



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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### 1. UBC Okanagan Social Geographer Carlos Teixeira on Rental Statistics

[http://www.bclocalnews.com/okanagan\\_similkameen/pentictonwesternnews/news/48196477.html](http://www.bclocalnews.com/okanagan_similkameen/pentictonwesternnews/news/48196477.html)

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation released its newest statistics on rental rates across the country, and it appears as though there's a lot more space freeing up in the Okanagan Valley. This is good news and I am not surprised," said UBC Okanagan social geographer Carlos Teixeira. In a period of economic crisis, more turn toward opening their properties to renters as a means to earn more money and that, he believes, is a trend that should be maintained even as conditions turn around.

### 2. York University Geographer Lucia Lo on Ethnic Economics of Malls

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/the-great-malls-of-china/article1188457/>

Relentless Chinese immigration to greater Toronto continues to propel Asian-focused commercial development forward, if a bit more slowly due to the economic downturn, as a steady stream of new arrivals vie for a Canadian foot-hold. "In Asia they really like malls, like North Americans used to do 30 or 40 years ago," said Lucia Lo, a York University geography professor who has studied Toronto's ethnic economies. "And I guess that trend sort of continued when they moved here; they still love the mall."

### 3. Dalhousie Health Geographer Trevor Dummer Monitors 300,000 Canadians

<http://timestranscript.canadaeast.com/newstoday/article/704680>

The Atlantic Partnership for Tomorrow's Health will follow the health of 30,000 Atlantic Canadians for 30 years to determine what role lifestyle, the environment and genetics play in the development of cancer. The data will offer strong clues as to why some people get cancer and others don't, how the environment affects the disease's prevalence, whether screening is effective and a host of other health mysteries. "You collect the information now, then we revisit them every three to five years," explains Dr. Trevor Dummer of Dalhousie University, a cancer researcher and health geographer who uses mapping and other geographic tools to understand the relationship between the environment and health.

#### **4. WLU Geographer's to Establish CALIBER with CFI Funding**

[http://www.wlu.ca/news\\_detail.php?grp\\_id=28&nws\\_id=5252&filter\\_type=release](http://www.wlu.ca/news_detail.php?grp_id=28&nws_id=5252&filter_type=release)

A grant of \$1,999,712 from CFI's New Initiatives Fund will be used to help establish the \$5-million Canadian Aquatic Laboratory for Interdisciplinary Boreal Ecosystem Research (CALIBER). Research through CALIBER will help to vastly improve our knowledge of, and ability to protect, freshwater resources in Canada's vast northern boreal areas. The laboratory will be used by researchers from the Laurier Institute for Water Science and the Cold Regions Research Centre. "The primary objective of CALIBER is to develop a new suite of predictive tools, urgently needed by user groups such as government agencies and local water boards, so that Canada's boreal freshwater resources can be sustainably managed and preserved for future generations," said Dr. Bill Quinton, associate professor in Laurier's geography and environmental studies department.

#### **5. Sarah Finkelstein at the UT Awarded a Connaught New Staff Matching Grant**

<http://www.geog.utoronto.ca/people/faculty/finkelstein/outline-sf>

Sarah Finkelstein, Department of Geography & Program in Planning at the University of Toronto has been awarded a Connaught New Staff Matching Grant of \$20,000 in support of her project entitled "Paleoclimate records from lake sediments in the Canadian high arctic". The purpose of this program is to help launch new, junior faculty and to increase their competitiveness for external funding. Awards are made on a competitive basis in accordance with the most exacting standard of peer review.

#### **6. UNBC Geographers Examine Implications of Melting Glaciers for Water Resources**

<http://northword.ca/june-2009/glacial-melts-chilling-implications-for-water-resources>

UNBC doctoral student Matt Beedle is examining glacial change in the Cariboo and northern Rockies. He is part of a larger group undertaking a five-year program throughout the province that looks at the glaciers' impacts on water resources. When the study wraps up next year, it's hoped that the research will provide a model for managing water resources in the future. The research piggybacks on the work of post-doctoral UNBC student Tobias Bolch, who recently produced the first detailed inventory of glaciers in BC and Alberta.

#### **7. Antoni Lewkowicz Appointed University of Ottawa Dean of the Faculty of Arts**

<http://www.geography.uottawa.ca/prof/alewkowicz.htm>

Antoni Lewkowicz will succeed George Lang as dean of the Faculty of Arts. He has been associated with the University for over 30 years, dating back to his days as a graduate student in geography (PhD 1981). An expert in Canadian permafrost, Dean Lewkowicz left the University of Toronto to pursue his career at the University of Ottawa where he held positions as the director of the department of geography (1994-2000) and vice-dean, research (2001-2005). In 2006, he was awarded Professor of the Year at the Faculty of Arts for excellence in teaching, research and service to the university community.

