



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Release of the weekly GeogNews Digest will be suspended until I return to Victoria following a month or so of fieldwork in the Coast Mountains. Over this interval subscribers to 'caglist', the CAG mailserver, will continue to be able to post and receive messages.

Dan

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1. UBC's Daniel Hiebert Recommends Funding for Settlement Programs

<http://www.vancouver.sun.com/Travel/Column+wealthy+immigrants+really+contribute+more/1729514/story.html>

Because immigrants to Vancouver who lack proficiency in English suffer a long-lasting income penalty, more funding for settlement programs that emphasize language skills is needed to speed their integration into the economic mainstream. That's the principal recommendation of a study, *The Economic Integration of Immigrants in Metropolitan Vancouver*, by University of British Columbia geography professor Daniel Hiebert for the Institute for Research on Public Policy. Or at least Hiebert says that's the most important issue emerging from his analysis of the IMDB database that links immigrant landing information with their tax records.

2. Trent U's Miles Ecclestone Honoured Staff Award of Excellence

<http://www.trentu.ca/newsDetails.aspx?Channel=%2fChannels%2fAdmissions+Content&WorkflowItemID=6616A5CE-B742-46DD-9>

Miles Ecclestone, a senior technician and demonstrator with the Geography Department and a Trent alumnus, was honoured as the inaugural recipient of the Nancy E. Simmons Smith Staff Award of Excellence. Mr. Ecclestone's nominators were effusive in their praise of his personal qualities that have enriched the learning experience of countless Trent students over his 30 years of service. At the University, Mr. Ecclestone has played a key role in many courses and has been involved in a number of field trips to exotic locales. He also lent his support to Professor Peter Adams' research on glaciology on Axel Heiberg Island over the last 25 years.

3. UBC Geography Professor Emeritus Michael Church to Receive the Massey Medal

<http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/ubcthisweek/2009/09jun25.html?src=rss#1>

Prof. Emeritus Michael Church, Dept. of Geography is to receive the Massey Medal of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) for 2009. Established in 1959 by the Massey Foundation, the Massey Medal is awarded annually by the RCGS to recognize outstanding career achievement in the exploration and development of the geography of Canada. Church is the third member of the UBC Dept. of Geography to receive this recognition in the last decade.

4. Bruce Mitchell to Serve as Interim Provost at the University of Waterloo

<http://www.fes.uwaterloo.ca/geography/faculty/bmitchell.html>

Bruce Mitchell will serve as interim Vice-President, Academic & Provost for the months of July and August 2009. Mitchell an

award-winning professor in the department of geography and environmental management, is associate provost (academic and student affairs) and has also been serving as acting associate vice-president (international).

5. U Calgary's Shelley Alexander Says Coyotes not as Dangerous as Feared

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/Coyotes+dangerous+feared+Report/1733292/story.html>

If ever there was an animal in need of a better publicist, it'd be the wily coyote, who's vilified by farmers, feared by pet owners and sensationalized by the media. The coyote carries the image of the ultimate urban predator, an opportunistic scavenger who hunts in packs and takes down almost anything to quench its bloodthirst. But based on a 10-year study of coyotes in the Calgary area by Shelley Alexander an associate geography professor at the University of Calgary, that image isn't all that accurate. She found there have been only 24 reported incidents of coyotes attacking humans in urban areas in the past decade in Canada — or roughly two coyote attacks on humans in the country per year.

6. Carleton Arctic Researcher Chris Burn Urges Northerners to Show Up for Work

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2009/06/26/north-reliability.html#socialcomments>

People living in Canada's North have to improve their reliability as workers if they want to take full advantage of job opportunities in the region, a longtime Arctic researcher says. Chris Burn, a geography professor who holds an NSERC Northern Research Chair at Carleton University in Ottawa, said the North needs more "human capacity" in sectors such as mining and tourism. "In some positions, you find people saying, 'We can't get local, reliable assistance.' And that's a big problem," Burn told CBC News.

