



We were reminded that this is not a blog because it s not a two way discussion but more notes, diary or newsletter from the project so have edited our header. I have included in the header two logos John Mercuri designed for this Canadian – Danish project on the frozen sea.

There have been more than one contributor to date and we hope to continue. The frequency of getting updates out depends on both access to communications and how busy personnel are constructing camp, moving fuel and collecting data.

It has been awhile since we sent an update so this one is intended to fill in some blanks since the March 8 entry.

The first trip in to select a camp site near Ward Hunt island occurred on March 5 and a ramp for unloading our BobCat was left there. The start of the process of getting “Bob” onto the ice where he is most valuable.



The above image of this part of Ellesmere Island was taken in summer and shows the ice caps on the mountains – all is white now but the peaks are no less spectacular. The next few days saw daily Twin Otter flights into the camp site with fuel and gear,. A small Kubota tractor purchased to fit in a Twin Otter was actually delivered directly to the camp site by a DC-3 on skis on March 8



Personnel went into and started a stove in one of the Parks Canada shelter about a kilometre from the camp site on Monday March 9. In parallel gear kept arriving either from Eureka by Twin Otter or directly from Resolute by DC-3.



Ward Hunt Island

The Parks Canada site has three insulated shelters, a plywood building open on one side, an outhouse. several abandoned pieces of equipment, and an abundance of garbage in the form of empty drums, full fuel drums from the 1950's, drums filled with garbage including several with military canned rations from the 1950's and various trash. When we are settled we plan to send as much of the Parks Canada site garbage as possible out on normally empty flights back to Eureka during our fuel airlift.

Arrangements were made last summer to use the camp shelters as a staging area for the project. Having a shelter up takes the pressure off the first personnel – traditionally several people, tent, stove, radio furl and food are unloaded from an aircraft that then leaves – so one needs to get a shelter up and heat in it before dark.

All in all things are going well. The BobCat is now running 100%. The Kubota does not have the power to move the concrete-like snow drifts on the ice but we managed to get the Bobcat on the ice so the Kubota's importance is lowered.. This year Polar Continental Shelf Program contracted for 4 personnel from Discovery Mines in Yellowknife to assist with camp set up. These are experts in exploration camp construction and their assistance and dedication is greatly appreciated.

The next week saw gear continue to arrive, the camp shelters erected one by one and a start made on the runway. Weather slowed both the frequency of flights and progress during the later part

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of the week of March 8 – 15. It was followed by a blow the next week that buried equipment, filled in the partially cleared air strip and prevented flying.

In parallel with camp construction and getting the logistics infrastructure (accommodations, electricity, fuel, aircraft, etc) established at Ward Hunt Island, two other UNCLOS projects were commencing 45 minutes (by air) east of here at CFS Alert – a joint Canadian- Danish airborne Gravity and Magnetism survey and the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) project in partnership with Defence Research and Development Canada..

The AUV project, named “Cornerstone”, has Ron Verrall as a part of the project and he is preparing regular Newsletters. Some of you may recall that he did the same for the 2006 Lomonosov Ridge Test of Appurtenance (LORITA) and the Alpha Ridge Test of Appurtenance (ARTA) in 2008. These are available via Ron’s email distribution list and also at the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland website – http://a76.dk/lang_uk/main.html

Several updates have been assembled on these parallel UNCLOS projects. by the participants