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1. Carleton U's John Wall Examines Human Bear Interaction in Canmore

John Wall, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, is studying impressions and attitudes of grizzly bears in Canmore, wolves in the Ottawa Valley and right whales in the Bay of Fundy, all with an eye to helping other communities adjust to life with large, wild animals. Wall said he chose Canmore as it is a natural laboratory given the number of grizzly bears that live in a region where influences such as real estate development, tourism, natural resources and prime wildlife habitat all come together. [RMOutlook](#)

2. La pollution ne connaît pas de quartier: McGill's Dan Crouse

Vivre à Montréal-Nord, meilleur pour la santé que de s'installer à Westmount ou à Saint-Laurent? Peut-être bien: la pollution atmosphérique traverse les frontières des arrondissements et des classes sociales sur l'île de Montréal, révèle l'une des plus vastes études du genre à être réalisées dans la métropole. La pollution ne décrit pas à elle seule la qualité de vie d'un quartier, bien sûr. Mais Dan Crouse, de l'Université McGill, constate que malgré un indice de

défavorisation élevé, Montréal-Nord jouit de l'un des taux de pollution atmosphérique les plus bas de l'île de Montréal. L'aspirant au doctorat se décrit comme un heureux mélange entre le géographe et l'épidémiologiste. Il brosse un tableau de ses résultats pour Le Devoir devant un plan de Montréal constellé de petits points. [Le Devoir](#)

3. UBC's Michele Koppes on Stark Evidence of Human Caused Erosion

Humans causing erosion comparable to world's largest rivers and glaciers
A new study finds that large-scale farming projects can erode the Earth's surface at rates comparable to those of the world's largest rivers and glaciers. "Our initial goal was to investigate the scientific claim that rivers are less erosive than glaciers," says [Michele Koppes](#), a professor of geography at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and lead author of the study. "But while exploring that, we found that many of the areas currently experiencing the highest rates of erosion are being caused by climate change and human activity such as modern agriculture," says Koppes. [EurekAlert](#) | [Nature Geoscience](#) | [UBC Media](#) | Vancouver Sun

4. Memorial Graduate Nicole Renaud Receives "Students for Development" Internship

A geography master's student in the Department of Geography at Memorial University has received a prestigious internship that will take her to Peru for three months this fall. The internship, Students for Development, is managed by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. Nicole Renaud will be working with the climate change division of CARE, an international NGO, to try to influence rural development policy at the international level. She hopes to help identify strategies and mechanism to secure water access for marginalized populations as an adaption tool to climate change. As Ms. Renaud explains, glaciers are retreating in Peru at a rapid pace. This results in an excess of fresh water in some communities and a dearth in many others where crop yields are noticeably decreasing. Inevitably however, melting glaciers mean less water in the long term for everyone. [Memorial Today](#)

5. Trent U's Ponce-Hernandez Takes Lead on FAO Project

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) chose Trent as a partner for the development of new computer systems to evaluate sustainability of Land for Agriculture, Agro-forestry and Grasslands. Geography professor, Dr. Raul Ponce-Hernandez will take the lead on the prestigious project with the FAO. [Trent Daily News](#) | [Northumberland View](#)

6. Carleton Geographer Chris Burn on Northern Climate Trouble

Researchers say air temperatures here in northwest Canada and elsewhere in the Arctic have risen more than 2.5 C since 1970 -- much faster than the global average. Carleton University geography professor [Chris Burn](#) said "we need many, many more field observations." But his teams have found the frozen ground warming down to about 80 meters, and he believes the world is courting disaster in failing to curb warming by curbing greenhouse emissions. "If we lost just 1 percent of the carbon in permafrost today, we'd be close to a year's contributions from industrial sources," he said. "I don't think policymakers have woken up to this. It's not in their risk assessments." [CTV](#) | [Anchorage Daily News](#)

7. UBC's Elvin Wyly on Sports Arena Development in Neighbourhoods

Organizations that work with Edmonton's urban poor think a new downtown arena could be a good thing--if it's done right. But, some argue, the soon-to-be proposed development could also drive up rents and squeeze out the lower class. One urban geographer cautioned, however, that while major urban developments such as sports arenas often claim to be good for the neighbourhoods they're moving into, that's rarely the case for everyone. "Does it ever work out without significantly increasing inequality? No it doesn't," said [Elvin Wyly](#), who runs the urban geography program at the University of British Columbia. [Edmonton Journal](#)

8. Carleton U's Steve Prashker Wins 2009 Professional Achievement Award

[Steve Prashker](#), an Instructor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, was awarded a Professional Achievement Award on the basis of 'his outstanding performance in meeting his responsibilities'. Steve has been the field course co-ordinator and practicum co-ordinator for about 15 years. These highly successful programs give students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills in a real working environment. He is also active in recruitment and promotional activities for the department, and as such, meets with many students throughout their academic. [Carleton Now](#)

9. Mount Allison U's Brad Walters Explores Event Ecology

[Brad Walters](#), from the Department of Geography and Environment at Mount Allison University and Andrew Vayda from Rutgers University are challenging basic conventions on how to do human-environment research. In a [paper recently published](#) in the Annals of the Association of American Geographers,

they propose a novel approach to research they call, “event ecology.” “Rather than starting research with a hypothesis or theory that presumes causal relationships before carrying out field investigations, event ecology starts with concrete measurable environmental events of interest and tries to explain these with open-ended questions about why the events have occurred”, explains Dr. Walters. [Mount Allison News Releases](#)

