



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. Queen's University Geography Pilots an Atlas of Napoleonic Cartography <http://geog.queensu.ca/NapoleonAtlas/index.htm>

The web atlas is a pilot project designed to show the number and variety of manuscript maps surviving from Napoleonic War period and the value of internet technology for their analysis, dissemination, and use. It is a project of cooperation between Queen's University and the Service historique de l'armee de terre.

2. UNBC's Greg Halseth, Coordinates Urban Aboriginal Economies Network http://www.unbc.ca/releases/2009/02_17learning_circles.html

Economic development is the goal of a National Network for Urban Aboriginal Economic Development. The initiative is coordinated by UNBC Geography professor Greg Halseth and Ray Gerow from the Prince Geography Aboriginal Business Development Centre. It is designed to bring together researchers, community workers, and policy-makers to foster economic development within urban Aboriginal communities.

3. Memorial University Geographer Josh Lepawsky on Global Trade of e-Waste <http://www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=1113658>

Memorial University Geography Professor Josh Lepawsky, who studies the global trade of e-waste, said there is still nothing stopping "recyclers" who are not part of the provincial systems from collecting e-waste and shipping it overseas. "If you choose not to participate, you won't have any access to the financing being offered through the programs but you can still collect the material and sell it to brokers who may or may not be collecting a profit shipping it overseas."

4. Explanation for Mississauga 'creek circle' by UT Geographer Joe Desloges <http://www.nationalpost.com/news/canada/toronto/story.html?id=1095165>

A Mississauga man's photo of a bizarre "creek circle" -- a round piece of ice, spinning, on the surface of a frozen creek -- was an Internet hit. Professor Joe Desloges of the University of Toronto Department of Geography and Planning explained that the frozen circles were actually ice pans, or surface slabs of ice that form in the center of a lake or creek, instead of along the water's edge.

5. McGill U's Peter Brown Comments on Financial and Ecological Crisis <http://reporter.mcgill.ca/2009/01/mcgillians-making-news/>

Peter G. Brown of McGill's geography department warns in a Globe and Mail opinion piece that "the financial crisis has brought into sharp focus the need to fundamentally change, not merely repair or rebuild, our economy. It is essential to address the financial and ecological crises together." A letter to The Star following the piece notes that "This was probably the most important article to appear in the Star this year, not that it said anything new or radical, but for its sane and rational expression".

6. UT ArtZone Features Drummer and Geography PhD candidate Brian Hracs <http://www.news.utoronto.ca/arts/artszone-launches-new-website.html>

The inaugural Did You Know? profile is drummer and geography PhD candidate Brian Hracs. His research provides a response to the lack of empirical studies addressing the employment experiences of musicians in the city. "Broadly, I am looking at the working lives of musicians in Toronto and the spatial dynamics of those careers," said Hracs.

7. Grenfell College Geographer Nick Novakowski's Book on Ottawa's High-tech Sector <http://www.mun.ca/gazette/issues/vol41no6/books.php>

Dr. Nick Novakowski, an associate professor of geography at Memorial University's Grenfell College, is a co-editor of a book dealing with the rising reputation that Ottawa is earning as a global technology centre. Dr. Novakowski is an urban geographer and urban planner whose research interests include knowledge cities, Chinese

urbanization, and environmental planning.

8. Mount Allison U's Dendrochronologists Examine Historic Shiny Stick
<http://www2.canada.com/technology/treasure/1315947/story.html?id=1315947>

Dendrochronologists led by Dr. Colin Laroque in the Department of Geography and Environment at New Brunswick's Mount Allison University are preparing to conduct tests on the age of what appears to be the world's oldest known hockey stick — a hand-hewn, maple-root specimen from Cape Breton that historians of Canada's favourite sport are endorsing as the most genuine candidate yet to be considered a "national treasure."

9. GeoHorizons at WLU Geography & Environmental Studies
http://www.wlu.ca/documents/32973/Geohorizons_Newsletter_Fall_2008.pdf

The Fall 2008 issue of WLU's departmental newsletter features a welcome to Dr. John Johnston, a note on the Gold Medal for Academic Excellence awarded to Suzanne Jarvis for her MSc, an article of Professor Alison Blay-Palmer's research on sustainable food systems, insights into Professor Margaret Walton's sabbatical in India, images of the GG/ES 399 field trip to Point Pelee National Park, and images of the GG380 visit to the Milton Quarry.

