



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. UWO's Jinfei Wang Examines London's Urban Forests

Dr. Jinfei Wang of the University of Western Ontario geography department and graduate student Brad Lehrbass are examining the forest cover in London, Ontario. They are working with infrared photos to supplement traditional aerial photographs to develop a method for sorting the pixels in the photos into similar groups, to better distinguish trees from grass or buildings. The infrared mapping system will be combined with the Urban Forest Effects Model developed by the United States Department of Agriculture forest service to compile a detailed report on London's urban forest, including the number of trees, the main species, the leaf cover and the environmental benefits. [The London Free Press](#)

2. Doing Geography the Hmong Way - McGill's Sarah Turner

"Wow, China's big eh!?" Chi exclaims. I'm humbled as a geography professor (says Sarah Turner, McGill Department of Geography) to witness the excitement on this young Hmong woman's face when she sees for the very first time on a map where Vietnam is and how big China – 35km from where we're standing – is in comparison. When I talk with ethnic minority people in Vietnam and China I find that their livelihood decisions are not always those that outsiders think they would or should be, be it about rice supply choices, trade preferences, border-crossing decisions, or local environmental judgements. But once you talk to and understand these ethnic minorities as individuals, households and communities, you find that their choices are often entirely rational based on their own, culturally rooted understandings of what success and failure, and 'development' are. The challenge is to get these voices heard. [McGill Reporter](#)

3. Queen's Harry McCaughey Can Explain the Weird Weather this Summer

Queen's Professor Harry McCaughey can discuss climate models, and how a number of modelling studies have projected a general tendency for more intense but fewer storms outside the tropics, with a tendency towards more extreme wind events and higher ocean waves in several regions. He can explain how the warming atmosphere has more energy to dissipate and dissipation is usually achieved with storms and often with increased rainfall. He can also explain how we have a very uneven distribution of warming across the globe and how essentially, the warmer world will have a different set of established storm tracks and most likely fewer but more intense climatologies. [Queen's Campus News](#)

4. McGill's Margaret Kalacska on Technological Integration at Borders

In a recent study Margaret Kalacska, a geography professor in the Department of Geography at McGill University, examined the porosity of the Canada-U.S. border, focusing specifically on the areas between ports of entry because she suggests these areas facilitate criminal activities that endanger the national security and economies of both countries. As part of a broader strategy for improving Canada-U.S. border security, Dr. Kalacska recommend an integrated cooperative approach that makes use of technological tools, information and manpower as the best choices for mitigating the threats to security and economic growth. [Exchange Magazine](#)

5. University of Alberta Geoscience Garden

The Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta has developed a Geoscience Garden where students can learn some basic skills in preparation for field courses, and an exhibit in which members of the university community and the general public can learn about their geological heritage. The current site is a temporary one, which is being used to assemble large samples

and learn about how they can be placed and used. Eventually, it is planned that these stones will be installed south of the Earth Science Building, an area currently occupied by a construction site. [EAS Research](#)

6. U Saskatchewan Student Listens to the “Sound of Snow”

Nicholas Kinar, a PhD student in the Department of Geography at the University of Saskatchewan, listens to the “sound of snow,” using sound waves to determine physical properties of the white stuff. The standard process of invasively snow sampling is time consuming and destroys the internal structure and layering of the snowpack. “We've found that it is possible to non-invasively determine Snow Water Equivalent by the use of a continuous sound wave,” said Kinar, who is supervised by John Pomeroy, geography professor and Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change and director of the U of S Centre for Hydrology. [U of S Research News](#)

7. U Winnipeg & Manitoba Graduate Steven Quiring a Montague Scholar

Dr. Steven Quiring, assistant professor in the Department of Geography in the College of Geosciences, has been named a 2009-2010 Montague Scholar. The Montague-Center for Teaching Excellence Scholar program honours faculty at Texas A&M University for early-career excellence in undergraduate teaching. Quiring joined the faculty in the department in 2005 after completing his Ph.D. in Climatology at the University of Delaware in Newark. He earned a bachelor of arts in geography from the University of Winnipeg, Canada, and a master of arts in geography from the University of Manitoba. [Media Newswire](#)

8. Atlas of Canada, New Map of the North Circumpolar Region

This recently revised bilingual map is part of the Atlas of Canada Reference Map Series. It has detailed coverage of all parts of the world north of approximately 50 degrees latitude except for the Russian Federation side of the map which shows areas north of 60 degrees latitude. The map uses the Azimuthal Equidistant projection. All national boundaries are shown along with Canadian provincial and territorial boundaries and Canada’s 200 nautical mile offshore Exclusive Economic Zone. National capital cities are displayed along with other cities, towns, villages and hamlets; all have been updated to 2008. [Atlas of Canada](#)

