



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. Geographer Heather Castleden Joins Dalhousie University

One of the newest faculty members at Dalhousie University is geographer Heather Castleden who has joined the School for Resource and Environmental Studies. Heather brings to Dalhousie expertise in socio-political dimensions of natural resource management, with a particular focus on community-based participatory research partnerships with First Nations in Canada. This fall, she'll be teaching graduate courses on Indigenous Peoples and natural resource issues, as well as research methods. [Dalnews](#)

2. UWO Emeritus Professor Don Cartwright Appointed to CAEI Judges Panel

Emeritus Professor Don Cartwright, Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario, has been appointed to the panel of judges for the inaugural [Canadian Award for Environmental Innovation](#). The Award was established by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and 3M Canada to celebrate individuals involved in a local, regional or national project, program or initiative to protect, restore or preserve the environment for Canadians. The panel includes

five individuals selected from across Canada and will be chaired by the Vice-President of the RCGS. The winner will be presented at the Society's dinner in Ottawa on Nov. 5.

3. Queen's Betsy Donald Documents Shift Toward Local Food Economy

"Food is without a doubt, one of the most exciting fields to study, because it is the only intimate commodity. We eat it. And therefore, how we eat it has implications for a host of other policy issues around ecosystem protection, hunger, diversity, local economic development, and our carbon footprint." Betsy Donald is a geographer at Queen's University in Canada. She's documenting a shift taking place in North America's food system, from large, industrial agriculture to locally produced food. "The statistics suggest that organic food and local food are growing at rate of 20% a year, whereas the traditional food system is growing at 1 – 2%." [EarthSky](#)

4. UT Professor Emeritus Jime Lemon on Challenges Facing Big City Mayors

Jime Lemon, Professor Emeritus from U of T and [1997 CAG award winner for Scholarly Distinction in Geography](#), was quoted on the challenges facing big-city Canadian mayors. The fact is, said Jim Lemon, author of *Toronto Since 1918, An Illustrated History*, it's much more difficult to be a mayor today than it was in the post-war period. After the Depression and World War II, the public was eager to spend money on public infrastructure, and enthusiastic about what was then called progress. Times have changed. Since the 1980s, politicians have grown increasingly reluctant to levy taxes in order to underwrite projects. [Toronto Star](#)

5. UNBC Geography's Catherine Nolin Teaching Award Winner Featured

Dr. [Catherine Nolan](#), Geography professor, recipient of UNBC Excellence in Teaching award, and [J. Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence](#) is featured in the *Passion for Learning* section (page 5) of a recent UNBC promotional booklet.

6. McGill Geography: What Can I Do With a Geography Degree?

Geography provides a unique opportunity to obtain a broad exposure to modes of analyzing the many environmental and situational problems of contemporary society. Because of this, a geography degree is a fantastic opportunity to get a career in a diverse range of fields. Our students have gone on to become United Nations field researchers in Laos, environmental consultants in Toronto, science teachers in the US, geography professors in many parts of the world, UNHCR volunteers in Malaysia, policy analysts in Montreal, English teachers in Japan, firefighters in Ontario, health and social policy researchers in Montreal, and so on, and so on! [Geography Degree](#)

7. UNBC's Matt Beedle Glacier Fieldwork 2009 Update

In four field expeditions from May to September [Matt Beedle](#) continued fieldwork on Castle Creek and Kwadacha glaciers. Studies of the glaciers were in August 2007 as a part of the [Western Canadian Cryospheric Network](#), and are the first detailed studies of glaciers in the Cariboo and northern Rockies respectively. [Fieldwork Update](#)

8. CAG Atlantic Division Annual General Meeting, October 16-17, 2009

The Annual Conference of the [Atlantic Division](#) / division de l'Atlantique of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) / Association canadien des géographes (ACG) is 16-17 October, 2009 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. There are will be two Geomatics workshops/demos and a guided walking tour of Halifax Friday afternoon. A reception will be held on the evening of Friday 16th, and paper and poster sessions will be held in the morning and afternoon on Saturday 17th. There will also be an evening social event on Saturday. [ACAG Conference WebPage](#)

