



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 23, April 2, 2009
Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>**

Contents

1. Memorial's Josh Lepawski's Electronic Afterlife
2. SFU's New Faculty of Environment
3. BSc Honours Available at University of the Fraser Valley
4. St. Mary's University Introduces New Lower-Level Courses
5. Professor Noggin's Geography of Canada
6. Memorial U Geography Class Investigates Campus Sustainability
7. Victoria-Based Geographer Briony Penn Receives Spirit of the Cranes Award
8. GPS Tracking for Snow Machines and Dogsleds
9. McMaster Award Winner Credits Geography Co-Supervisor Jim Smith
10. Brock Press Offers Reason for Majoring in Geography
11. U Calgary Geography's Foothills Climate Array
12. Concordia Master's Student Maps Montreal's Music Scene
13. University of Toronto's New Undergraduate Program
14. Geographer of the Week: Kyle Hodder, University of Regina
15. Other "Geographical" News

1. Memorial's Josh Lepawski's Electronic Afterlife

<http://www.mcqilldaily.com/article/18916-electronic-afterlife>

Unlike other traded goods identified with the North American Industry Classification System, there are no internationally-agreed upon tariff codes or standards for measuring the global flows of e-waste. Josh Lepawski, a geography professor at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland, says, looking at material flows of waste is a good way to study necessary material geographies.

2. SFU's New Faculty of Environment

http://www.sfu.ca/pamr/media_releases/media_releases_archives/media_03310901.html

Spring has arrived and so has SFU's newest faculty, the Faculty of Environment, which officially launches April 1. The university's green faculty encompasses the School of Resource and Environmental Management, the department of geography, the Environmental Science program, the Centre for Sustainable Community Development and the Graduate Certificate in Development Studies. John Pierce, dean pro tem, says the new faculty will build on the environmental expertise it's founding units and add to that expertise from other areas of the university to enrich programming and research opportunities.

3. BSc Honours Available at University of the Fraser Valley

[http://www.ufv.ca/geography/Programs/BSc Program in Geography/BSc Honours Requirements.htm](http://www.ufv.ca/geography/Programs/BSc_Program_in_Geography/BSc_Honours_Requirements.htm)

The Department of Geography at the University of the Fraser Valley is now awarding an Honours Major in the BSc in Geography. This complements the already existing Honours Major in the BA. You can also now get an Extended Studies Certificate in Science in Major, Honours Major and Minor flavours.

4. St. Mary's University Introduces New Lower-Level Courses

<http://www.smu.ca/academic/arts/geography/documents/NewGeographyCourses2009-2010Information>

In the Fall Term of 2009, the Department of Geography at St. Mary's University is introducing a group of four new lower-level courses: GEOG 1200.1(.2) People, Place, and Environment; GEOG 1100.1(.2) Global Perspect. on Land and Life; GEOG 2100.1(.2) Fundamentals of Physical Geography; and, GEOG 2200.1(.2) Fundamentals of Human Geography.

5. Professor Noggin's Geography of Canada

[http://www.grandrivertoys.com/Pages/products/Professor Noggins Geography of Canada.htm](http://www.grandrivertoys.com/Pages/products/Professor_Noggins_Geography_of_Canada.htm)

These beautifully illustrated cards of trivia will fascinate your [students] while encouraging them to learn about the provinces and territories, cities and natural wonders that make Canada great! They will love this card game with its thought-provoking questions that will help them learn in a fun and exciting way!

6. Memorial U Geography Class Investigates Campus Sustainability

<http://themuseonline.ca/site/?p=1539>

Kelly Vodden's Geography 2302 class investigated and assessed campus sustainability at Memorial University. The class was divided into 12 groups, with members of each group investigating different Campus Sustainability Assessment Framework (CSAF) indicators and the implications of their findings for sustainability on campus and beyond. The results were presented in the March 26th edition of the Memorial's Student Newspaper - *The Muse*.

7. Victoria Geographer Briony Penn Receives Spirit of the Cranes Award

http://www.bclocalnews.com/surrey_area/surreyleader/community/41605012.html

Nineteen women were honoured at the Burns Bog Conservation Society's eighth-annual Celebrating Women and the Spirit of the Cranes awards ceremony on Saturday, March 21 at the Pacific Inn Resort and Conference Centre. Dr. Briony Penn received a Gold Award in the Science & Technology field.

