



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. UT's Chuck Hostovsky Nominated to Transportation Research Board <http://individual.utoronto.ca/hostovsky/>

University of Toronto's Chuck Hostovsky will serve on the Transportation Research Board's Committee on Environmental Analysis in Transportation ADC10, for a three-year term. TRB is a division of the National Research Council, a private, nonprofit institution that provides expertise in science and technology to the government, the public, and the scientific and engineering communities.

2. Queen's Geographer Audrey Kobayashi Granted CURA <http://geog.queensu.ca/faculty/kobayashi.asp>

Audrey Kobayashi (and co-directors Victoria Esses and Caroline Andrew) who have won a Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) for their research project entitled "Welcoming Communities: Working to Improve the Inclusion of Visible Minorities and Immigrants in Second and Third Tier Ontario Cities."

3. Canada GIS and Canada Land Inventory

<http://freegeographytools.com/2009/the-canada-geographic-information-system-and-canada-land-in>

The National Film Board of Canada's 1967 documentary on the Canada Geographic Information System, one of the earliest GIS's (from the 1960s), is now on YouTube. The data from the Canada Land Inventory (CLI) was almost lost; this web page describes the labor-of-love process of recovering it and converting it to modern GIS formats. The data is now freely available at the Canada Land Inventory page.

4. UT's Minelle Mahtani on Scoring points with Newer Canadians

<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=1660206061&sid=1&Fmt=3&clientId=3916&RQT=309&VName=>

Watching National Hockey League games used to be known as something only white Canadian guys do. But, it turns out, a lot of newcomers from Karachi and Mumbai tune in too. Companies that stay in touch with new audiences will maintain their edge, experts say. "Newcomers and minority groups are a lucrative demographic," says Minelle Mahtani, a University of Toronto geography professor.

5. U Calgary Geographer Brian Moorman on Arctic Research - Then and Now

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/events/node/2132>

University of Calgary Geographer Brian Moorman compares his work on the glaciers of Bylot Island to work conducted on Baffin Island in 1953. Weathering summer snow storms. Navigating glacial crevasses. Cooking for a group on a one-burner stove. Some aspects of Northern research haven't changed in 55 years. Others have.

6. Geography Scrapbook: Environment Week at University of Toronto-Mississauga

<http://s87.photobucket.com/albums/k150/GrnTeam/Environment%20Week%202009/?start=all>

The Geography Department at the University of Toronto-Mississauga campus has compiled a scrapbook of photos of Environment Week (March 2-6, 2009) events. Check out the photo album to see who participated and what happened.

7. Go for a McMaster University Virtual Road Trip

http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/geo/outreach/road_trips.html

The School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University invites you to take virtual road trip to Albion Falls, Devil's Punchbowl, Jolley Cut, Red Hill Valley, Rock Chapel, Sherman Falls, Sulphur Creek, Sydenham Cut, Tews Falls, Tiffany Falls and Websters Falls.

8. UT Geographers Explore the Urban Landscape of New York City

<http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/programs/geog-under/under-news-events/ggr382f-field-course-outline>

GGR 382H a field trip course for University of Toronto students who are interested in exploring various elements of New York City's social, political and economic landscapes. The five full days in the city will involve walking city streets, and visiting museums, places, housing complexes and districts. The course will explore present-day New York in order to investigate how the city's landscapes were produced over time.

9. Google to Use University of Waterloo Map Library's 1200 aerial photos

<http://newsrelease.uwaterloo.ca/news.php?id=4988>

The UW Map Library's 1,200 aerial photographs have recently been made available to Google Earth, the popular online virtual globe program. With an eye to offering historical air photos to their users, Google Earth was interested in using the images as part of a pilot for writing a program that will georeference aerial photography. UW's imagery will be published and made available this March or April.

10. University of Calgary Geography Dept's Centre of Excellence for Definiens

<http://www.geog.ucalgary.ca/index.cfm?page=ecog>

The Department of Geography, University of Calgary is a Centre of Excellence for Definiens: the world's leading object-oriented image analysis software for analyzing and interpreting images on every scale, from microscopic cell structures to satellite images. The Definiens Cognition Network Technology is modeled on the powerful human cognitive perception processes to extract intelligence from images.

