



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. Mount Allison's Michael Fox Comments on Homecoming Festivities

At Queen's University in Kingston, "homecoming" is synonymous with "riot," "burning car" and "beer bottle to the face," but city and university officials in Ottawa didn't break a sweat over the University of Ottawa's homecoming last weekend. Michael Fox, a geography professor at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B., and a town-gown scholar, says that enforcement overkill and media frenzies cause the kind of student hostility that can lead to riots. "When students are told that they're animals, they tend not to behave very well," Fox said. "An 'us versus them' mentality develops." [Centretown News](#)

2. McGill PhD Candidate Daniel Crouse on NO₂ Emissions in Montreal

Air pollution causes 1,540 premature deaths per year in Montreal, says Norman King, an epidemiologist at the public-health department. Central neighbourhoods and those along highways are most severely affected, says Daniel Crouse, a PhD candidate in geography at McGill University who has mapped nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) pollution across the island. Traffic causes 85 per cent of NO₂ emissions in Montreal, which are a good marker for other types of vehicle pollution, he says. Neighbourhoods worst affected include both low-income

communities like Park Extension and high-income areas like Westmount and Outremont, Crouse found. [The Gazette](#)

3. Carleton U's May Chazan on Impact of HIV/Aids in South Africa

"All my children have died – nine of them – and they left me with grandchildren and great grandchildren." KwaNyuswa grandmother, age 51. That stark testimonial is neither the most desolate nor exceptional account of the impact of HIV/AIDS [May Chazan](#) has borne witness to. Chazan, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, collaborated with nurses from the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust, a South African community-based organization to conduct research on the impact of HIV/AIDS on South African women and their families. The research was made possible by a PE Trudeau Foundation scholarship and an ongoing collaboration with the Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban. Mike Brklacich, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, is her supervisor. [Carleton FASS News](#)

4. Royal Military College's Lubomyr Luciuk Remembers Nina Dejneha

Nina Dejneha led an ordinary life in Kingston, but she survived one of the most brutal periods of Stalin's tyranny, the Great Famine of 1932-1933, as well as labour camps in Nazi Germany. "Nina told me stories of the hunger, of eating wheat, eating anything," says Lubomyr Luciuk, Mrs. Dejneha's godson and a professor in political geography at the Royal Military College of Canada. [Globe and Mail](#)

5. Orangeville District SS Recognizes Geographer Alan Rayburn

Orangeville District Secondary School celebrated its 125th anniversary last Saturday with a tree planting and unveiling of its Wall of Fame. The wall includes the names of 125 persons who went on to excel in six categories, of Athleticism, Brilliance, Compassion and Citizenship, Courage, Creativity and Entrepreneurial Spirit. Included is Canadian geographer and historian Alan Rayburn. [Orangeville Citizen](#)

6. Abandoned Northern Mines Subject of Research by Memorial's Arn Keeling

Canadian researchers say they hope to improve relations between mining companies and nearby communities with a study now underway on the social and economic legacies of now-defunct mines in the North. The project, called Abandoned Mines in Northern Canada, is looking at the social and economic effects that mines have had on northern communities, as well as the lingering effects of the mines after they closed. Arn Keeling, a geography professor and member of the research team from Memorial University in St. John's, N.L.,

suggested Pine Point illustrated the hard feelings many people have about old mines in their midst. "They kept mentioning the Pine Point mine ... and talking about what the impacts, both the environmental impacts and social impacts, of the coming of that mine in the 1960s," said Keeling. [CBC News](#)

7. UVic's Phil Dearden Partners with International Researchers

A group of international researchers are turning their attention to protected areas on the West Coast to look at the linked problems of rural poverty and environmental sustainability. The Canada-Africa Research and Learning Alliance's five year project focuses on protected areas in Tanzania, Ghana and Canada and their impact on adjacent communities. Phil Dearden, head of the geography department at the University of Victoria and researcher with the project, said models for the management of protected areas have been evolving around the world for the last 15 to 20 years. "They are becoming more focused on local communities and indigenous peoples," Dearden said. The Canadian government announced in June the project was among four others to receive \$2 million each to research global issues. Another \$1 million was added to the project budget through contributions and in-kind donations. [Canada.com](#)

