



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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1. Stuart Semple Award for Contributions to Enhancing Geography Education in Atlantic Canada



The Executive of the Atlantic Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers takes great pleasure in establishing the *Stuart Semple Award for*

Contributions to Enhancing Geography Education in Atlantic Canada. This award is a lasting testament to Professor Semple's career, spanning over 50 years, devoted to the education of future geography educators and to the improved profile of geography education in this region, Canada, and through the world. Stuart Semple has touched the professional lives of countless teachers who continue to pass along his understanding of how space and place truly run through all aspects of our lives. He has been a mentor, a teacher, a student, a father and a husband who has always served his family, community and profession with grace and honesty. He is an example of what it means to live a full life of care and concern for others, for the deepest commitment to service, and for the dignity of a gentle soul who is a leader we all wish to follow. Professor Semple has received numerous accolades from colleagues and former students, and he received the first [CAG Award for Excellence in Teaching Geography in 1997](#). This award has been established to recognize a person or persons who have contributed to enhancing geography education in Atlantic Canada and who exemplify those qualities and passion for geography and geography teaching which are the hallmark of [Stuarts Semple's](#) career.

2. Douglas Day Presented with Stuart Semple Award at 2009 ACAG AGM



The first recipient of the *Stuart Semple Award* is E. **Douglas Day**, Ph.D. Douglas Day is a most appropriate recipient of the award, since he played a central role in both secondary and tertiary levels of geographic education in Atlantic Canada throughout his career. Most notably, he was responsible for the establishment of the geography department and programmes at Saint Mary's University, and was central to the development and provision of high school curriculum materials for Nova Scotia, and in addition was the author of important studies and educational materials relating to Atlantic Canada as a whole. Douglas Day is presently Professor Emeritus in Geography at Saint Mary's University. He earned his Ph.D. in Geography at Sheffield University (UK) in 1965. In 1973 he was appointed Professor of Geography at Saint Mary's, specifically to establish a geography programme.

3. Queen's Betsy Donald Openly Angry About Secret Social Housing

A low-income housing development proposed for Barriefield has come as an unwelcome surprise for residents of the historic former village. "We are not against social housing," said Doug Morrow, one of the residents who, along with his wife Betsy Donald, has been rallying village opposition to the proposal since it

emerged from a secret session of city council earlier this month. Over the last nine months, the city has been negotiating behind closed doors to acquire surplus Department of National Defence lands under a new federal program that allows municipalities to purchase surplus federal land for \$1 if they pledge to use it for social housing. [Kingston Whig-Standard](#)

4. U Guelph's Ze'ev Gedalof Introduces the CEDaR Laboratory

The Climate & Ecosystem Dynamics Research (CEDaR) Laboratory is located in the Department of Geography at the University of Guelph. Researchers affiliated with the laboratory conduct research on a diverse range of problems relating to climatic variability and forest ecology. The CEDaR laboratory started out in a storage locker in the basement in 2004, since which it has grown, moved, and continued to grow. With help from the Canada Foundation for Innovation the CEDaR laboratory was recently renovated, and is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for the analysis of ecological and dendrochronological data. [CEDaR at UGuelph](#)

5. U Toronto's Jess Wilczak Wins IDRC Ecopolis Research Award

[Jess Wilczak](#) is a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography & Planning at the University of Toronto. For her dissertation Jess is examining the politics and practices surrounding industrial districts in China's smaller urban centres. Jesse was recently awarded an [IDRC Ecopolis Research Award](#), worth \$20,000, for her research entitled 'From collective politics to the participatory peasant: Reconstructing rural space and society in post-quake Sichuan'.

