

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GEOGRAPHERS

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES GÉOGRAPHES

Annual Meeting

Réunion Annuelle

1981

Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, Corner Brook  
Newfoundland



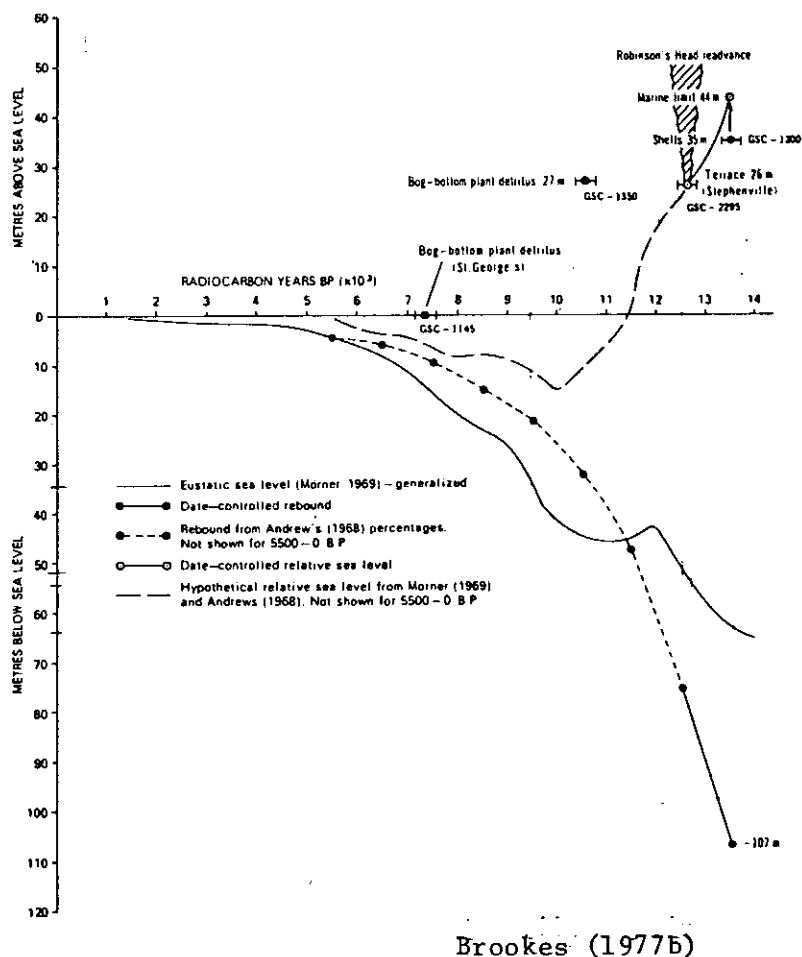
GUIDEBOOK FOR EXCURSION G: GEOMORPHOLOGY -  
PORT AUX BASQUES TO CORNER BROOK

August 7-9, 1981

I. A. Brookes (Leader)

is also well established near Highlands, and at Kippens (stop 7), where shells from a 29m kame delta intimately related to the Robinson's Head moraine are dated at  $12,600 \pm 140$  years BP (GSC-2295).<sup>26</sup> These relationships, together with those to be discussed at St. George's (stop 4), permit a tentative relative sea level curve to be drawn for the St. George's Bay coast between Robinson's and Stephenville (figure 11).<sup>27</sup>

Figure 11: Postglacial changes of land and sea level at Robinson's, west Newfoundland.



At the northeast end of the headland a small spring has cut a gully which leads down to a minute embayment known as Stinking Cove. The spring issues from a peat bog cut by the gully wall, and the "stink" issues from the same place.

26. Brookes 1977b.

27. Ibid.

The bog and the underlying marl have been sampled and analysed for pollen and spores (by J.H. McAndrews, R.O.M.) and a preliminary pollen diagram is shown as figure 12.

The vegetation was initially treeless, with the spruce and pine pollen derived from trees growing on the mainland and the birch pollen derived from a few local shrubs. This coastal sedge-dominated tundra was invaded by birch, willow and sweet gale shrubs, together with fern and club moss, to form a shrub tundra during the marl interval. During the deposition of the upper marl, spruce, then balsam fir and white birch invaded and formed the modern boreal forest of Newfoundland. The marl pond was succeeded by a sedge meadow followed by a heath-sphagnum bog with larch (muskeg). The upper sandy peat accumulated beneath an alder-sweet gale shrub community. The abundant grass and sedge pollen in the surface sample reflects the modern meadow. The diagram indicates a warming trend at the end of the Pleistocene with a Holocene Hypsithermal possibly represented by the holly pollen.

