



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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 Compiled by Dan Smith cag@geog.uvic.ca

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1. Google Earth ABCs of Canada

http://www.ctv.ca/gallery/html/earth_alphabet_20090721/photo_0.html

2. UNBC PDF Sonia Wesche Wins Prize at ICCH 2009

<http://www.icch2009.com/>

UNBC postdoctoral fellow Sonia Wesche (ABD, Geography - Resource & Environmental Management, Wilfrid Laurier University) recently took home second prize for her poster presentation at the International Congress on Circumpolar Health held in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, 11-16 July 2009. Sonia's postdoctoral position is based with UNBC's Dr. Laurie Chan, BC Leadership Chair in Aboriginal Environmental Health.

3. UBC's Mike Church Rafts Down British Columbia's Fraser River

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/magazine/ja09/insidestory.asp>

This fall, Michael Church will load up a raft with scientific instruments and ride down British Columbia's Fraser River from Quesnel, through treacherous canyons, to Vancouver. His goal? To know how much gravel can be removed sustainably, explains Church, you must first figure out how much is being deposited in the waterway. "This is known for very few reaches of very few rivers in the world," says the fluvial

geomorphologist — a specialist in how rivers and streams shape the landscape — and professor emeritus in the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia.

4. U Toronto's Kathi Wilson on Stress and Illness Associated with Joblessness

<http://www.thestar.com/living/article/675622>

According to a new Canadian study, underemployment and unemployment can be particularly detrimental to the mental and physical well-being of highly educated, skilled immigrants. The effects are compounded by the stress of the migration and the settlement process, when immigrants are struggling to adjust in a new culture and in some cases are separated from their families who remain at home waiting to be sponsored. "They have little social support from family members and lack strong social networks in Canada to help them overcome the effects of their employment circumstances," said University of Toronto health geographer Kathi Wilson.

5. U Lethbridge's Chris Hugenholtz Receives 2009 Alberta Ingenuity Award

http://directory.uleth.ca/users/chris.hugenholtz?no_headers=1

Chris Hugenholtz, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge, has received an Alberta Ingenuity Fund 2009 New Faculty Award. Valued at up to \$100,000 a year for three years, Chris will be focusing his investigations on biophysical processes that sustain wind erosion and active sand dune habitat in prairie sandhill ecosystems. Chris is a geomorphologist with a broad background in wind erosion, permafrost, geophysics, mass movements and sedimentology/stratigraphy. He received an MSc at the University of Ottawa in Physical Geography and then went to the University of Calgary where he completed a PhD (2006) as a Killam scholar.

6. Thames River Watershed Book Started by UWO's Michael Troughton Launched

<http://lfpres.ca/newsstand/News/Local/2009/08/05/10365236-sun.html>

The Thames River Watershed is a guidebook full of maps, colour photographs and text on the history, geography, recreation and natural highlights of the river, from the sources of its two branches to its mouth at the St. Clair River. The book was started by University of Western Ontario geographer Michael Troughton. Born in England, Troughton moved to Canada in 1962 and fell in love with the towns, farms, buildings and waterways of Southwestern Ontario. He died in 2007 at age 67. His manuscript was complete, but missing the maps, photos and organization a guidebook needs. A team of volunteer helpers and a professional editor and graphic designer gathered the missing material and organized the finished product.

7. U Manitoba's Stéphane McLachlan Leads Study of Chronic Wasting Disease

<http://myuminfo.umanitoba.ca/Documents/2790/July%2030%202009%20U%20of%20M%20Bulletin.pdf>

Stéphane McLachlan, associate professor in the Department of Environment and Geography at the University of Manitoba, is leading a first-of-its-kind study into how people are affected by chronic wasting disease (CWD), a highly-contagious, environmentally-transmitted prion disease found in wild animals. CWD has not been shown to transmit from animals to humans. However, the World Health Organization recommends that no one knowingly consume any food containing CWD. "Regardless, CWD has serious socioeconomic implications for hunters, for those in the tourism and nature industries, and especially for Aboriginal communities," said McLachlan. This multidisciplinary project involves social scientists, wildlife biologists, and veterinarians from the Universities of Manitoba and Calgary, and will work in close partnership with Aboriginal communities (page 11).

8. Orillia Campus Lakehead U's Mary Thornbush Investigates Lake Simcoe Health

<http://communications.lakeheadu.ca/news/?display=news&nid=618>

Dr. Mary Thornbush, (Interdisciplinary Studies/Geography, Orillia campus, Lakehead University), is a

co-investigator on a research project to be funded \$165,000 over the next two years by Environment Canada and its Lake Simcoe Clean-Up Fund (LSCUF) to study the role of wetlands as a nutrient buffer. Mary will be focusing her study on Mill Creek and Victoria Point wetlands in Orillia, Ontario. The study will involve the collection and analysis of both water and sediment samples, in addition to plant and invertebrate species from different localities of these wetlands for a period of two years starting from this fall. In selected areas of the wetlands, wild rice seeding experiments will be carried out to test their growth-induced nutrient reduction in the water column and sediment.

9. Geographer Douglas Clark U of S Chair in Environment and Sustainability

http://announcements.usask.ca/news/archive/2009/08/u_of_s_appoints_4.html

Human dimensions of environmental changes will be addressed with the appointment of Douglas A. Clark, renowned conservation policy scientist, as Centennial Chair in the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan. The Centennial Chair, a five-year appointment effective August 1, 2009, will provide leadership and vision in establishing an interdisciplinary research program and promote excellence in graduate student training. Clark earned a PhD in geography and environmental studies from Wilfrid Laurier University. Since 2007, Clark has served as a scholar-in-residence at Yukon College, building the college's research capacity and providing strategic advice on a new undergraduate environmental studies program.