8. GPS Tracking for Snow Machines and Dogsleds

<http://www.insidegnss.com/node/1369>

Dr. Shari Gearheard, a geographer and research scientist with the National Snow and Ice Data Center at the University of Colorado at Boulder, has worked with Inuit hunters and elders documenting environmental change since 1999 at Clyde River (Kangiqtugaapik) — a community on the far northeastern coast of Baffin Island. Working with Carleton U's Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre, Drs. Claudio Aporta and Gearheard are designing and testing a new tool for Inuit hunters — one that combines the virtues of a personal digital assistant (PDA), weather station, camera, and a handheld GPS navigator.

9. McMaster Award Winner Credits Geography Co-Advisor Jim Smith

<http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/story.cfm?id=6047>

Kevin Mumford was recently recognized with a series of awards for his work in groundwater remediation.

Mumford's research is focused on identifying contaminants polluting groundwater and finding ways to address problems encountered. Mumford credits several people at McMaster for assisting him with his research, in particular his PhD co-advisors Sarah Dickson, assistant professor of civil engineering, and Jim Smith, associate professor in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences.

10. Brock Press Offers Reason for Majoring in Geography

<http://media.www.brockpress.com/media/storage/paper384/news/2009/03/17/Marginalia/Major.Problem>

Whether you're a naive first year or a seasoned fourth-year veteran, we all have the same thing in common; we have no idea what the hell we're going to do with our lives. "At least [if you major in Geography] you'll know how to use the GPS in the taxi that you'll have to drive for people with better jobs."

11. U Calgary Geography's Foothills Climate Array

<http://www.geog.ucalgary.ca/index.cfm?page=thisresearch&this=17>

A longterm observational study is now underway in the southern Alberta foothills, with 320 backcountry weather stations in place. The observational grid covers an area of ca. 200 km by 120 km, extending from the continental divide to the agricultural lands east of Calgary. The primary objective is to characterize the spatial-temporal patterns of meteorological variability and to develop physically-based models of the controls of topography and surface environment on surface weather patterns.

12. Concordia Master's Student Maps Montreal's Music Scene

http://cjournal.concordia.ca/archives/20090115/mapping_montreals_music_scene_just_how_different

When most people go out to hear music in Montreal, they might bring along comfy shoes or a friend. Geography, Planning and Environment master's student Thomas Cummins-Russell might bring a map. The 24-year old is examining the social networks underpinning the economic interaction between the many facets of the Montreal music industry in relation to the unique characteristics of the city. His goal is to give an accurate geographic depiction of how Montreal sets itself apart from other cities.

13. University of Toronto's New Undergraduate Geography Program

<http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/programs/geog-under/current/GGR-Courses-09-10.pdf>

In 2009-2010 the Department of Geography & Planning at the University of Toronto introduced a new geography undergraduate program. Details of the program are available by downloading the 2009-10 U of T Calendar entry.

14. Geographer of the Week: Kyle Hodder, University of Regina

<http://www.arts.uregina.ca/kyle-hodder>

Kyle Hodder is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Regina. His teaching responsibilities include undergraduate courses in Field Research Techniques, Physical Geography, Geomorphology, Hydrology, Pedology, Surface Waters and Earth System Science. Kyle's research aims to improve our understanding of this network of processes, particularly those that transfer environmental signals through rivers to the sediments of floodplains and lakes. This research has taken him into the Canadian Prairies, the Canadian Cordillera, southern Ontario, Greenland and the Venezuelan Andes.

15. Other "Geographical" News

Waterloo Plans School of Environment, Enterprise and Development

<http://www.bulletin.uwaterloo.ca/2009/mar/30mo.html>

Last week, the University of Waterloo's senate endorsed a new School of Environment, Enterprise and Development. SEED would provide a home for the environment faculty's biggest undergraduate program, environment and business, as well as new undergraduate and graduate programs. It would also feature an Environmental Training Institute to operate non-degree programs.

Kluane Lake Research Station Awarded \$3.4 Million for Upgrade

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/news/march2009/kluane-lake>

The University of Calgary's Arctic Institute of North America has been awarded \$3.4 million to upgrade its Kluane Lake Research Station (KLRS) as part of the federal government's plan to invest in key northern research facilities. The announcement allow the Arctic Institute to rebuild its 50-year-old research facility which is located in the southwestern Yukon.

New Theory on Largest Known Mass Extinction in Earth's History

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/03/090330102659.htm>

The largest mass extinction in the history of the earth could have been triggered off by giant salt lakes, whose emissions of halogenated gases changed the atmospheric composition so dramatically that vegetation was irretrievably damaged.

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