



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. UT Geographer Miriam Diamond Tracks Toxins in the City

<http://www.thestar.com/article/522870>

To many, dirt on a window is a nuisance. To Miriam Diamond, it's a contaminant. Since 1991, the University of Toronto geography professor has been obsessed with the link between our life in urban areas and the chemicals we are exposed to in them.

2. Memorial U's Chris Sharp on President's Award for Distinguished Teaching

http://today.mun.ca/rss/readmore.php?news_id=4433

Since 1989 Memorial has presented the award to 44 deserving faculty, and for Dr. Chris Sharpe, professor in the Department of Geography and a 2007 recipient, winning the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching will be the highlight of his long career. For me, it is a reward for consistent enthusiasm and dedication to what I see as the principal purpose of a university education."

3. U Winnipeg and WLU Geographers on Immigrant Income Disparity

<http://www.thestar.com/article/297652>

Contrary to conventional wisdom, a recent Statistics Canada study suggests that immigrants in smaller Canadian cities and rural areas fare better financially than those who flock to Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal. The report suggests that immigrants can settle across the country, said Tom Carter, geography professor at the University of Winnipeg. Demographics explain some of the disparity, said Margaret Walton-Roberts, geography professor at Wilfrid Laurier University. Three-quarters of immigrants in smaller cities were fluent in an official language, compared with 61.5 per cent of those in large cities.

4. Geography-Supported U Waterloo Weather Station Holds Spring Contest

<http://newsrelease.uwaterloo.ca/news.php?id=5041>

The University of Waterloo weather station is holding its annual contest to predict the arrival of spring-like weather. The station challenges the public to guess the date and time when the recorded temperature at the station will first exceed 20 C. The station receives support from several of UW's departments, including the Department of Geography and Environmental Management.

5. U Toronto Geography and Planning Loses Bill Gough and Amrita Daniere

The University of Toronto Department Geography and Planning is losing their Graduate Coordinator, Bill Gough, to a higher office. He has been appointed Vice-Dean, Graduate Education and Program Development at UTSC, effective April 1. At the beginning of the summer Amrita Daniere accepted an appointment as Vice Dean, Graduate at UTM, to start June 30, 2009. Bill and Amrita put an enormous amount of work into coping with graduate expansion over the past two years, adapting to new graduate funding models and generally making every effort possible to improve the quality of the research environment for graduate students.

6. Geographers Use Tree Rings Tell Story of Ancient Drought

<http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/com/elements/issues/33/trearb-eng.php>

Most people think of the notorious "Dust Bowl" of the 1930s as the worst drought in North America. But new research by Scott St. George (NRCAN), Dave Sauchyn (U Regina), Emma Watson and others use tree ring data to show that earlier droughts on the Canadian Prairies were longer and more severe. The research team based their analysis on tree-ring data collected over the last 15 years from almost three thousand trees growing between Lake Superior and the Canadian Rockies.

7. McMaster U's CRCs Pavlos Kanaroglou and Greg Slater Renewed

<http://www.thespec.com/article/519280>

The federal government has renewed the Canada Research Chairs of two McMaster University professors in the School of Geography and Earth Science. Pavlos Kanaroglou has been awarded \$1.4 million for his chair in Spatial Analysis and Gregory Slater gets \$500,000 to continue studying the spread of organic contaminants in the environment.

8. CBC on Moffat Hockey Stick Being Examined by Mount Allison Geographers

<http://www.cbc.ca/sports/ondemand/?playlistId=420a65442fa7b343551416840309cbb4deef0e97&vid>

Geographers at the Mount Allison dendrochronology lab, have started analyzing what some historians believe is the world's oldest hockey stick, dating back at least 180 years. The hand-carved stick is thought to be from a Cape Breton sugar maple which grew on a slope, giving it a perfect, natural curve. It

is believed to date from the 1830s or even earlier. See:
<http://telegraphjournal.canadaeast.com/search/article/583760>

9. UNBC Geographer Sarah de Leeuw wins CBC Literary Prize

<http://www.radio-canada.ca/prixlitteraires/english/pwinners2008.shtml>

The CBC announced the results of this year's literary prizes this morning, and Sarah de Leeuw is the winner of first prize for non-fiction. Sarah completed MA in geography at the University of Northern British Columbia, and completed her PhD in geography at Queen's University in 2007. Sarah is an assistant professor in the Northern Medical Program at the University of Northern British Columbia.

10. U Waterloo Geography Graduate Brings Television and Film to Life

http://alumni.uwaterloo.ca/alumni/e-newsletter/2007/february/andrew_kinsella.html

While it is typically the actors and directors that get all the kudos in television and film, a vital element to any production is the set design. Senior production designer and geography graduate, Andrew Kinsella, BES '85, has been designing award-winning television and film sets for the CBC since 1985. Production design means Kinsella is responsible for the visual look of a show. By the time the camera starts to roll, his job is usually done.

11. Memorial Graduate Students get GISciences Appointments

<http://www.mun.ca/geog/about/>

Krista Jones was appointed to the GEOIDE Student Network board of directors. Andrew Cuff was appointed on the GEOIDE Summer School Committee. Both of them will contribute to the GEOIDE Students Network (GSN). Both Krista and Andres also received awards, for their honours and MSc thesis respectively, at the Spatial Knowledge and Information Conference in Fernie. See:

http://rose.geog.mcgill.ca/ski/en/program_2009

12. UVic's Steve Longergan Involved with Iraqi Marsh Restoration

<http://www.universityaffairs.ca/canadian-project-has-contributed-to-iraqi-marshes-restoration.aspx>

The main goal of the project has been to train Iraqis how to restore and manage the wetlands. The University of Waterloo's Wetlands Research Centre has contributed most of the scientific expertise, with Steve Longergan and others from the University of Victoria also collaborating in the later stages.

