



The University of Chicago  
Department of Organismal Biology and Anatomy  
1027 East 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60637-1508

**Neil Shubin**

*Robert R. Bensley Distinguished Service Professor  
Associate Dean, Biological Sciences Division  
Professor, Committee on Evolutionary Biology*

*Phone: 773-834-7472  
Fax: 773-834-8901  
E-mail: nshubin@uchicago.edu*

**February 5, 2013**

**Project to Look for Fossil Animals on North Ellesmere Island:**

This project involves walking on the rocks of North Ellesmere Island (on Judge Daly Promontory) looking at the surface for small fossil bones. The goal is to find remains of ancient creatures that lived in the sea. There will be no digging or use of power tools of any kind. Our camp will be on gravel near the Daly River for three weeks. We will also visit the site where we found interesting fish fossils starting in 2004 in Bird Fiord on the southwest part of Ellesmere Island. At Bird Fiord, we will have a small camera crew who will film us looking for fossils. This film will be used to make a documentary about our work. All garbage created will be flown out with the crew at the end of the expedition. We expect to use less than a half a cubic meter of water per day for drinking, cooking and washing. We will be very careful to use only small amounts of biodegradable soaps and to make sure no wash water contaminates the streams. We will also be sure to deposit human waste at least 500 feet from any water source. Each of the eight team members has camped in the high Arctic and is very aware of the sensitive tundra environment. The flight plans and the campsite will be chosen to minimize impact on the land, water, and animal life.