#### **8. U Montréal Géographie, Paysages du Nouveau-Québec de 1974 à 1984**

[http://calypso.bib.umontreal.ca/cdm4/index\\_nquebec.php?CISOROOT=/nquebec](http://calypso.bib.umontreal.ca/cdm4/index_nquebec.php?CISOROOT=/nquebec)

Cette série d'images numériques est tirée de la collection de diapositives du professeur Camille Laverdière. Pour soutenir son enseignement au Département de géographie de l'Université de Montréal, M. Laverdière a réuni quelques milliers de diapositives prises lors de levés de terrain qu'il a effectués à titre de consultant pour le compte des Sociétés de développement (SDBJ) et d'énergie (SEBJ) de la baie de James. Cette collection de « paysages naturels » révèle comment s'est modelé le territoire québécois sous l'action des glaciers qui l'ont envahi et recouvert pendant des siècles. Ce sont des images précieuses qui témoignent d'un passé révolu. En effet, le visage du

Nouveau-Québec a été radicalement transformé par la construction et la mise en service des grands barrages hydro-électriques.

#### **9. U Manitoba's John Hanesiak Receives the Rh Award**

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/environment/departments/geography/staff/498.htm>

John Hanesiak, environment and geography, received the Rh Award from the Winnipeg Rh Institute Foundation for his studies into atmospheric science. With an expertise in surface-atmosphere interactions, storms, and extreme weather, Hanesiak's research examines how the atmosphere interacts with the Earth's surfaces, such as prairie landscapes, sea ice and ocean. The data garnered from these investigations help to better understand weather and climate processes with an ultimate goal of improving weather prediction as well as numerical models of the atmosphere and climate. John is currently co-lead of the Storm Studies in the Arctic Project, theme lead in the Drought Research Initiative project, theme lead in the Circumpolar Flaw-Lead system study, and theme lead in the Understanding Severe Thunderstorms and Alberta Boundary Layers Experiment.

#### **10. Geography Awareness Week is November 16-20, 2009**

[http://www.cag-acq.ca/en/news\\_index.html\\_geography-awareness-week-200.htm](http://www.cag-acq.ca/en/news_index.html_geography-awareness-week-200.htm)

The year 2009 marks the third year that theme days have been the core of Geography Awareness Week in Canada, and Barry Wellar says that the unique Canadian approach has been a major success. This year five topics that are of national interest to Canadians from coast-to-coast have been identified: weather and climate, the need for water, the need for energy, the need for transportation, and the need for food and health services. Geography Awareness Week also features an Applied Geography Showcase and a Geoskills Showcase, which are innovative ways to make connections with GIS Day.

#### **11. Human Geography at the University of Alberta**

<http://hq.eas.ualberta.ca/index.html>

The Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (Faculty of Science) offers both a BA major and minor in Human Geography, as well as an Arts minor for the BSc General Program. Human geography is a branch of social science that focuses on the relationships between human societies and the built and natural environments in which they operate. Human geographers believe that understanding these relationships requires being attentive to the location, space and scale of social phenomena.

#### **12. Teach Canadian Geography Before Canadian History Says Gary Whiteford**

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/letters-to-the-editor/what-a-bout-geography/article1188500/>

Writing in response to the authors of Canada is Failing History in the June 17, 2009, issue of the Globe and Mail, retired geography professor Gary T. Whitefield notes: "Canadian history has no meaning unless it is supported by Canadian geography. There is a strong need to supply maps and at least outline the Canadian landscape, or the history will be taught in a huge vacuum. Indeed, there could very well be a much stronger case for teaching Canadian geography before Canadian history, and a compelling case for teaching them together."

#### **13. U Calgary's Byron Miller Says Calgary City Plan Timid and Too Late**

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/fp/Supporters+laud+Calgary+Plan+opponents+have/1727083/story.htm>

Supporters of Plan It--perhaps the most crucial planning document in Calgary history--spoke eloquently about the need to create a more compact and less car-dependent city as envisioned in Plan It, which sets out how the city should develop over the next 50 to 60 years. Calgary urban geographer Byron Miller, bluntly told council that Plan It is too timid, and that by the time its vision is realized, it will be too late.

