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News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 003, December 7, 2008
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Contents

1. McGill University geographer Julia Christensen named a 2008 Trudeau Scholar
 2. University of Ottawa graduate student Genevieve Gilbert represents Canadian youth at UN Climate Change Conference in Indonesia
 3. McGill University Professor Raja Sengupta's ecoregion maps aid disease prevention, marine conservation
 4. Ryerson University geography students went to Europe for Field Trip
 5. Mount Allison Professor Michael Fox part of Town and Gown world research project
 6. Professor Michael Troughton devoted to Thames to the End
 7. Memorial University Geographer Dr. Norm Catto publishes book on Natural Hazard and Disasters book
 8. Brock University Department of Geography introduces MA Program
 9. University of Lethbridge adds new courses on Wind Science and Applied Geoscience
 10. Ancient driftwood and Professor John England unlock icy secret
 11. National student award named to honour Professor Alan Trenhaile
 12. University of Toronto students launch Hidden Geographies: Undergraduates Writing to Transgress
 13. International Mountain Day 11 December 2008
 14. CAG 2009 Programme Sessions and Related Information
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1. McGill University geographer Julia Christensen named a 2008 Trudeau Scholar <http://www.mcgill.ca/reporter/40/18/notes/>

Julia Christensen is a PhD candidate in geography under the supervision of Dr George Wenzel. Julia was named a 2008 Trudeau Scholar and was the recipient of a SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship. Julia's doctoral research on homelessness and housing insecurity in the Northwest Territories is funded through the International Polar Year project "The Impacts of Oil and Gas on Peoples in the Arctic Using a Multiple Securities Perspective."

2. University of Ottawa graduate student Genevieve Gilbert represents Canadian youth at United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia http://www.media.uottawa.ca/mediaroom/news-details_1365.html

A University of Ottawa graduate student in geography will be one of 32 individuals representing Canadian youth at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia from December 3 to 14, 2007. Genevieve Gilbert is an MA candidate at the University of Ottawa working on climate change impact and adaptation under the supervision of Dr. Robert McLeman. She is studying migration as an adaptation to climate change by researching the experiences of people who migrated out of the Canadian Prairies during the 1930s drought. Genevieve completed her undergraduate degree in geography at the University of Guelph and graduated in June 2007.

3. McGill University Professor Raja Sengupta's ecoregion maps aid disease prevention, marine conservation <http://www.mcgill.ca/reporter/40/02/maps/>

In an article published in a recent issue of Emerging Infectious Diseases, Dr. Sengupta and his student co-authors investigated whether or not specific ecoregions have a significant concentration of disease outbreaks. Among their findings, one striking result was that 76.8 percent of all outbreaks occurred in only 25 ecoregions—just 8.8 percent of possible areas. By their very design, ecoregions contain nesting and breeding habitats for carriers of the disease. High concentrations of outbreaks suggest priority monitoring areas for health officials.

4. Ryerson University geography students went to Europe for Field Trip

<http://www.geography.ryerson.ca/wayne/Geo773-F2008/index.htm>

Thirty-two 3rd and 4th year Geographic Analysis Program students and two professors recently returned from a field trip to Europe. The major destination was Italy although students also had a chance to see a little bit of Germany as the group flew into Munich on the first day of Oktoberfest.

5. Mount Allison Professor Michael Fox part of Town and Gown world research project

<http://www.mta.ca/news/index.cgi?id=1467>

An exciting new global resource on "Town and Gown" relations and research is now online and one Mount Allison professor is at the helm, or the mouse. Dr. Michael Fox is one of the lead researchers and developers behind the web site TownGown World —

www.towngownworld.com

— that focuses on collaborative community planning processes for communities that surround higher educational institutions.

6. Professor Michael Troughton devoted to Thames to the End

<http://fpress.ca/newsstand/News/Local/2008/11/03/7285706-sun.html>

The *London Free Press*

has named Michael Troughton as one of the top five great figures in the Thames River history. He is remembered for his devotion to the natural and cultural landscape along the Thames River. Professor Troughton's last manuscript is close to seeing posthumous publication as a Heritage Landscape Guide to the Thames River Watershed. The London Free Press named Michael Troughton as one of the top five great figures in the Thames River history along with John Graves Simcoe, Tecumseh, Henry Ford II, and the Cartier pioneers.