6. UGuelph Geography, Political Science Collaborate on New Major

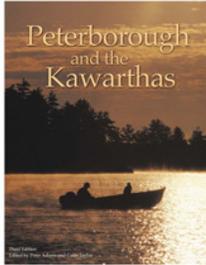
Students coming to U of G who want to tackle environmental issues now have the option of studying the social sciences as a way of addressing some of the planet's most persistent problems. Starting next fall, Guelph will offer a BA major aimed at introducing students to the challenges and opportunities of environmental governance. The environmental governance degree is the first of its kind in Canada and possibly the world, says Prof. Ben Bradshaw, Geography, who helped design the joint program between the departments of Geography and Political Science. The program will combine existing and new courses in geography, political science, economics and agricultural economics. Although other universities currently offer courses that include aspects of environmental governance, no other school offers a degree program, says Bradshaw. [at Guelph](#)

7. Geographers Back Eating Local Food, Select Nova Scotia Recommended

A plate piled high with Atlantic shrimp or B.C. salmon is the definition of eating pleasure for some gastronomically minded tourists, but it could also be a learning experience, say Canadian geographers. Dining out on good local food while on

holiday has received the stamp of approval from the Canadian Association of Geographers, which has named 10 websites that highlight specialties across the country. The list — covering everything from Nova Scotia fiddleheads to B.C. wines to Yukon Arctic char — is being offered as part of the association's annual promotional effort, Geography Awareness Week (Nov. 16-20), and to point out the benefits of culinary tourism. [The Chronicle Herald](#)

8. Third Edition of Popular Book Peterborough and the Kawarthas Released



Trent University's Department of Geography is pleased to announce the recent release of the third edition of its successful book, *Peterborough and the Kawarthas*, edited by Peter Adams and Colin Taylor. The new edition of the book includes comprehensive references and lists of websites, including links to map, air photo and satellite images of the region, and databases for statistical information about the local area. As with previous editions, net proceeds will support an annual undergraduate prize in Geography for third-year students attending Trent University. To date, \$10,000 has been raised in support of this Founders' Prize in Geography through sales of earlier editions. [Trent University Daily News](#)

9. UNBC Convocation Draws Attention to Greg Halseth

Dr. Greg Halseth was specifically mentioned in the Installation Address of UNBC's 4th President & Vice Chancellor Dr. George K. Iwama. "Our professors are great teachers and researchers. Professors like Greg Halseth, our Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies is involved in several aspects of community development and change. He tells me remarkable stories of the warm welcome he receives in the communities in which he works. How everyone from innkeepers to owners of car rental companies is eager to help his research team in their communities." [Iwama Installation Address](#)

10. McMaster Geographers Launch McMaster Centre for Climate Change

The RBC Foundation is supporting the McMaster Centre for Climate Change. Led by Altaf Arain, associate professor of Geography & Earth Sciences, and Mike Waddington, professor of Geography & Earth Sciences, the Centre will sponsor an inaugural public lecture series, website, and high school outreach programs. In addition, Lesley Warren, professor, Geography & Earth Sciences,

has received support to establish outreach programs related to her green mining technologies research. [McMaster Daily News](#)

11. UNBC Geographer and VP Research Gail Fondahl Featured in Update Magazine

UNBC Geographer and VP Research Gail Fondahl featured in cover story "*Forests are also about people: UNBC & the Tl'azt'en First Nation collaborate on a ground-breaking research and educational program at North America's largest research forest*" for UNBC's *Update Magazine* (cover & pgs. 3-4). John Prince Research Forest: Thomas Alexis, Chief of the Tl'azt'en First Nation, UNBC's Vice President of Research Gail Fondahl, and recent Masters graduate Diana Kutzner, are just a few who have benefited from the unique research and educational partnership between the University and the community at the John Prince Research north of Fort St. James. [UNBC Update Magazine](#)

12. U Ottawa's Holly Donohue Helps Students Bring Ideas for Lansdowne Park

If the Lansdowne Live redevelopment plan fails to get off the ground, Ottawa city councillors will have at least 35 fresh ideas to mull over concerning the future of the city's most prized property. Senior level students in the University of Ottawa's Open Space Systems Planning course are tackling the contentious redesign of Lansdowne Park for their final school project, before graduating to become future leaders in the field of recreation and urban planning. "I've been looking at the Lansdowne Park issue for a number of years, and what interested me about it is that it's a contested property. It has brought the community together, and it's torn the community apart," says professor Holly Donohue. "I thought it would make a great case study and a great practical opportunity for the students to get their feet wet in something that is really quite complex." [Ottawa Sun](#)