8. Jim Randall Joins UNBC Geography Program

Jim Randall recently returned to teaching fulltime in Geography, Planning and International Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia after serving for a number of years in university administrative positions. His research interests combines professional roots in economic and urban geography with recent experiences in administration as well as fostering community-university research partnerships. He is currently researching the role of community as represented in Canadian university Collective Agreements. He is also the Canadian Director for an HRSDC Student mobility contract, partnering with five other universities in Canada, the USA and Mexico to encourage student exchanges and develop an integrated curriculum on rural sustainability. [UNBC Geography](#)

9. Geographer of the Week: Dr. Jason Grek Martin, St. Mary's University

Dr. [Jason Grek Martin](#) is an Assistant Professor of Geography at [St. Mary's University](#). Jason completed his PhD at Queen's University in 2009, where his research addressed issues related to historical geographies of 19th-century field science, colonialist representations of aboriginal cultures, discourses of nature, and the scientific dimensions of modern state territoriality. More specifically, Jason examined the extensive field work and numerous publications of George Dawson, the Geological Survey of Canada's leading field scientist in the Canadian West in the last quarter of the 19th century. At St. Mary's, Jason is teaching courses in on the Global Perspectives on Land and Life; Geographic Perspectives on Culture; The Power of Maps; People, Place and Environment; and the Geography of Canada.

10. Other “Geographical” News

Google Street View Goes Live in Canada, Except in Winnipeg

After months of anticipating the launch of [Google Street View](#), the service is finally live in parts of Canada. Google spent years touring the country in their vehicles with a specialized camera on top, taking pictures of every visible street. For security reasons, people’s faces and license plates are blurred, but if Google happened to miss something else, you can send in a removal request. According to the company, the service is now available in Banff, Calgary, Halifax, Kitchener-Waterloo, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec City, Squamish, Toronto, Vancouver and Whistler. Oh, and Winnipeg didn’t make the list just yet. [Winnipeg News](#)

Mighty Arctic Caribou Herds Dwindle, Warming Blamed

On the Porcupine River tundra, Yukon Territory, Canada's Beverly caribou herd, numbering more than 200,000 a decade ago, can barely be found today. In neighboring Northwest Territories, the territorial government reported results of its aerial survey of the Bathurst herd: Its population has dropped to about 32,000, from 128,000 in 2006. Global warming has boosted temperatures in the Arctic twice as much as elsewhere, and Canadian researchers say the natural balance is suffering. [Daily News-Miner](#)

British Columbia Town Mulls Stonehenge Replica

Some people in a small town in B.C.'s Interior are hoping a coincidence of geography will help their community cash in big. Councillor Virginia Smith said the town discovered Barriere is one of only five Canadian communities that lie right on the latitude of 51 degrees north, the same as the famous English site that is believed to have been built 4,500 years ago. The city council hopes to honour the mysterious English attraction by building a replica, out of concrete. [CBC News](#)

Memorial Officials Sign Sustainability Declaration

Memorial University President Dr. Christopher Loomis (pro tempore) signed a declaration further committing the institution to a greener climate on campus. "The sustainability declaration commits Memorial to minimizing its adverse environmental impact while supporting the realistic needs of those who work and study here," Dr. Loomis said. "We are going to do this by examining the way we operate, and by developing a comprehensive and collaborative action plan with outcomes we can measure. We want to integrate sustainable policies and systems into our operations, to encourage academic curriculum, research and outreach on sustainability and to create sustainable working and living environments across all of our campuses." [Memorial Today](#)

11. Some not so “Geographical” News

River ‘Rock Snot’



It's nicknamed 'rock snot' for pretty obvious reasons, but its source is anything but obvious. The University of Calgary is working with Parks Canada to learn more about this noxious algae's origins and cause of growth. Leland Jackson, discovered *Didymosphenia geminata*, also known as 'didymo,' when he was conducting research on land use and its effect on the Red Deer, Oldman and Bow rivers in 2004. Researchers say it appears to be widespread. Almost every stream sampled from the Red Deer drainage (north of the Bow drainage) to Waterton Lakes National Park has Didymo. [UCalgary News](#)

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