9. Queen’s Geographer Joyce Davidson Receives Early Researcher Award

[Joyce Davidson](#), an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at Queen’s University has been awarded an Early Researcher Award valued at \$140,000 from the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation. The award made to support the Autism Online Project focused on examining the social and cultural implications of the internet for individuals on the spectrum. Dr. Davidson’s

research team will examine how individuals with autism use the Internet to develop new spaces for shared experience. [Queen's New Centre](#)

10. Geography of Saskatchewan, *Online Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan*

The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan captures the natural and cultural legacy of Saskatchewan. It is intended as a gift both for and by the people of Saskatchewan of their knowledge and experience to all who would care to know of the people, places and events that have shaped the province's legacy to Canada and the world. [Access the Encyclopedia](#)

11. Memorial Geography Grad Appointed Dean at St Francis Xavier University

Dr. Jeff Orr has been appointed the first Dean of the newly formed Faculty of Education at St Francis Xavier University. Dr. Orr's appointment follows an extensive national search. Dr. Orr holds Bachelors degrees in Arts and Education from Mount Allison University, with concentrations in social sciences and secondary education, a Master of Arts in Geography from Memorial, an M.Ed. in Educational Administration from Acadia, and a Ph.D. in Elementary Education from the University of Alberta. [News@StFX](#)

12. Field Notes, UBC Geography Student's Association Newsletter

The most recent issue of *Field Notes*, [UBC Geography Student's Association](#) Newsletter February 2009 issue contains features on: Geography 442: The Food Network; Invasive Species and Native Tree Inventory in Jericho Park; South Georgia; and a Snowshoeing Trip to Mount Seymour. [Field Notes, February 2009](#)

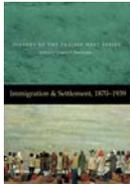
13. Geographer of the Week: Elizabeth Lunstrum, York University

Dr. [Elizabeth Lunstrum](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at York University. Libby completed a B.A. Hons. (Women's Studies) and a B.A. (Philosophy) at the University of Washington in 1997. She subsequently completed an M.A. (Philosophy) at Michigan State University in 1999 and her Ph.D. (Geography) at the University of Minnesota in 2007. Her research interests are focused on environmental politics in conflict, post-conflict, and transnational spaces; violence and spatial relations; territory and state formation; gender relations; politics of human mobility; and, Southern Africa. Dr. Libby is a Faculty Associate with the York Centre for International and Security Studies ([YCISS](#))

14. Recent Publications by Canadian Geographers

Giesbrecht, K. 2009. *Community Control in Resource Management: The Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board*.

Traditional public participation in resource management planning and decision making processes in British Columbia has often resulted in little or no public influence in the process, or over the decisions made. This study of the Bulkley Valley Community Resources Board (BVCRB) explores how public input through this body was conceptualized and incorporated into the Bulkley Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) process. About the author: Kelly A. Giesbrecht, MA: Completed BA, Political Science (2001) and MA, Geography (2004) at the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC). Currently (2009) starting as a PhD Student in the Geography Program at UNBC. [More Details](#)



John C. Lehr, John Everitt and Simon Evans "The Making of the Prairie Landscape", in Gregory P. Marchildon ed. *Immigration and Settlement, 1870-1939* (Regina: Canadian Plains Research Center) 2009: 13-56. ISBN 978-0-88977-230-4). [More Details](#)

15. Recent Theses and Dissertations

Bruce, D. 2008. Production and quality of sap from bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum* Marsh) on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Victoria, British Columbia. [DSpace Abstract](#)

Farmer, C.J.Q. 2008. Spatial time-series analysis of satellite derived snow water equivalence. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Victoria, British Columbia. [DSpace Abstract](#)

Gray, D.L. 2008. Incorporating stakeholder preferences, attitudes, and use patterns into marine protected area planning: a case study of recreational boating in the southern Gulf Islands, British Columbia. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Victoria, British Columbia. [DSpace Abstract](#)

Flower, A. 2008. A dendroclimatic investigation in the northern Canadian Rocky Mountains, British Columbia. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Victoria, British Columbia. [DSpace Abstract](#)

Goulding, H.L. 2008. Spatial and temporal patterns and hydroclimatic controls of river ice break-up in the Mackenzie Delta, NWT. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Victoria, British Columbia. [DSpace Abstract](#)

Jarrett, P. 2008. A dendroclimatic investigation of moisture variability and drought in the Greater Victoria Water Supply Area, Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Victoria, British Columbia. [DSpace Abstract](#)

Mesquita, P.S. 2008. Effects of retrogressive permafrost thaw slumping on benthic macrophyte and invertebrate communities of upland tundra lakes. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Victoria, British Columbia. [DSpace Abstract](#)

Long, J. 2009. Quantifying change in the spatial pattern of forests: assessing impacts of mountain pine beetle infestation and harvest. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Victoria, British Columbia. [DSpace Abstract](#)

