

Subject: [Caglist] GEOGNEWS, Number 07, January 4, 2009
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News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 007, January 4, 2009
Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

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1. UWO Geographer Added to Order of Canada

http://communications.uwo.ca/com/western_news/stories/western_professors_named_to_order_of_canada

University of Western Ontario

geographer Professor Gordon McBean receives Order of Canada. McBean, a professor in the Department of Geography and Research Chair (Policy) at the university's Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction, was recognized for his contributions to the advancement of climate and atmospheric sciences in Canada.

2. Study by WLU Geographer Shows Declining Water Levels Will Impact Alberta Oil-Sands

http://www.wlu.ca/news_detail.php?grp_id=28&nws_id=4708&filter_type=release

A study published in Geophysical Research Letters by Brent Wolfe, associate professor at Wilfrid Laurier University revealed significant reductions in available fresh water in western and northern Canada that is unprecedented in the past 1,000 years. The study highlights important challenges for the Alberta oil-sands industry, but suggests that the perceived negative effects of the W.A.C. Bennett Dam on the Peace-Athabasca Delta ecosystem may have been overblown.

3. York U Geographer Helps Uncover Evidence of Ancient Mars Oceans

<http://www.yorku.ca/mediar/archive/Release.asp?Release=1552>

Professor Bill Mahaney is part of an international group of scientists that analyzed data from the Gamma Ray Spectrometer (GRS) aboard NASA's Mars Odyssey orbiter. The data showed areas which scientists believe mark the shorelines of two ancient oceans that existed at different stages of the planet's evolution. Mahaney, who teaches physical geography at York, focused on geochemical analysis, looking for signs of weathering of rocks and minerals, and the presence of paleosols.

4. UT Mississauga Geographer Suggests “Buy local” Not Answer to Smaller Carbon Footprint
[http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/361.0.html?&tx_mininews_pi1\[showUid\]=2628&tx_mininews_pi1\[back](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/361.0.html?&tx_mininews_pi1[showUid]=2628&tx_mininews_pi1[back)

In a recent policy paper Professor Pierre Desrochers of Geography challenges the recent popularity of movements like the 100-mile diet and has made him a virtual pariah to the anti-Agri Business brigade. According to Desrochers, buying locally grown but economically uncompetitive products almost never reduces greenhouse gases. Desrochers has no illusions of winning over the prevailing (and politically correct) Local Food Plus faction that pronounces: *Let's go the distance so our food won't have to.*

5. UBC Geographer Receives Funding for Mountain Channel Hydraulic Experimental Laboratory
<http://www.geog.ubc.ca/people/index.php?action=2&cat=faculty&memberID=200039>

UBC Geography Professor Marwan Hassan received \$250,000 from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation *Leaders Opportunity Fund* to develop a Mountain Channel Hydraulic Experimental Laboratory. Hassan's research focuses on river channel stability in small forested streams. His research focuses on the routing of water and sediment, and on associated channel characteristics in forested stream.

6. Brock University Digitizes 1934 Air Photos of the Niagara Region
<http://www.brocku.ca/maplibrary/airphoto/1934/home.html>

This collection of digitized air photos has been reproduced from the Brock University Map Library Air Photo Collection and made freely available on the internet. Each photograph has an original scale of 1:16,000. The images have been scanned at a resolution of 600 ppi at 100%, saved as TIFF images, then converted to JPEGs for use with Zoomify software. The Zoomify viewer allows the user to pan and zoom each image for a better viewing experience.

7. Geographer of the Week: Dr. Robert Patrick, University of Saskatchewan
<http://www.usask.ca/geography/faculty/robertpatrick/index.html>

Bob joined the Geography and Planning Department at the University of Saskatchewan in July 2008. He teaching in the Regional and Urban Planning program and conducting research into drinking water policy in Saskatchewan and Canada.

8. Recently Completed Theses and Dissertations

Jie Tian. 2008.
Integration of Satellite Remote Sensing and Ground-based Measurement for Modeling the Spatiotemporal Distribution of Fine Particulate Matter at a Regional Scale. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, Queen's University.

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