



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. UT's Larry Bourne on \$65M Toronto PATH Tunnels

<http://network.nationalpost.com/np/blogs/toronto/archive/2009/06/08/65m-path-expansion-raises->

Commuters pour off Toronto's subways, GO trains and buses. It's shortly after 8 a.m. and the sidewalks aren't wide enough to support the crush of commuters during peak hours, so when many commuters stay deep underground in the 27-kilometre maze of tunnels known as the PATH. The city has plans to ease this commuter congestion by extending the PATH from Union Station under York Street to Wellington Street. As the PATH continues its slow expansion, Larry Bourne, a University of Toronto geography professor and Cities Centre interim director, said the city needs to find a balance between future development below ground and vibrancy on downtown streets.

2. Brock U Geographer Chris Fullerton Sees St. Catharines in a New Way

<http://media.www.brockpress.com/media/storage/paper384/news/2009/06/09/News/A.New.Way.Tc>

St. Catharines is in transition - though some believe the perception residents have of the city will be hard to change. Brock University Geography professor Chris Fullerton believes that many residents, as well as out-of-towners, view the downtown core of the city in a negative way - riddled with crime and deteriorated, vacant buildings, as well as populated by intoxicated students in the evening - yet,

he assures that these concerns are not far off of the concerns of other communities. He also adds that this perception is more than likely based on old information from residents and others who have not visited the downtown in some time.

3. UVic's Jutta Gutberlet on Binnars Need for Shop for Cart Repairs

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/Binnars+seek+shop+cart+repairs/1677346/story.html>

Binnars and their supporters want to see a downtown bike and cart repair shop where they could fix the equipment that enables them to scavenge a living from discarded bottles and cans. Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group and the Committee to End Homelessness in Victoria are looking for funding to open a shop where it would also be possible to convert donated shopping buggies into special carts for binnars. No premises have been identified and about \$20,000 is needed for seed money, said Jutta Gutberlet, an Associate Professor in the Geography Department at the University of Victoria.

4. UBC Geography Graduate Philip Harbut Frogbox's Environmental Calculator

<http://www.vancouversun.com/Technology/Vancouver+friendly+FrogBox+fish+EPIC+pond/15813>

Frogbox was started after Doug Burgoyne thought it was a waste to use cardboard every time he had to move. The company delivers plastic green tote boxes to customers in Vancouver who use them as an alternative to cardboard boxes. Frogbox then picks up the totes when the customer is finished moving. Frogbox's general manager Philip Harbut, a recent graduate of the geography department at the University of B.C., is Frogbox's environmental calculator. Harbut considers the environmental impact of everything the company does and just completed a life-cycle assessment of corrugated cardboard vs. high-density polyethylene (used to make the totes). He figures, when factoring in manufacturing and recycling emissions, using a plastic box ten times makes up for using cardboard boxes.

5. University of Toronto's André Sorensen on the Wrong Track

<http://www.thestar.com/article/644565>

André Sorensen, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto, comments that "a crucial decision that will shape the growth of the Toronto region during the 21st century is about to be made. Metrolinx, the provincial agency charged with building public transport infrastructure of the Toronto region, has begun the environmental assessment process for the "Georgetown South Service Expansion and Union-Pearson Rail Link." The problem is that in the rush to get shovels into the ground, transit along the corridor is being divided into three separate projects, while a single solution that would be less expensive, more environmentally friendly and provide a vastly higher level of service is being ignored.

6. UWO Geography Launches "The Thames River Watershed" Guide

http://geography.uwo.ca/Book%20Launch%20Invite%20June%202009_email.pdf

The UWO Geography Department is launching the "*Thames River Watershed: A Heritage Landscape Guide*" started by the late Dr. Michael Troughton et.al. The guidebook was completed by Cathy Quinlan and an RSVP reception is planned for Grosvenor Lodge on Monday, June 29, 2009, 1600-1730 hrs.

7. McMaster Graduate Students Seek Groundwater for Georgetown

<http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/story.cfm?id=6213>

It's difficult to pin down most graduates this time of year, but for Stacey Puckering and Jessica Slomka, who graduate from McMaster's School of Geography and Earth Science today, it's not celebrations that are keeping them busy. It's water. Both students work for Carolyn Eyles, professor in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, on the Halton Water Project, which aims to locate a new groundwater source for the growing urban regions of Georgetown.

