



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Contents

1. UWO's Liam Riley Awarded an IDRC Doctoral Research Award
 2. Queen's Geographer Harry McCaughey Warns of More Extreme Storms
 3. SFU'S Elizabeth Baird Examines Forest Road Sediment in Haida Gwaii
 4. UBC's Greg Henry Confirms Climate Change Doubles Tundra Plant Life
 5. WLU's Mary-Louise Byrne Acting Dean of Arts
 6. RTH Recognized by Canadian Association of Geographers
 7. U Ottawa Graduate Julia Laforge Looking for Nipawin People from 1930
 8. Concordia U's Jochen Jaeger on Foxes in Montreal
 9. Université du Québec à Montréal's David Hanna Seeks City Council Seat
 10. U Waterloo Graduate Per Lundberg Parks Canada Warden
 11. McGill's Britta Ricker Examines Environmental Change in Barbados
 12. UVic's Spatial Pattern Analysis and Research Laboratory
 13. Geographer of the Week: Melissa Lafrenière, Queen's University
 14. Recent Publications by Canadian Geographers
 15. Recent Theses and Dissertations
 16. Other "Geographical" News
 17. Some not so "Geographical" News
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1. UWO's Liam Riley Awarded an IDRC Doctoral Research Award

Liam Riley, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography at Western, was recently awarded an [IDRC Doctoral Research Award](#) in support of his field work expenses. Using Blantyre, Malawi as a case study, Liam's research is examining food security in urban areas of the developing world. His research is being supervised by Professor [Belinda Dodson](#).

2. Queen's Geographer Harry McCaughey Warns of More Extreme Storms

Global climate change is increasing the likelihood of weather such as tornadoes and hurricanes in Canada, said Queen's University geography professor Harry McCaughey. "Greater variability will be part of the normal — we will tend to have

more extreme storms," he warned. [Edmonton Sun](#) "If you keep pushing the climate the way we're pushing it, don't think about getting `average' weather any more," said McCaughey. [Toronto Star](#)

3. SFU'S Elizabeth Baird Examines Forest Road Sediment in Haida Gwaii

The *Queen Charlotte Islands Observer* reported that MSc student Elizabeth Baird of SFU Geography will be working in the Honna River watershed in Haida Gwaii, researching the generation of sediment from forest roads. [QCI Observer](#)

4. UBC's Greg Henry Confirms Climate Change Doubles Tundra Plant Life

University of British Columbia geographer Greg Henry has, for the first time, confirmed that rapidly rising temperatures in the Arctic are creating major changes in the plants that live there. Climate change is having a dramatic effect turning the once rocky tundra a deep shade of green. The new, denser, shrubbier tundra could speed up global warming even further simply because that vegetation is darker and absorbs more solar energy. Thicker plant growth on the tundra could have the same effect as doubling the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. [CNEWS](#)

5. WLU's Mary-Louise Byrne Acting Dean of Arts

Dr. [Mary-Louise Byrne](#), former chair of Geography and Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, will serve as acting Dean of Arts until June 30, 2010. [Laurier Headlines](#)

6. RTH Recognized by Canadian Association of Geographers

The Canadian Association of Geographers has recognized Raise the Hammer as one of its ten featured websites promoting the relationship between geography and transportation issues for its 2009 Geography Awareness Week campaign. The CAG notes that RTH is "a medium for personal, that is, individual opinions, and as a result its overall content differs from those of institutions such as governments, or enterprises such as businesses." Raise the Hammer is honoured and delighted to be recognized by this association. [Raise the Hammer](#)

7. U Ottawa Graduate Julia Laforge Looking for Nipawin People from 1930

Julia Laforge, a graduate student in the Department of Geography at the University of Ottawa, is searching the Nipawin area for people who lived here through the 1930s or have stories from family or friends from that era to help her

determine the impacts of climate change on migration in Canada. "I'm looking at what we can learn from the 1930s drought, because you could call that quite a drastic climate change," said Laforge. "Farming has changed a lot, but there's still things about people that haven't changed all that much. How people deal with changes like that and how farmers deal in particular. I think some of those lessons are going to be really useful," said Laforge. [The Nipawin Journal](#)

8. Concordia U's Jochen Jaeger on Foxes in Montreal

Residents south of the Atwater métro are getting used to seeing red foxes and other species roaming about their neighbourhood, in addition to the usual raccoons and skunks. Jochen Jaeger, a geography, planning and urban development professor at Concordia University, said "Urban sprawl sometimes makes it pointless to try to reacquaint foxes found in the city to their natural habitat." "Although city foxes might adapt to new surroundings, it doesn't justify poor urban planning." [Montreal Gazette](#)

9. Université du Québec à Montréal's David Hanna Seeks City Council Seat

Vision Montreal has announced urban geographer David Hanna of the Université du Québec à Montréal's urban-studies department, will try to win a city council seat in N.D.G. formerly held by the mayor's brother, Marcel Tremblay. [Montreal Gazette](#)