7. Lakehead's Rhonda Koster Keynote Speaker at International Lake Tourism Conference

<http://outdoorrec.lakeheadu.ca/index.php/?display=page&pageid=7>

Lakehead University and the Centre for Tourism and Community Development Research have joined forces to bring researchers from all over the world to Northwestern Ontario for the 4th International Lake Tourism Conference. From June 21 – 25, delegates from Canada, the U.S., Russia, New Zealand, South America, Africa, and Europe congregated to discuss wide-ranging topics including sustainable development, rural and community development tourism, tourism marketing, and building local capacity for indigenous tourism. Geographer Dr. Rhonda Koster of Lakehead University's School of Outdoor Recreation and Tourism presented a keynote address titled: *Across the prairie to the Shores of Gitchee Gumee: Reflections on a Decade of Engaging in Rural and Community Development Tourism*.

8. WLU's Laura Chasmer Awarded Best 2008 Ph.D. Thesis by CRSS

http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=1130&p=12430

Dr. Laura Chasmer, a PDF at Wilfrid Laurier University, has been awarded the Best 2008 Ph.D. Thesis Award from the Canadian Remote Sensing Society (CRSS). Dr. Chasmer was a co-recipient this year for her thesis completed at Queen's University entitled *Canopy structural and meteorological influences on CO2 exchange for MODIS product validation in a Boreal Jack Pine chronosequence*. The 2008 Best Thesis Award was announced and presented at the Gold Medal Awards Banquet on the evening of June 24th in Lethbridge during the 30th Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing.

9. U Calgary Unifies Arts and Social Science Faculties

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/news/june2009/unify-faculties>

On June 25 the University of Calgary Board of Governors voted to unify the faculties of communication and culture, fine arts, humanities and social sciences into a single faculty. The Department of Geography, presently a unit in the Faculty of Social Sciences, become a member of the new faculty. A transition process will begin July 1 and the new faculty will launch April 1, 2010. The new structure will bring the U of C in line with other G13 universities, the majority of which have two or fewer arts and social science-type faculties.

10. Geographer of the Week: Greg McDermind, University of Calgary

<http://www.geog.ucalgary.ca/index.cfm?page=people&style=2&this=1>

Greg is a remote sensing scientist who joined the department in January, 2005. He has studied at the University of Calgary (B.Sc., 1991; M.Sc. 1993) and the University of Waterloo (Ph.D., 2005) in areas of physical geography, GIS, and environmental remote sensing. Greg's research activities revolve around environmental modelling and monitoring using remote sensing and geographic information systems. He is a principal investigator in the Foothills Model Forest Grizzly Bear Research Program, where he works on the application of remote sensing and other geospatial tools for large-area, multi-jurisdictional resource management.

11. Other "Geographical" News

Women in Agriculture: In the USA, One in Every 10 Farms Run by a Woman

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/story/2009/06/27/ST2009062702959.html>

According to the 2007 U.S. Census of Agriculture released this year, more than one in every 10 U.S. farms is run by a woman. Women say they are drawn to farming for a number of reasons. Many like the independence and flexibility that comes with running a farm. Many younger women choose farming to do something positive for the environment by employing sustainable farming techniques, said Amy Trauger, an assistant professor of geography at the University of Georgia who has studied women in agriculture.

1946 Earthquake Takes Devastating Path Across Vancouver Island

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/Week+History+1946+earthquake+takes+devastating+path+across+Island/1741170/story.html>

The largest onshore earthquake in Canadian history happened on Vancouver Island this week 63 years ago, causing significant damage and leaving people rattled. On Sunday, June 23, 1946, at 10:15 a.m., an earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale struck central Vancouver Island. It was so powerful that it was felt as far north as Prince Rupert, as far east as the British Columbia-Alberta border and as far south as Portland, Ore. Despite widespread destruction, only two people were reported to have died as a result of the earthquake. Experts predict that the West Coast is due for another massive earthquake similar to, or perhaps worse than, the one in 1946 any time and that this one could alter the geography of Vancouver Island significantly.

19. Some not so “Geographical” News**Canada's more than double-doubles and doughnuts**

<http://www.vancouversun.com/Canada+more+than+double+doubles+doughnuts/1727626/story.html>

At the opening of the session on identity and history, the ambassador of Canada was asked to say a few words about Canada. His Canada, it appears, is a Hockey Dad munching a pastry and sipping coffee in the stands on a Saturday morning. It might have been funny had it not been embarrassing. His Excellency was earnest, congenial and fairly clueless about how to present Canada, beyond a cliché.

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