10. WLU’s Brent Wolfe Digs for Clues in Lake Sediments

It may have taken Laurier associate geography professor [Brent Wolfe](#) and his research team eight years to study the hydroecology of the Peace-Athabasca Delta in Alberta, but in that time they managed to recreate 1,000 years of environmental history and issue dire warnings for the Alberta oil-sands industry and Canadian policy-makers. “The status of our freshwater resources is at a critical juncture,” says Wolfe. “Clearly we have been living on borrowed time.” [Laurier Campus Alumni Magazine, Summer 2009](#)

11. Queen U’s Harry McCaughey Warns of Greater Weather Variability

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. [London Free Press](#)

12. Geographer of the Week: Dr. Meg Holden, Simon Fraser University

Dr. [Meg Holden](#) is an Assistant Professor in the [Department of Geography](#) at Simon Fraser University. She completed a BSc (Hons) in geography at the University of Victoria, an MSc in geography at Rutgers University; and a PhD in public and urban policy at the New School for Social Research. Meg specializes in urban sustainable development in policy, planning, theory, ethics, and popular expression. Her research takes place in the cities of North America, particularly the Cascadia region, and in cities internationally through her research engagement in a number of global networks of urban professionals and researchers.

13. Recent Publications by Canadian Geographers

Géographie de l'Amérique latine. Une culture de l'incertitude

Nathalie Gravel. 2009. Presses de Université du Québec.



Une introduction géographique à l'Amérique latine et à l'espace caraïbe. Comme toutes les régions périphériques, l'Amérique latine a subi les influences de nombreux empires. Le retrait relatif des États-Unis après la fin de la guerre froide a laissé un vide d'hégémonie difficile à combler à l'heure actuelle. Dans la recherche de solutions alternatives au modèle dominant de développement, les gouvernements latino-américains fondent leurs espoirs sur l'intégration régionale et sa capacité à stimuler les économies nationales. De la présentation historique des grands moments de l'Amérique latine aux tendances démographiques, l'auteure s'attarde sur les politiques d'assimilation et d'homogénéisation des populations autochtones. [Presses de Université du Québec](#)

[Nathalie Gravel](#) est professeure-chercheure au Département de géographie de l'Université Laval. Elle est également présidente de la Société de géographie de Québec.

14. Recent Theses and Dissertations

Austin Hracs. 2009. Attracting and retaining 'captive' talent in the City of Kingston, Ontario. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisor: Dr. Betsy Donald.

15. Other "Geographical" News

Eastern Nunavut's 'Relentless Warmth' Raises Erosion Concerns

This summer has been the warmest on record in the Baffin Island region, with temperatures several degrees warmer than normal in June, July and August. While the warm temperatures were enjoyed by people visiting Auyuittuq National Park near Pangnirtung, officials are watching for erosion at the park, where

landslides and flash flooding closed some areas for a few days last summer.
[CBC News](#)

Shrinking Bylot Island Glaciers Tell Story Of Climate Change

The U.S. Geological Survey has released the results of a long-term study of key glaciers in western North America, reporting this month that glacial shrinkage is rapid and accelerating and a result of climate change. University of Illinois geologist William Shilts spent nearly two decades studying glaciers on Bylot Island. He has chronicled the decline of several Bylot Island glaciers from the [1940s to the present](#). The glaciers on Bylot Island are retreating, shrinking, melting faster than ice can be produced. [EurekAlert!](#)

International Encyclopedia of Human Geography Online

International Encyclopedia of Human Geography provides an authoritative and comprehensive source of information on the discipline of human geography and its constituent, and related, subject areas. The encyclopedia includes over 1,000 detailed entries on philosophy and theory, key concepts, methods and practices, biographies of notable geographers, and geographical thought and praxis in different parts of the world. [Science Direct](#)

Climate Change and Water Quantity/Quality in BC: Annotated Bibliography

The electronic bibliography includes references relevant to the effects (or potential effects) of climate change on water quantity and water quality in British Columbia. References were compiled from various sources, including: Web of Science; EcoCat; provincial and federal government websites; selected university websites (UBC, UVic, SFU, University of Washington), FORREX publications, PCIC, and others. [FORREX](#)

Map Characterizes Active Lakes Below Antarctic Ice

Researchers using space-based lasers on a NASA satellite have created the most comprehensive inventory of lakes that actively drain or fill under Antarctica's ice. They have revealed a continental plumbing system that is more dynamic than scientists thought. Unlike most lakes, Antarctic lakes are under pressure from the ice above. That pressure can push melt water from place to place like water in a squeezed balloon. The water moves under the ice in a broad, thin layer, but also through a linked cavity system. This flow can resupply other lakes near and far. [EurekAlert](#)

16. Some not so “Geographical” News

Geography Professor Convicted of Harassing Weatherman Over Inaccurate Forecasts

A Harbor College geography professor, who for two years barraged a TV weatherman with e-mails contending his forecasts are inaccurate, has been convicted of violating a judge's order to stop harassing him. Renfrew denied she is a stalker, saying she was trying to get the weatherman to change the terminology he uses to describe onshore and offshore winds to better inform the public. [DailyBreeze](#)



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