7. Memorial University Geographer Dr. Norm Catto publishes book on Natural Hazard and Disasters book

http://hed.nelson.com/nelsonhed/instructor.do?pagefrom=search&disciplinenummer=31&product_isbn=9780176441111

"There are no hazards without people". Dr. Norm Catto Hazards and disasters fascinate people. Everyone can relate to humans in difficulty and see the relevance of at least one hazard in their own lives. The authors address natural hazards and environmental issues in a manner that will encourage you to make educated choices, such as where to build a house or how to become involved in efforts to improve environmental policy. Written from a Canadian perspective, the authors emphasize how we are all interconnected through the uncertainties and complexities of our ever-changing environment.

8. University of Lethbridge adds new courses on Wind Science and Applied Geoscience

<http://www.uleth.ca/notice/display.html?b=110&s=10968>

The Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge has 2 new courses on the books for the Spring 2008 semester: 1) Geog3850: Wind Science (Dr Chris Hugenholtz); and, 2) Geol4850: Applied Geoscience (Dr Hester Jiskoot).

9. Brock University Department of Geography introduces MA Program

<http://www.brocku.ca/geography/graduate/>

Brock University's MA Program in Geography is designed to educate students broadly in geographical approaches to understanding social and human/environment relations, with emphasis on how contemporary processes affect spatial relations across a range of scales from the local to the global. Students are trained to develop sophisticated and rigorous understandings of geographical processes, through an examination of various current theoretical perspectives and research methodologies, as well as through exposure to diverse empirical material.

10. Ancient driftwood and Professor John England unlock icy secret

http://easweb.eas.ualberta.ca/download/file/papers/paper_59.pdf

The University of Alberta's John England has determined that Ward Hunt Ice Shelf, off the northern tip of the island, has been there for 5,500 years. He didn't date the ice, but instead studied the driftwood that collected on the shore thousands of years ago. It was originally from Russian forests, but was carried to Canada on mobile sea ice. The last driftwood landed 5,500 years ago. After that, the ice shelf formed and prevented any more wood from reaching the shore, says Dr. England, a professor in the department of earth and atmospheric sciences. He says his findings show how rapidly and radically global warming is changing the North. The shelf ice, which is the oldest sea ice in North America, could be gone within a decade.

11. National student award named to honour University of Windsor Professor Alan Trenhaile

<http://www.uwindsor.ca/units/earth-science/EarthScience.nsf/inToc/796662606C3BF76E85256E5B00594B79?OpenDocument>

Recognition from one's peers is always welcome, says Dr. Alan Trenhaile. The Canadian Geomorphology Research Group has named its award for best poster presentation by a student at a regional conference in his honour. CGRG president Stephen Wolfe said the award naming recognizes Trenhaile's contributions to the field. He said the award for poster presentations was especially appropriate given Trenhaile's written contributions to Canadian geomorphology—his 1990 book *The Geomorphology of Canada* was the first to focus on the country, and *Geomorphology: a Canadian Perspective*, currently in its third edition, is the standard text in most university programs in Canada.

12. University of Toronto students launch Hidden Geographies: Undergraduates Writing to Transgress

<http://web.mac.com/hiddengeographies/Site/Home.html>

MA student Katie Palmer and PhD student Sally Turner launch *Hidden Geographies: Undergraduates Writing to Transgress* to bridge the gap between undergraduate writers and academic publishers.

13. International Mountain Day 11 December 2008

http://www.fao.org/mnts/intl_mountain_day_en.asp

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 11 December, from 2003 onwards, as the "International Mountain Day". It is observed every year with a different theme relevant to sustainable mountain development. The theme for the International Mountain Day 2008 is "Food Security in Mountains". This provides an apt occasion to reflect on how hard it is for mountain people to consistently get adequate and nutritious food to lead healthy and active lives. It draws attention to the special food security needs of mountain communities that have to be taken into account in the development of mountain-specific strategies and policies.

14. CAG 2009 Programme Sessions and Related Information

<http://www.carleton.ca/geography/events/Second%20Circular%20ENG-FR%20Official.pdf>

The CAG is meeting as part of the CFHSS Congress. Participants are required to register with the Federation, which will look after university residence accommodation, and provide travel and other information in its Congress circular. You are invited to submit electronically titles and Abstracts of presentations on geographic research by February 1st, 2009. All fields of geography will be considered. Participants are encouraged to use posters for their presentations, especially if the material lends itself to visual presentation. All presenters, whether they give an oral presentation, or participate in a special or poster session, must submit electronically an abstract (in either English or French) of 200 words or less. Deadline for Submission – February 15th, 2009.

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