#### **14. UNBC's Courtney LeBourdais Awarded a SSHRC Graduate Scholarship**

[http://www.unbc.ca/geography/whats\\_new/graduate\\_and\\_undergraduate\\_student\\_news.html](http://www.unbc.ca/geography/whats_new/graduate_and_undergraduate_student_news.html)

Courtney LeBourdais (UNBC MA NRES-Geography, Supervisor: Dr. C. Nolin) was awarded a SSHRC Master's Graduate Scholarship. Courtney's project Marriage Migration in Northern British Columbia: Place and Identity among

Foreign Brides will explore the settlement and integration experiences of women who have immigrated to communities in northern British Columbia for the purpose of marriage through international correspondence agencies.

#### **15. UWO Geography Introduces a Major in Physical Geography**

[http://communications.uwo.ca/com/western\\_news/stories/senate\\_briefs\\_20090622444499/](http://communications.uwo.ca/com/western_news/stories/senate_briefs_20090622444499/)

A Major in Physical Geography, leading to a BA or BSc degree, will be introduced in the Faculty of Social Science this September. The new major provides a concentration in physical geography, which deals with the physical and biological science components of the discipline, such as climatology, geomorphology and biogeography.

#### **16. UNBC Geograhly Program, May 2009 Convocation Photos**

[http://www.unbc.ca/geography/whats\\_new/2009\\_convocation\\_photos.html](http://www.unbc.ca/geography/whats_new/2009_convocation_photos.html)

#### **17. Geographer of the Week: Jonathan Hughes, University of the Fraser Valley**

[http://www.ufv.ca/geography/Faculty\\_and\\_Staff/Faculty\\_Members/Jonathan\\_Hughes\\_Home\\_Page.htm](http://www.ufv.ca/geography/Faculty_and_Staff/Faculty_Members/Jonathan_Hughes_Home_Page.htm)

Dr. Jonathan Hughes is a faculty member in the Department of Geography at the University of the Fraser Valley. He completed his BS at the University of the South (Sewanee, Tennessee) in Forestry and Geology, then moved to the University of Wyoming to undertake an MS in Botany. Following this Jonathan completed his PhD in Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University and then joined the University of Washington as a Mendenhall Postdoctoral Fellow. Most of his research has focused on wetland environments as recorders of late Holocene earthquakes in Cascadia. To quantify hydrological change accompanying these earthquakes he uses pollen and plant macrofossil assemblages to detect of abrupt, hydrological change that may have accompanied the earthquakes.

#### **18. Other "Geographical" News**

##### **Tours Bring Kingston's Social History to Life**

[http://qnc.queensu.ca/campusnews\\_article\\_loader.php?id=4a39059924b03](http://qnc.queensu.ca/campusnews_article_loader.php?id=4a39059924b03)

Kingston residents and visitors can discover the city in a new and innovative way this summer. The Stones Project, which was developed in partnership with Queen's University Archives will launch June 27. It presents the stories of unique Kingston experiences through a set of six interactive tours: The Chinese Experience in Kingston, 1875 to 1980; The Stories and Accomplishments of Some of Kingston's Early Black Citizens, 1780 to 1950; The Gay and Lesbian History of Kingston, 1940 to 2000; The Jewish History of Kingston; Kingston: Canada's Penitentiary City; and, History of "La francophonie" in Kingston. The tours are also available as audio files, which can be downloaded and enhanced with photographs transferable to cell phone or portable audio and video players.

##### **Mercury in Mackenzie River Delta Dramatically Higher than Previously Believed**

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2009-06/uoa-mim061609.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-06/uoa-mim061609.php)

University of Alberta researchers conducting a water study in the Mackenzie River Delta have found a dramatically higher delivery of mercury from the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean than determined in previous studies. Researcher Jennifer Graydon analyzed water in the Mackenzie River as it flowed north into the Beaufort Sea. She collected samples for three months and discovered the total amount of mercury exported from the river during that three-month period was equal to an entire year's worth of mercury calculated in previous studies.

##### **Sediment Yields Climate Record for Past Half-Million Years**

[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2009-06/osu-syc061509.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2009-06/osu-syc061509.php)

Researchers here have used sediment from the deep ocean bottom to reconstruct a record of ancient climate that dates back more than the last half-million years. The record, trapped within the top 20 meters (65.6 feet) of a 400-meter (1,312-foot) sediment core drilled in 2005 in the North Atlantic Ocean by the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program, gives new information about the four glacial cycles that occurred during that period.

## 19. Some not so “Geographical” News

### Newfoundland Police Track 200 Cold Cases ... of Beer

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2009/06/23/beer-theft-newfoundland-623.html?ref=rss>

Police are trying to crack open a mysterious case in Baie Verte, N.L. The RCMP say someone broke into the local Molson distributor and took more than \$4,000 worth of beer Monday night. And they say it shouldn't be hard to find witnesses. Police said the getaway vehicle, loaded down with 200 cases of beer, should have been obvious to anyone who saw it travelling down the community's main street.

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