10. McGill's Garry Peterson Receives Canada Research Chair Renewal
http://www.mcgill.ca/newsroom/news/item/?item_id=104703

Professor Garry Peterson, of the McGill Department of Geography and McGill School of Environment, was among the 134 Canada Research Chairs announced at an event held at McGill University. Dr. Peterson is a member of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, an international project that assesses the implications of ecosystem change for human well-being. See: <http://www.geog.mcgill.ca/faculty/peterson/>

11. SFU Geographer Owen Hertzman on Mixing Up Mountain Ranges
<http://ago.mobile.globeandmail.com/generated/archive/RTGAM/html/20090213/wolympicmountain13.html>

In the Globe and Mail, Governor-General Michaëlle Jean was teased for mixing up her mountain ranges—calling the Coast Mountains "the Rockies"—when talking to kids at Rideau Hall. For the record, Owen Hertzman, senior lecturer in geography at SFU, told the Globe: "She was only off by about 600 or 700 kilometres. It's sort of like putting Toronto down in the Carolinas."

12. Queen's Geographer Heather Hall Wins Paper Competition at ISRN-SSHRC
<http://geog.queensu.ca/newsletter/23%20February%202009%20Newsletter.pdf>

Heather Hall won a student paper competition for the ISRN-SSHRC Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia in May 2008. The award means that Heather's travel expenses will be covered.

13. Ryerson, UT and UBC Geographers Charting Map-Making Renaissance
<http://www.thestar.com/article/583888>

Claus Rinner became fascinated with map-making as a young boy. The assistant professor of geography at Ryerson University would draw maps of imaginary pirate islands with hidden bays and dramatic terrain and invented place names. Now Rinner, a modern-day Jacques Cartier, is charting maps of a totally different kind – combining digital information and locations from around the world. Geographers like Rinner are part of a renaissance in map-making that is rapidly changing how we use and combine maps and data.

14. Geographer of the Week: Dr. Ebru Ustundag, Brock University
http://www.brocku.ca/geography/faculty/e_ustundag/

Dr. Ebru Ustundagi an Assistant Professor in Geography department where she teaches courses on community development, urban-social planning, cities and globalization. She completed her Ph.D. (Geography) at York University. Her doctoral dissertation 'Turkish republican citizenship and rights to the city' analyzes the constitutions, contestations and transformations of the Turkish republican project's citizenship practices and strategies, through the spaces of Istanbul. Her major areas of interest are: theories of space and cities, citizenship studies, feminist geographies, urban geographies as well as political and cultural geographies of Middle East.

15. Other "Geographical" News

Student Debt Counter Hits \$13 Billion Mark
http://www.cautbulletin.ca/en_article.asp?SectionID=1141&SectionName=News&VolID=276&VolumeName=No%202&VolumeStartDate=2/6/2009&EditionID=30

Student loan debt in Canada surpassed the \$13 billion mark last month, for the first time in the nation's history. According to the Canadian Federation of Students total student loans owed to the federal government increase by about \$1 million a day. This school year alone, almost 360,000 students required loans from the federal government. (CAUT Bulletin, 56(2), Feb 2009)

Sir Francis Drake was the first European to set eyes on the B.C. coast
<http://www.vancouversun.com/Francis+Drake+Captain+James+Cook+first+European+eyes+coast/1305174/story.html>

"Is it possible that some guy in London 400 years ago without Google Earth at his fingertips could plot this to within 12 kilometres of actual latitude?" Marine historian Sam Bawlf believes that the fabled Nova Albion, the island far to the north of Mexico ...claimed for England by Drake, is Vancouver Island. (Vancouver Sun, 02/19/09).

Dried-up federal funding spells trouble for Arctic research centre
<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=1058908077&msgid=30972351&act=7NVB&c=56672&admin=0&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.canada.com%2Fne>

The Nunavut-based Polar Environment Atmospheric Research Laboratory faces an unstable future. Although the federal budget outlines \$85 million to maintain and upgrade existing Arctic research stations, the funds cannot be used for operating costs or science.

NSERC Announces Changes to Postgraduate Scholarships (PGS) program

NSERC's PGS program will restrict awards at the master's level to one year only. This aligns our program with that of the Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) program. No students currently funded will lose their scholarship. Starting with the current 2009 competition, winners of master's level scholarships will receive one-year awards.

GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>