannot find any written records of the ESC meetings prior to 1949, so the first five meetings, the President, and their locations remain unknown at this writing. I would very much appreciate hearing from anyone who can provide details about these early meetings.

GEOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

If the outliers, that is the two joint meetings with Western Snow Conference (WSC) in Reno and Banff are not taken into account, then the remaining 49 ESC meetings have taken place in nine of the United States and three Canadian provinces. These are depicted in Figure 1, and summarized in Table 2. Note that the number in brackets indicates the number of meetings at that site.

DISCOURSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Within the northeastern United States, Figure 1 clearly shows that no ESC meeting has taken place in New Jersey (i.e., Rutgers), Delaware, or Rhode Island, and there may be some argument that Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia could be included within our geographical range (given Michigan and Virginia). Otherwise, over the years, the ESC has by luck or good management held meetings widely across its accredited boundaries, and perhaps beyond (Virginia, Michigan). A few of the states the ESC has visited, notably Vermont, Connecticut, and Maine, appear to be underrepresented. Although timing is relatively unimportant, it may well prove advantageous to the ESC Executive to query our membership about the unvisited states, noted above, along with the three underrepresented states, with the goal of finding colleagues living within their borders who would be willing to act as the local arrangement committee.

The three Canadian provinces (Tables 1 and 2) are reasonably well visited; however, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland have never been visited, while in Ontario such major centres as Hamilton (i.e., McMaster University), Kingston (i.e., Queen's University) and Kitchener-Waterloo (i.e., Wilfrid Laurier University and U of Waterloo) stand out as sites that

may well be suited for future ESC meetings. Within Quebec, Montreal (i.e., McGill University) is certainly underrepresented, particularly as the proceedings were edited there for many years. Other locations could include Université Laval, in Quebec City, and Université de Sherbrooke. It seems reasonable that in the next 10–20 years the three Maritime Provinces be meeting sites, although travel time and expense to the easternmost province, Newfoundland, might prove difficult.

Table 1. Chronological listing of meeting locations, 1949–2000.

DATE (D/M)	YEAR	LOCATION	PRESIDENT
xx–xx/02	1949	Greenfield, Massachusetts	H.B. Kinnison
xx–xx/xx	1950	Greenfield, Massachusetts	B.L. Bigwood
xx–xx/02	1951	Lake Placid, New York	B.L. Hopkins
14–15/02	1952	Springfield, Massachusetts	E.F. Childs
12–13/02	1953	Albany, New York	L.N. Mann
11–12/02	1954	Greenfield, Massachusetts	E.C. Johnson
10–11/02	1955	Burlington, Vermont	H.M. Finlayson
09–10/02	1956	Hanover, New Hampshire	C.E. Know
07–08/02	1957	Syracuse, New York	L. Lansing
06–07/02	1958	Worcester, Massachusetts	A.T. Simmons
05–06/02	1959	Cambridge, Massachusetts	G. Townsend
04–05/02	1960	Troy, New York	R.A. Lang
09–10/02	1961	Northfield, Vermont	G.S. Hayes
08–09/02	1962	New Haven, Connecticut	R. Kresge
14–15/02	1963	Quebec City, Quebec	L. Cartier
13–14/02	1964	Utica, New York	E. Munger
04–05/02	1965	Hanover, New Hampshire	O.Z. Bacon
10–11/02	1966	Hartford, Connecticut	G.H. Scruton
09–10/02	1967	Niagara Falls, Ontario	J.A.S. Milne
08–09/02	1968	Boston, Massachusetts	N. Lally
06–07/02	1969	Portland, Maine	L.L. Cross
12–13/02	1970	Albany, New York	D.R. Campbell
04–05/02	1971	Fredericton, New Brunswick	G.P. Williams
03–05/02	1972	Oswego, New York	D.N. McMullen
08–09/02	1973	Amherst, Massachusetts	R.E. Lautzenheiser
07–08/02	1974	Ottawa, Ontario	R.E. Falconer
06–07/02	1975	Manchester, New Hampshire	C.D. Hopkins, Jr.
05–06/02	1976	Glens Falls, New York	R.B.B. Dickison
03–04/02	1977	Belleville, Ontario	A.R. Eschner
02–03/02	1978	Hanover, New Hampshire	J.E. Peters
06–07/06	1979	Alexandria Bay, New York	D.V. Dunlap
05–06/06	1980	Peterborough, Ontario	S.S. Lazier
04–05/06	1981	Syracuse, New York	W. Tobiasson
19–23/04	1982	Reno, Nevada (joint with WSC)	B.E. Goodison
02–03/06	1983	Toronto, Ontario	P.L. Hansen
07–08/06	1984	New Carrollton, Maryland	D.R. Wiesnet
06–07/06	1985	Montréal, Quebec	W.P. Adams
05–06/06	1986	Hanover, New Hampshire	H.J. Snelling
03–04/06	1987	Fredericton, New Brunswick	J.-L. Bisson
08–09/06	1988	Lake Placid, New York	D. Daugharty
08–09/06	1989	Quebec City, Quebec	J. Foster
07–08/06	1990	Bangor, Maine	H.G. Jones
05–07/06	1991	Guelph, Ontario	N. Elhadi
03–04/06	1992	Oswego, New York	T. Pangburn
08–10/06	1993	Quebec City, Quebec	T. Prowse
15–16/06	1994	Dearborn, Michigan	D. Cowing
07–08/06	1995	Toronto, Ontario	C.H. Taylor
02–03/05	1996	Williamsburg, Virginia	M. Ferrick
04–08/05	1997	Banff, Alberta (joint WSC)	M. Demuth
02–03/06	1998	Jackson, New Hampshire	R. Davis
02–03/06	1999	Fredericton, New Brunswick	R. Brown