8. Betsy Donald at Queen's University Comments on Creative Food Economy

http://correspondents.theatlantic.com/richard_florida/2009/06/the_creative_food_economy.php

In Richard Florida's recent column in *The Atlantic Online*, Betsy Donald an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, Queen's University comments: "The creative food economy has profound implications for sustainable economic development because place and providence become central to quality food making, marketing and lifestyle. Food, unlike any other commodity on the planet, is intimate: we eat it and therefore how we eat it has implications for a host of policy related issues around job creation, health, hunger, ecosystem protection, carbon footprint, labor practices, cultural awareness and diversity."

9. In Toronto, Freedom for Women Came with Apartments

<http://www.thestar.com/living/article/647474>

They were called "women adrift." Single females, often from rural and small-town Ontario, who came to Toronto without any family in the early 20th century. They came to work in the bustling city's offices, shops, schools and hospitals. And their choice of abode – apartments – helped shape prudish Toronto's urban landscape and lay a cornerstone for women's social and economic independence, according to historical geographer Richard Dennis who teaches at University College London.

10. Concordia Geographer Joins Call for Limits on Carbon Dioxide Emissions

<http://www.vancouversun.com/Technology/Scientists+urge+limits+carbon+dioxide+emissions/1>

A group of international climate scientists, including three Canadians, is calling on governments worldwide to agree before the end of the year on limits for total carbon dioxide emissions to avoid catastrophic climate change. "So far we've done hardly anything, so we need to get going on the issue and quickly," said Damon Matthews, a signatory of the letter and professor in Concordia University's Department of Geography, Planning and the Environment in Montreal. "We need an agreement in December that results in near-term emissions reductions," he added, noting a reduction of emissions by 20 to 50 per cent within the next 20 years would be "a good start."

11. Mount Allison Student Looks for Cancer in the Woods (Tree Rings)

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/magazine/jun09/insidestory.asp>

Nicole d'Entremont, a recent graduate at Mount Allison University, in Sackville, N.B., is studying tree rings in the Department of Geography and Environment to determine whether the region's trees also show cancerlike symptoms — such as an increased replication of cells — given that they are exposed to the same environmental conditions as humans. With funding from The Royal Canadian Geographical Society, d'Entremont ventured into the woods of Pictou County last summer to extract core samples from trees at various distances from the factories. She then applied a process called flow cytometry, typically used in oncology, but rarely applied to plants.

12. U of L Geography Professor Derek Preddle Hosts CRSS Conference

<http://www.uleth.ca/notice/display.html?b=300&s=12294>

The U of L is the site for the 30th Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing. Conference Chair, Canadian Remote Sensing Society (CRSS) President and U of L Geography Professor Dr. Derek Peddle said more than 200 researchers, industry representatives and students are attending from Canada, the U.S., Europe and elsewhere, including a delegation from NASA, the Canadian Space Agency, National Award Recipients, and editors of the leading international remote sensing journals and publications. "This will put Lethbridge on the map again, and in more ways than one," Peddle said.

13. Mount Allison Study Sounds Warning About Future of Sugar Maple Tree

<http://telegraphjournal.canadaeast.com/search/article/693447>

A new study shows New Brunswick's sugar maples face a difficult future because of climate change, leading to a potentially sticky situation for the province's syrup producers. Mount Allison University Masters student Ben Phillips, working with researchers from the Mount Allison Dendrochronology Laboratory in the Department of Geography and Environment found that sugar maples should perform well over the next 10 to 15 years. However, the tree may face substantial stress in 20 to 25 years.