Pasztor, C.J. 2008. The dynamic relationship between foraging gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) and their mysid prey (*Mysidae*), along the Southwest coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Victoria, British Columbia. <http://hdl.handle.net/1828/327>

Pinfold, A.J. 2008. Lower selenium status among adult white American males: prevalence, risk factors, and identification of augmentation strategies: a potential approach to reduce prostate cancer incidence. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Victoria, British Columbia. [DSpace Abstract](#)

Taylor, E. 2008. Building community with recycling: a case study of two small islands in British Columbia, Canada. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Victoria, British Columbia. [DSpace Abstract](#)

16. Other “Geographical” News

Falconview Goes Open Source

The Georgia Tech Research Institute has released an open-source version of its popular FalconView™ software. The program displays topographical maps, aeronautical charts, satellite images and other maps, along with overlay tools that can be displayed on any map background. The software allows users to view different imagery formats, including those Google Earth and Google Maps.

The open-source version of FalconView contains several analysis tools. [More Details](#)

Why are Autumn Leaves Red in America and Yellow in Europe?

Walking outdoors in the fall, the splendidly colorful leaves adorning the trees are a delight to the eye. In Europe these autumn leaves are mostly yellow, while the United States and East Asia boast lustrous red foliage. But why is it that there are such differences in autumnal hues around the world? A new theory proposes taking a step 35 million years back to solve the color mystery. [More Details](#)

Unexpected Relationship Between Climate Warming and Advancing Treelines

A new study reveals that treelines are not responding to climate warming as expected. The research, the first global quantitative assessment of the relationship between climate warming and treeline advance, is published in Ecology Letters and tests the premise that treelines are globally advancing in response to climate warming since 1900. [More Details](#)

GPS Helps Locate Soil Erosion Pathways

Grassed waterways are placed in agricultural fields where runoff water tends to concentrate because they can substantially reduce soil erosion. Mapping techniques that help identify where erosion channels will help farmers and conservation professionals do a better job of designing and locating grassed waterways in agricultural fields. [More Details](#)

17. Some not so “Geographical” News

Rattlesnakes on the University of Lethbridge Campus

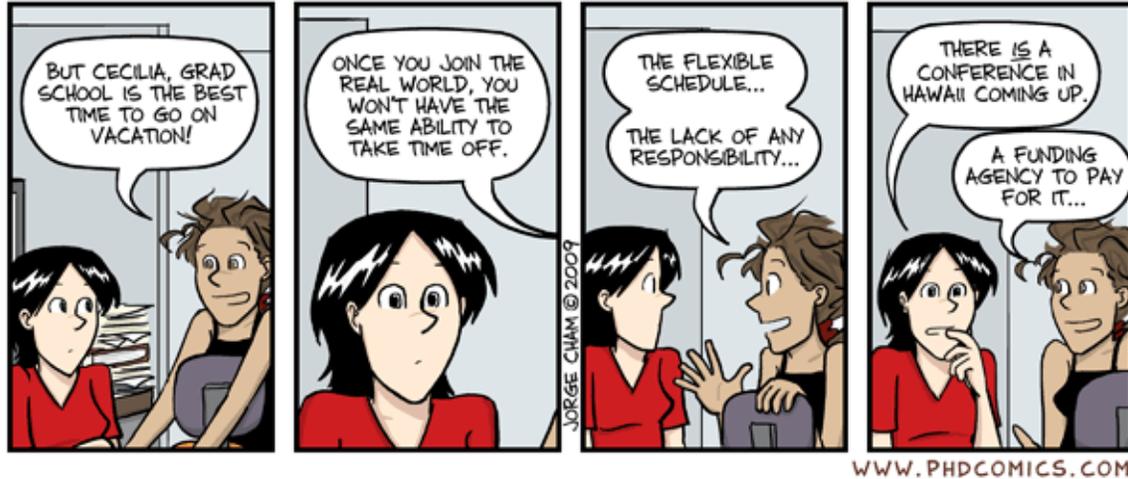
Please exercise caution when walking around the University of Lethbridge campus, particularly in the coulees, as snakes are occasionally sighted. They are practically harmless and will only strike if extremely provoked or stepped on. If you see a rattlesnake, walk slowly away from it. Give the snake plenty of room to escape from you. In Alberta, rattlesnakes are blue-listed which means they have undergone declines in population or habitat and may be at risk. [Lethbridge Notice Board](#)

The Tenuous Future of Tenure

An opinion piece in the Chronicle of Higher Education argues that tenure-track positions at US colleges face extinction in a war of attrition. Deans faced with shrinking budgets and the choice of \$12,000 per course for a tenured faculty member, or \$4,000 per course for an adjunct, will make the obvious choice --

particularly in "softer" humanities and social science departments, which often have less power and prestige on campus. [Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

[PhD Comics](#)



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