10. U Waterloo Graduate Per Lundberg Parks Canada Warden

Geography graduate Per Lundberg graduated with his Bachelor of Environmental Studies in Honours Co-op Geography in 1994 and is now a Park Warden at [Georgian Bay Islands National Park](#). He assists the Park management team in monitoring and protecting one of Canada's most unique landscapes. One of the key projects at the park is the protection and conservation of the eastern Massassauga rattlesnake. [Cool Job of the Month](#)

11. McGill's Britta Ricker Examines Environmental Change in Barbados

Small Island States are the first to feel the effects of global environmental change. Politically Barbados is calling attention to Small Island States on an international level to inform the world about their vulnerability to climate and environmental change. For this study, [Britta Ricker](#) an MSc graduate student in the McGill geography department is having Bajans are sharing their climate change observations and concerns. [GEOIDE Project 41 YouTube](#)

12. UVic's Spatial Pattern Analysis and Research Laboratory

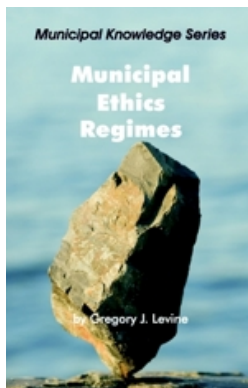
The [Spatial Pattern Analysis & Research Lab](#) houses a research group interested in spatial and spatial-temporal analysis. Located in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria and led by Dr [Trisalyn Nelson](#), researchers develop and apply spatial and spatial-temporal analysis methods to a variety of problems ranging from environmental mapping through novel spatial data integration to space-time trends in Alberta grizzly bear habitat use to landscape change. [SAPR Research](#)

13. Geographer of the Week: Melissa Lafrenière, Queen's University

Dr. [Melissa Lafrenière](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Queen's University. Melissa obtained her BSc. H. in Geography at the University of Western Ontario, additional undergraduate training in Geology at the University of Ottawa; and, her PhD in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta. Her research interests lie in the area of climate change and human impacts on the hydrology and biogeochemistry of alpine and arctic environments. Her current research includes investigations of the influence of anthropogenic inputs on nitrogen deposition and export in alpine catchments, and descriptions of how the biogeochemical cycles of DOC and N in arctic catchments vary with changes in climatic, geomorphic and hydrological variables.

14. Recent Publications by Canadian Geographers

"Municipal Ethics Regimes" - Greg Levine



Professor Greg Levine, a Limited Duties instructor in the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario, has just completed a book on municipal ethics. Greg has completed a PhD in geography and also holds a law degree. He teaches the Geography 3415A/B - Geographic Perspectives on Law and Society, which was offered during Intersession (2009). [Municipal World](#)

15. Recent Theses and Dissertations

Bhoi, Nilima. 2008. Environmental justice in Canada : the statistical correlation between socioeconomic status and pollution in five major Canadian cities. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. 146 p.

Captain, Radu-Dan. 2009. Planetary morphology study of landforms in Gorgonum and Atlantis basins, Mars. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. 268 p.

Curry, Brianne Y. 2008. Geographies of infant feedings decisions. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. 170 p.

Earles, Sean Patrick. 2008. Dendrochronological studies of white spruce in the northern Yukon, Canada. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. 148 p.

Ferencevic, Mariane M.D. 2008. Development of demi-based method for mapping stream power distribution of southern Ontario streams. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. 162 p.

Gardner, J.T. 2009. Morpho-dynamics and sedimentology of confluences in gravelly braided rivers. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. 235 p.

Masiokas, Mariano H. 2008. Climate and glacier variability during past centuries in the north and south Patagonian Andes of Argentina. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. 268 p.

Larsen, Kristian. 2008. Identifying influences of social and physical environments on a child's mode of travel to and from school. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. 123 p.

Riley, Liam John. 2008. Children's geography and the everyday lives of orphans in Malawi. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. 128 p.

Whaling, Melissa A. 2008. Assessing community perceptions of the likely impact of a probiotic yogurt project on community relations and health in Mahina District, Mwanza, Tanzania. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. 186 p.

16. Other “Geographical” News

Lancaster's Violent Crime Reduction Initiative

Millersville University students began researching drug crimes in Lancaster. Geography professor Angela Cuthbert used those statistics to produce a crime density map that displayed "hot spots" in the city — neighborhoods where statistics showed abnormally high drug dealing and related violent crime arrests. Using that mapping, city police selected a neighbourhood to implement the program. [Lancaster Online](#)

Predicting the Distribution of Sasquatch in Western North America

Ecological niche models ENMs for the North American Sasquatch (i.e. Bigfoot) were constructed using a database of georeferenced putative sightings and footprints. The distribution of Bigfoot was compared with an ENM for the black bear and suggests that many sightings of this Bigfoot may be cases of mistaken identity. [Journal of Biogeography](#)

Electricity that has to be Given Away

The science fiction fantasy of abundant free electricity is finally coming true. Thanks to cheap wind energy, in some parts of the United States wholesale power prices are now dropping to zero or below at certain times of the day. This is likely to occur more often as vast amounts of wind power come online in the next few years. It's an unintended consequence of renewable energy mandates. [Forbes.com](#)

17. Some not so “Geographical” News



GeogNews Archives:

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