

Free Public Lecture

The Disastrous Haiti Earthquake of January 2010



Dr. Steven Earle

Earth Science Department – Vancouver Island University

Although not huge in magnitude, the January 12th 2010 Haiti earthquake is evolving into one of the worst natural disasters of historical times. This presentation will include an overview of the geology and plate tectonics of the Caribbean in general and Haiti in particular and a discussion of the origin and history earthquakes in the region. We will look at the details of the January quake: its location, its magnitude, the sense of motion on the fault, and the aftershock record. We will also examine how the topography and geology of the Port au Prince region contributed to the severity of the shaking in the most populated areas and how the style of construction typical in Haiti exacerbated the damage and human casualties.

Dr. Steven Earle is a faculty member in the Earth Science Department at Vancouver Island University. He teaches Physical Geology, Sedimentary Geology, Hydrogeology, Environmental Geology and Climate Change, but he has been a student of earthquakes ever since moving to Vancouver Island in the early 1990s. In late February of 2010 he is leading a group of VIU students on a field trip to observe and study the San Andreas Fault around San Francisco and other parts of central California.

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Vancouver Island University, Building 356, Room 109

Sponsors: Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Mid-Island Science, Technology & Innovations Council (MISTIC), Innovation & Development Corporation (IDC), Faculty of Science and Technology