Leg 4: Robinson's to St. George's (138 km\* to 178 km)

The excursion rejoins the vehicle above Stinking Cove and rejoins route 404 via a farm track, proceeding thence to the TCH near the Robinson's River bridge. En route, it traverses rolling terrain of the Robinson's Head Drift which, in occasional glimpses of cutbanks in the river to the right of the road, consists mainly of stratified gravels and sands.

The TCH leads northeast over similar terrain, crossed by the valleys of Fischells and Flat Bay Brooks and several smaller west-flowing streams. 18km from the junction of TCH and route 404, north of Flat Bay Brook road bridge, a fine view is gained of the glacial trough of Flat Bay Brook, cut into Precambrian anorthosite of the Long Range Mountains. These coarse-grained, poorly jointed, plagioclase-rich, igneous rocks give rise to a

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\*Distance resumed from Stinking Cove.

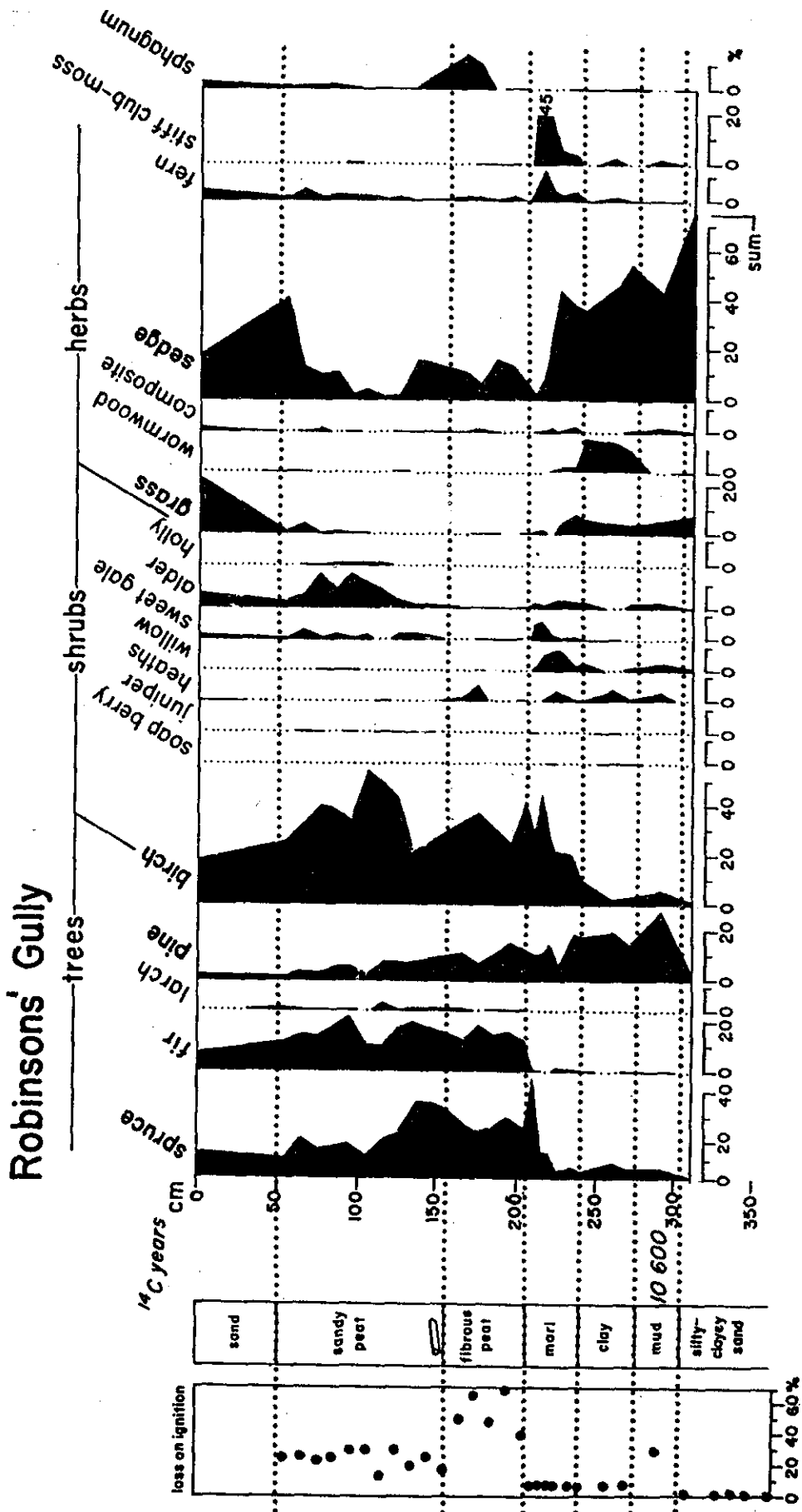


Figure 12