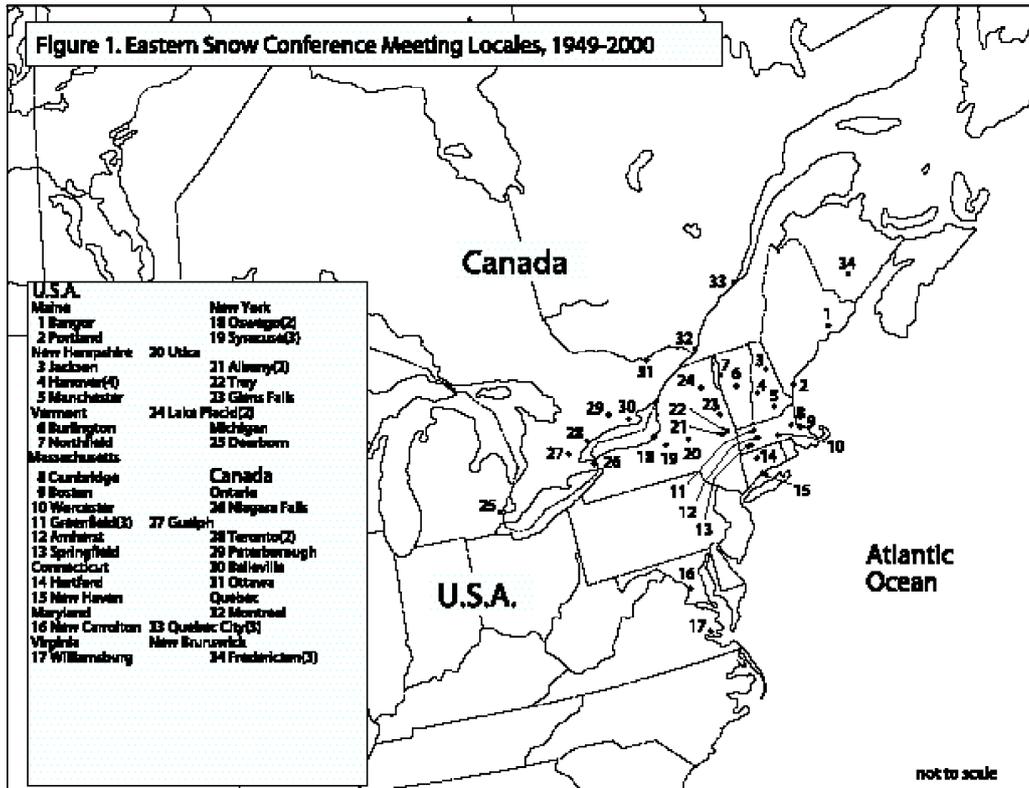


Figure 1. Eastern Snow Conference meeting locations, 1949–2000.

Table 2. Location summary of ESC meetings.

Massachusetts	New York	Vermont	New Hampshire
Greenfield (3)	Syracuse (3)	Burlington	Hanover (4)
Springfield	Lake Placid (2)	Northfield	Manchester
Worcester	Albany (2)		Jackson
Cambridge	Oswego (2)	Virginia	
Boston	Troy	Williamsburg	Maine
Amherst	Utica		Bangor
	Lake Placid		Portland
Maryland	Glens Falls	Connecticut	
New Carrollton		New Haven	Michigan
		Hartford	Dearborn
Ontario	Quebec	New Brunswick	
Toronto (2)	Quebec City (3)	Fredericton (3)	
Ottawa	Montreal		
Niagara Falls			
Peterborough			
Belleville			
Guelph			

Lastly, while slightly out of the purview of this article, it is difficult to miss the abrupt, and sometimes more subtle drift in the timing of ESC meetings. Table 1 shows that the ESC met in the first week in February well into the 1970s, when it made the BIG change to the first or second week in June in the early 1980s. The underlying rationale at the time was that snow and ice researchers would not be working in the field, and so would be more available to come to the ESC

meetings. Also, travel would be easier. Without a review of attendance figures before and after the change, the point is moot. Recently, the change in timing has been more subtle and the meetings have drifted back into May for one reason or another, and perhaps the ESC Executive should investigate whether a firm window for meetings would be more beneficial for attendance. The rationale for an early June meeting was sound and it makes sense that if a firm meeting date is decided upon, the ESC return to meetings in the first week of June.

Finally, it is proposed that at some auspicious meeting in the future, perhaps the 70th or the 75th, the ESC should return to its roots and assemble at the site of its original meeting, the only site that had two consecutive meetings (and perhaps more if the first five meeting locations were known), Greenfield, Massachusetts.