9. Geographer of the Week: Rachel Bezner Kerr, University of Western Ontario

Dr. [Bezner Kerr](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario. Her primary research area is in international development, focusing on the region of southern and eastern Africa. Within the broad field of international development, her areas of specialization are social and environmental inequalities and community-based, participatory research related to agriculture, health and nutrition in Malawi. Her research is done in collaboration with smallholder farmers and a hospital in northern Malawi, as part of a participatory research project called '*Soils, Food and Healthy Communities project*' based out of Ekwendeni Hospital. She has been the Research Coordinator for the [Soils, Food and Healthy Communities](#) Project in Malawi for the last five years. This multidisciplinary research and development project examines the multiple social, environmental and medical aspects of child health and nutrition, involving nutritionists, agricultural scientists, farmers, medical personnel and NGO staff.

10. Recent Theses and Dissertations

Jennifer Bridgen. 2009. *Seniors as volunteers: Volunteering and the importance of place*. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, Queen's University. Supervisor: Dr. Mark Rosenberg.

Louise Buck. 2009. *"From Nautical Charts to Interpolated Models: The St. Marys River in 19th Century Maps and Historic GIS."* Unpublished MSc thesis.

Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Phil Stooke.

Tom Davie. 2009. *“Alternative monitoring strategies for mesoscale catchments: Medway Creek, Ontario”*. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Chris Smart.

Catherine Fraser. 2009. *Physician-community integration: a case study of practitioner experiences and retention challenges on British Columbia’s Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte Islands*. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, Queen’s University. Supervisor: Dr. Mark Rosenberg.

Mike Hayek. 2009. *“Brownfield redevelopment in London, Ontario: Developing a methodology for creating a brownfield database and an examination of policy initiatives aimed at promoting redevelopment.”* Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Godwin Arku.

Jordon Howson. 2009. *“Socioeconomic determinants of health and diabetes mellitus: Understanding relationships at the neighbourhood level in London, Canada.”* Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Isaac Luginaah.

Steve Larock. 2009. *Risk-in-context: The impact of a local land use dispute on perceptions of technological risk.* Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jamie Baxter.

Dominic Santomauro. 2009. *The distribution of Woodland Caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) and moose (Alces alces) in the Fort St. James region of Northern British Columbia, 1800-1950*. Unpublished MNRES thesis. University of Northern British Columbia. Co-supervisors: Drs. Gail Fondahl and Chris Johnson.

Renata Wasley. 2009. *“HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Ukraine: Examining the Attitudes and Perceptions of State Orphans in Internaty.”* Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Isaac Luginaah.

11. Other “Geographical” News

Saint Mary’s Installs Atlantic Canada’s First Living Wall

The first living wall in Atlantic Canada was installed last week at Saint Mary’s University in Halifax. The three-storey living wall is part of the university’s new \$17.5-million Atrium and includes approximately 1,100 plants. Saint Mary’s living

wall is the largest living wall actively cleaning indoor air east of Toronto and it's one of the largest living walls in the world. [SMU Media Release](#)

Conference Board Creates Northern Research Centre

The Conference Board of Canada has launched a "virtual centre for the north" that will produce \$5 million worth of research on issues ranging from climate change to the northern economy. The Conference Board's northern centre will back 50 major independent studies, to be produced over the next five years, on topics such as Canadian sovereignty, climate change, infrastructure, business opportunities and challenges, health and social development in the northern territories and the northern parts of the provinces. The centre is "virtual" in that it doesn't include a physical presence in the North. The Conference's Board's offices are located in Ottawa. CBC News

Canadian National Committee for Geoparks (CNC-Geoparks)

The Canadian National Committee for Geoparks (CNC-Geoparks), a [UNESCO initiative](#), is under the interim chairmanship of Godfrey Nowlan. The committee has been populated and is working on writing guidelines for Canadian GeoParks, in close cooperation with the Geological Association of America. The aim is to streamline the guidelines for the US and Canada as much as possible, so that we can eventually form an effective North American GeoParks Network (as exists for Europe). A Geopark proposal has been in the works for a while in southern New Brunswick. [CNC Geoparks Committee](#)

12. Some not so “Geographical” News



"You have no idea where Indonesia is, do you?"

GeogNews Archives:

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