10. York U's Kathy Young Hosts "Floating" Conference of Arctic Scientists

<http://www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=13033>

York University geography professor Kathy Young is host 60 scientists on a sailing expedition up the east coast of Baffin Island. For six days in mid-August aboard the Lyubov Orlova, a renovated Russian passenger ship operated by Inuit-owned Cruise North, leading Arctic hydrologists, oceanographers and climatologists from every circumpolar nation will share their latest research with each other – and with northern communities – as participants in the 17th International Northern Research Basins (NRB) Symposium & Workshop. In four packed days, they will deliver 50 papers, addressing the theme of managing hydrological uncertainty in high-latitude environments, a reference to the challenge of understanding the impact of global warming on Arctic water systems.

11. Geographer Warren Bland Says Canada Leading Curve For Senior-Friendly Cities

<http://blogs.csun.edu/news/clips/2009/07/28/geography-professor-warren-bland-says-canada-leading-t>

In his book, *Retire in Style*, Warren Bland, a geography professor at California State University, Northridge, found many Canadian cities to be already excellent places for older people to live. His book ranked 60 Canadian and American cities according to criteria such as climate, transportation, cost of living and cultural activities. Victoria, B.C., topped the list, while London, Ont., clocked in at No. 2, tied with Boulder, Colo., and Portland, Ore.

12. University of Toronto Mississauga Weather Station

<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/?id=7119>

The University of Toronto Mississauga Meteorological Station The UTMMS is a on-campus weather station operated by the Department of Geography for over 30 years. It was originally set up in response to the needs of geography undergraduates looking for weather data to analyze for course assignments. The station has been managed by Ken Turner since 1975. UTMMS is located in the field originally described in the records of the UTM property as a walnut orchard. Though a few of the walnut trees are still standing, the site is now mainly a quiet meadow surrounded by mature pine and oak trees

13. Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences Newsletter

<http://www.geoscience.ca/news.html>

The first newsletter of the Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences (CFES) is available on the CFES website. Items include news on: first mentorship award recipient, the Where challenge winners, 'earth scientists needed more than ever' and mentorship award recipient. CFES/FCST, established in 2006 as the successor to the Canadian Geoscience Council, brings together 13 affiliated member societies of earth scientists in industry, government and Academia. The CAG is an active CFES participant.

14. Geographer of the Week: James Ford, McGill University

<http://www.arctic-north.com/JamesPersonalWebsite/>

Dr. James Ford is a CIHR Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Geography at McGill University. Prior to this James held a SSHRC Postdoctoral fellow in the McGill geography department, completed his PhD in geography at the University of Guelph, an MSc in Environmental Change and Management at the University of Oxford, and a BA in Geography at the University of Oxford. His research is largely concerned with the integration of social, physical, and health sciences, and local / indigenous knowledge in climate change vulnerability & adaptation research. Namely: Conceptual and methodological approaches to vulnerability assessment, cross scale determinants of vulnerability, community engagement to reduce vulnerability to climate change (Inuit focus), comparative analysis of vulnerability between regions, Northern geography, & Inuit health

15. Other “Geographical” News

BBC Films Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change Researcher in Nunavut

http://nsidc.org/pubs/notes/68/Notes_68_web.pdf

BBC filmmakers visited NSIDC scientist Shari Gearheard in June to film her research for a forthcoming nature documentary series. Gearheard lives and works in Nunavut, Canada, and studies Inuit knowledge and climate change in the Arctic. The BBC filmed Gearheard and Inuit hunters using snow machine-mounted interactive Global Positioning System (GPS) units to record observations and track trails routinely traveled by the Inuit community. Gearheard and the Inuit hunters developed the tracking units with geomatics engineers as part of the Igliniit Project (See:

<https://qcrc.carleton.ca/confluence/display/ISIUOP/Igliniit+Project>)

Quake, tsunami potential high on B.C. coast - study

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Quake+tsunami+potential+high+coast+study/1809488/story.html>

Scientists have underestimated the potential for a giant quake and tsunami that could swamp much the British Columbia coast. Geological evidence suggests there have been earthquakes in the past that were even stronger than a magnitude 9.2 quake — the second-biggest ever recorded — which caused a 12-metre-high tsunami in the Gulf of Alaska in 1964.

GEOcube

<http://www.geo-cube.eu/>

GEOcube is an online resource on geography covering almost every discipline of geography. GEOcube is based on the principle of Rubik's cube with 6 faces and 54 entrees to fields of geography. The GEOcube is a virtual and easy accessible feature and free online available. You can move GEOcube around with your mouse which enables you to choose one of the six subject-areas. After clicking on one side nine windows will unfold which enable you to go in deeper levels of the subject of your choice.

Ancient Roman City of Altinum Rises from Venice Lagoon

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-sci-ancient-rome1-2009aug01,0,5101657.story>

Aerial photographs taken during a drought have enabled researchers to produce the most detailed map ever of the ancient Roman city of Altinum, considered by some historians to be the ancestor of modern-day Venice. Creating this new map of one of the Roman Empire's great cities was possible because Altinum, unlike most ancient cities in Europe, was not built over by later generations. The severe drought of 2007, which dried up vegetation in the area, also made it easier for the visible-light and near-infrared cameras to reveal the structure of the city.

16. Some not so “Geographical” News

Results of Airline Wine Competition

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2009/08/prweb2695064.htm>

The results of the fifth annual Wines on the Wing Airline Wine Competition have been released. Airlines were required to submit five different wines. Air Canada was the big winner in the North American red wine category with its Tenuta Sant' Antonio Valpolicella 2005, Italy.

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