14. Geographer of the Week: Jeffrey Masuda, University of Manitoba

<http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/environment/departments/geography/staff/547.htm>

Dr. Jeffrey Masuda is joining the Department of Environment and Geography in the summer of 2009 following the completion postdoctoral fellowships at McMaster University, UBC, and the University of Toronto. Jeffrey completed his MSc in Health Promotion Studies and a PhD in Human Geography at the University of Alberta. His program of research is primarily focused on developing innovative methodologies that incorporate art, technology, and dialogue to uncover deeply entrenched inequities within environmental governance structures and working at individual, community, and policy levels to overcome them. Dr. Masuda is co-founding organizer of the Canadian Network on Environment, Health, and Social Equity, and Co-Deputy Director of the Research Interest Group on Environmental Health Justice in the City.

15. Other "Geographical" News

Canada Enlarges Nahanni National Park Sixfold

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/jun2009/2009-06-09-02.asp>

Conservationists are celebrating the announcement today by Canadian Environment Minister Jim Prentice and DehCho First Nations Grand Chief Gerald Antoine of the final boundaries for the expanded Nahanni National Park Reserve in the Northwest Territories, an ecological treasure of global significance. The massive expansion increases the size of the park reserve by over six times. The world famous park reserve is now nearly seven times the size of the original one established in 1972 and more than three times larger than Yellowstone National Park in the United States.

Arctic Caribou/Reindeer Numbers Show Dramatic Decline

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/06/090611111008.htm>

Caribou and reindeer numbers worldwide have plunged almost 60% in the last three decades. The dramatic revelation came out of the first ever comprehensive census analysis of this iconic species carried out by biologists at the University of Alberta. The dramatic changes caused by global warming that happen in the Arctic and which impact on the herds include; earlier spring green ups that now occur before migrating herds arrive north and which deprive mothers and calves of quality feeding;

warmer summers that cause more intense insect activity harassing animals and affecting their feeding; the impact of more freezing rain during winter on the lichens that animals feed on during the colder months.

NSERC Introduces a New Intellectual Property Policy

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/policies-politiques/ip-pi_eng.asp

NSERC's Intellectual Property (IP) Policy has been revised to allow for more flexible access to IP developed as a result of NSERC funding, while at the same time ensuring that the rights of all participants are protected. It is the responsibility of the institution and supervising researcher to ensure that all students, post doctoral fellows and other research personnel involved in a research project are fully informed as to their obligations and rights within the project.

No Money for Peeling Peggys Cove Lighthouse, says DFO

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/nova-scotia/story/2009/06/11/novascotia-peggys-cove.html?ref=rss>

An iconic image of Canada's East Coast is crumbling — and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans said it cannot afford \$25,000 for a makeover. The paint is peeling off the lighthouse at Peggys Cove, near Halifax. In addition to the rust stains and crumbling concrete, the beloved 15-metre structure is losing its lustre. Peggys Cove is one of Nova Scotia's top tourist draws, attracting hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

Earth Science Literacy Initiative

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

The Earth Science Literacy Initiative (ESLI), funded by the National Science Foundation, has gathered and codified the underlying understandings of Earth sciences into a succinct document that will have broad-reaching applications in both public and private arenas. The primary outcome of the Earth Science Literacy Initiative is a community-based document that clearly and succinctly states the underlying principles and ideas of Earth science across a wide variety of research fields.

16. Some not so “Geographical” News

Whisky Makers Lose Bid to Ban Cape Breton 'Glen'

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/nova-scotia/story/2009/06/11/novascotia-glenora-scotch.html?ref=rss>

The Scotch Whisky Association has lost its fight to stop a small Nova Scotia distillery from incorporating the word "Glen" into the name of its single malt whisky. The association, which zealously guards the name scotch as applying only to whisky made in Scotland, argued that use of the name Glen Breton could confuse consumers. Glenora Distillers International Ltd., is Canada's only single malt whisky distillery and is based in Glenville, N.S.

Trend in US Universities Creating Signature Scents

<https://masik.com/universities/>

A number of American universities have developed or are interested in developing their own fragrances. Last August, Pennsylvania State University launched its exclusive women's perfume and men's cologne, which contain notes reminiscent of the school's colours and landscape. The University of North Carolina--Chapel Hill's scent was designed to embody the campus' old southern charm. The

scents are created by Masik Collegiate Fragrances, which is currently working on scents for 5 other universities. A portion of each bottle sold goes to the clients' scholarship and athletic funds.

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