11. University of Western Ontario Geographer on Social Advances in Thinking

<http://www.thestar.com/article/601403>

Having a bromance is a good thing, it seems. This change in thinking is the result of social advances made by both feminism and gay and lesbian rights, says associate professor Jeff Hopkins of the University of Western Ontario. The specialist in cultural geography says, "There has been a softening of traditional masculine roles. The notion of the metrosexual and man dates challenge traditional notions of masculinity."

12. U Ottawa PhD Geographer Stewart Fast on Plug-in Car Reality

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/Technology/Reality+plug+cars+could+shock/1271987/story.html>

This month, a group of Ontario electricity system experts recommended the creation of a task force to plan for smooth integration of electric cars and electricity infrastructure. What is missing from their report is an indication of the size of new generation that may be required and examples of the implications of new load on the system.

13. Saint Mary's U Geographer Cathy Conrad on Nova Scotia Water Issues

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/Metro/1109958.html>

St. Mary's University Geographer Cathy Conrad worries about lake and river quality in Nova Scotia, but she also knows that a fifth of the world's people don't have safe water to drink. The geography professor returned recently from a trip to Gambia, where she witnessed first-hand the problems of inadequate drinking water and toilets.

14. Martini Migration to Fund UVic's Whale Research Lab

<http://www.canada.com/Martini+Migration+help+fund+research+projects/1330414/story.html>

The Pacific Rim Whale Festival Society will donate a portion of each ticket sold at this year's Martini Migration to local marine researchers. The funds will help in offsetting the high cost of funding marine-based research undertaken by the Whale Research Lab at the University of Victoria. Researchers associated with the lab study the long-term ecology and behaviour of grey whales and have contributed to the management and development of the whale watching industry.

15. Geographer of the Week: Tenley Conway, University of Toronto-Mississauga

<http://geog.utm.utoronto.ca/conway/index.html>

Dr. Tenley Conway, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, completed her MS and PhD degrees at Rutgers University. Twice the recipient (2006 and 2007) University of Toronto- Mississauga, Faculty Excellence Award, has research projects underway that focus on urban form and ecological variation, exurban development, ecological footprints, changing urban waterfronts and environmental mapping.

16. Recent Theses/Dissertations: Queen's University

Chutko, Krystopher John. 2008. Sedimentary structural indicators of Arctic terrestrial and aquatic processes. PhD dissertation. Kingston: Queen's University.

Crookshanks, Sarah. 2008. High-energy sedimentary processes in Kluane Lake, Yukon Territory. MSc thesis. Kingston: Queen's University.

McRae, James Donald. 2008. Play City Life: Henri Lefebvre, Urban Exploration and Re-Imagined Possibilities for Urban Life. MA thesis. Kingston: Queen's University.

Tanaka, Shaun Naomi.

2008. Consuming the "Oriental Other," Constructing the Cosmopolitan Canadian: Reinterpreting Japanese Culinary Culture in Toronto's Japanese Restaurants. PhD dissertation. Kingston : Queen's University.

17. Other "Geographical" News

Celebrate Earth Hour- Saturday March 28th, 8:30 to 9:30 pm

<http://www.earthhour.org/>

VOTE EARTH by simply switching off your lights for one hour, and join the world for Earth Hour. Earth Hour is being taken to the next level this year, with the goal of 1 billion people switching off their lights as part of a global vote. Take part on Saturday March 28th, 8:30 to 9:30 pm.

SSHRC Survey Released - Promoting Excellence in Research

http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/site/about-crsh/publications/peer-pairs_e.pdf

In support of its commitment to enhancing the quality of its grant evaluation and allocation process, and as part of its strategic priorities, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) undertook an independent Blue Ribbon Panel assessment of the quality and integrity of its peer-review practices. The Panel's report: "Promoting Excellence in Research - An International Blue Ribbon Panel Assessment of Peer Review Practices at the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada" (141 pages) is now available.

Free Geography Tools

<http://freegeographytools.com/>

Explore the world of free tools for GIS, GPS, Google Earth, neogeography, and, more.

Ninth Warmest February for Globe

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/03/090315092035.htm>

The combined global land and ocean surface average temperature for February 2009 was the ninth warmest since records began in 1880, according to an analysis by NOAA.

September Sea-Ice Cover in Arctic Ocean to Vanish by 2100

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/ngeo467.html>

The Arctic climate is changing rapidly. It is now projected that the Arctic Ocean will probably be ice-free in September before the end of the twenty-first century.

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