13. Volume 53(1), 2009, of "The Canadian Geographer" Published

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118517899/home>

TCG Editor Roger Hayter bids goodbye with an issue packed with papers on topics ranging from: "Québec et la géographie sociale en questions"; "Regionalizing global trade patterns, 1981–2001: application of a new method"; "Emprise et déprise de l'agriculture sur le territoire de l'est de l'Ontario de 1826 à 2006: la dimension environnementale"; "Rural children's perceptions of life on the land in Southwestern Ontario"; "Political geography and geopolitics"; "Health geography in Canada: where are we headed?"; and, "Canadian studies and American geography: trends and issues".

14. Geographer of the Week: Doris Lam, York University

<http://www.yorku.ca/geograph/CRSSaward.html>

Doris Lam, a 4th year Geography major at York University, has been selected to be the recipient of the

Canadian Remote Sensing Society (CRSS) Undergraduate Scholarship. The CRSS established this scholarship in 2008 to recognize excellence in remote sensing and to encourage students enrolled at a Canadian university or college to continue their studies in this field.

15. Recent Theses and Dissertations: York University

Anderson, Jessica. 2008. 'Evaluation of the Impacts of Integrated Agriculture-Aquaculture on Small-Scale Farming Systems in Dedza, Malawi: A Hybrid Research Approach'. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University.

Andrews, Mark. 2008. 'Intersecting Spaces of Vulnerability: special Education in Public Health Care Settings '. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University.

Caira, Lori Ann. 2008. 'Corporate Classrooms and the Business of Schooling: Global to Local Realities'. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University.

Grimes, Alexandra. 'The Common Ground Cooperative: An Example of an Emerging Model of Employment for People with Intellectual Disabilities'. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University.

Latt, Sai. 2008. 'The Hmong and Shan: Ethnic Politics, Labor Restructuring and Agrarian Transformation in a Royal Upland Project in Northern Thailand'. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University.

Lemoine, Maryse. 2008. 'Housing Trajectories of Francophone Migrants in Toronto: The Case of French and Congolese Immigrants'. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University.

Rees, Meghan. 'IDENTITY FOR SALE: Consumption and Self-Perception, a case study of Gap Inc.'. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University.

Shabaga, Jason. 'The Nitrate Removal Capacity of Riparian Zones with Spring-Fed Surface Flow '. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, York University.

Siemiatycki, Elliot. 2008. 'Next Year's Model: Labour and Economic Restructuring in Oshawa, Ontario'. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University.

Townsend, Justine. 'On Haida Terms: Self-determination and Land-Use Planning on Haida Gwaii, British Columbia'. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University.

Turner, Sally. 2008. 'Mediating the Privatization of Social Housing in York Region, Ontario: The Role of Civil Society'. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University.

Yee, Stanley. 2008. 'Water Flow Pathways to Ponds and Streams from a Polygonal Peat Plateau in the Hudson Bay Lowland'. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, York University.

Yuan, Yinhan. 'Streamflow Prediction in the Oak Ridges Moraine Area: A Software Framework, Comparison of Model Regionalization Methods, and Integration with a Web Mapping Website'. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, York University.

16. Other “Geographical” News

The Canadian Oil Boom: Scraping Bottom

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/03/canadian-oil-sands/kunzig-text>

The March issue of the National Geographic provides its estimated 10 million readers with a 20-page article that features pictures of sludge-covered tailing ponds and the sprawling Alberta oilfields. Many of the pages show before-and-after pictures of the oilsands near Fort McMurray, Alta., while graphically describing how the oil is extracted — from the forest being cut down, to the peat, dirt and moss being removed, to the water stripping the bitumen from the sand, and the contaminated water flowing into tailings ponds.

Sinkholes in Lake Huron Hosts Exotic Ecosystems

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/02/090224163649.htm>

As little as 20 meters (66 feet) below the surface of Lake Huron, sinkholes harbour bizarre ecosystems where the fish typical of the huge freshwater lake are rarely to be seen. Instead, purple mats of cyanobacteria and pallid, floating pony-tails of other microbial life thrive in the dense, salty water that's hostile to most familiar, larger forms of life because it lacks oxygen.

Vital Climate Change Warnings Are Being Ignored

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/02/090212141147.htm>

Canada's inland waters, the countless lakes and reservoirs across the country, are important "sentinels" for climate change and Ottawa and the provinces are ignoring the warnings.

Extreme Ice - Photographing the Big Melt

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/extremeice/melt.html>

For more than 30 years, photographer James Balog has been seeking new ways to visualize the natural world. His artistry has been featured in dozens of magazines, from National Geographic to The New Yorker. But his most recent project, the Extreme Ice Survey (EIS), has a scientific goal. It seeks to document an unprecedented melting of the world's glaciers, a phenomenon that many scientists agree is proof of human-caused global warming.

\$8-million budget shortfall at Trent signals hiring, salary freeze

<http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1447160>

In order to address a projected \$7.8-million budget shortfall, Trent University has announced an immediate salary freeze for all senior and middle management. A hiring freeze has also been implemented, and no new positions will be filled without the president's approval.

Perhaps Sir Fancis Drake Wasn't the First European to Set Eyes on the BC Coast

<http://www.mcn.org/2/oseeler/bc.htm>

Suppositions presented as facts, omissions of contradictory evidence, convenient speculative assignments of motives, distortions of known facts and documents, invocations of secrecy and conspiracy, claims of special knowledge by this or that player, a complete lack of any physical evidence, misrepresentations of sources, use of the confusing nature of the historical record to mislead, involvement of unqualified and/or self-serving entities and "experts," reliance on social position to be heard, support from over-eager and naive reporters, outright errors and last but not least frequent severe lapses of logic are elements common to such proposals.

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