13. CAGONT 2009 a Success, Congratulations to University of Toronto Mississauga

The meeting was a grand success! The Friday evening Ice Breaker was attended by approximately 60 students and faculty and was opened by **Amrita Daniere**, Chair of U of T Mississauga and she thanked the organising committee of including **Ron Buliung** and **Sabrino Ferrai** and welcomed everyone. She then introduced Dr. **Gage Averill**, Dean of U of T Mississauga, and thanked his office for his financial and moral support for the conference. Dr. Averill, an ethnomusicologist, gave a wonderful welcome and made a strong argument supporting his view that Geography and its sister discipline Cartography are important in every aspect of society today and he feels that Geography and Cartography are as important to academia today as Philosophy was to intellectual thought of the past!

After the Ice Breaker, a cultural field trip ensued led by **Carolyn Winsborough**, of U of T M, that included sampling Irish music, various types of liquid amber nectar and much participant observation of applied ethnographic studies - CAGONT geographers work and work and some worked so much after the Ice Breaker during this field trip that they had no time to sleep Friday night.

The Conference began Saturday morning with a Plenary session by Dr. **Ken Jones**, Dean, Faculty of Business, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University entitled "*From Power Centre to Lifestyle Centre: The Next Wave?*" His talk drew a standing room crowd and was very well received.

CAGONT 2009 broke the existing attendance record with 191 persons registering, consisting of: 121 graduate students; 39 undergraduates; 22 professors/professional members; and 9 others! There were more than 70 papers and 24 posters presented. More than half the posters and over one third of the presentations focused on physical geography topics. This was a wonderful showing by physical geography graduate students.

The recipients of the graduate and undergraduate essay competition respectively were:

Carolyn Winsborough, Ph. D. student, Geography, University of Toronto Mississauga, for her paper, "*Fungal and Bacterial Activity in Northern Peatlands*".

Ritika Chaudhary, Geography, University of Toronto Mississauga, "*Lake Nyos Eruption of 1986: Potential for another gas release and the assessment of risk management*".

The recipient of the 2009 Service to Ontario Geography Award was Dr. [John Clarke](#) recently retired from the Department of Geography at Carleton University. The following has been selected from his letter of nomination for those who might not happen to know of him or his work:



"Dr. Clarke has dedicated more than 40 years to understanding the historical, cultural and economic geography of Ontario. His research has been both meticulous and thorough, and the fruit of his career-long program of research is a trilogy of books that recreates life in what is now southwest Ontario. Land, Power and Economics on the Frontier of Upper Canada was released in 2000 and won the AAG's prestigious Meridian

Award for Outstanding Scholarly Work in Geography. Ordinary People of Essex: Culture, Environment and Economy on the Frontier of Upper Canada: 1788-1841 is in press... The final instalment of the trilogy, Oligarchy and Land in Upper Canada, will be completed in mid-2010...

Dr. Clarke's dedication to research has been matched by his commitment to teaching. He taught entry level and core courses in the Department for over 30 years. He played a major role in the development of these gateway courses during the "foundation years" of Carleton's Department of Geography, and he encouraged many students to major in geography and eventually pursue graduate studies. ... He was the "geographer's geographer"...[and] also supervised 42 BA Honours and MA students who prepared research theses that addressed aspects of the historical geography of Ontario..."

Dr. **Wayne Forsythe** of Ryerson University was elected as the incoming VP for CAGONT and will serve a three year term beginning effectively. Dr. William Crumplin, CAGONT President, thanked Dr. **Marilyne Jollineau** for her dedication and hard work for the last 5 years. He also stated that his second term as President expires in 2010 and asked people to consider volunteering or nominating someone at next year's annual meeting.

Again the program that contributed the largest number of CAGONT registrants was the joint Waterloo-Wilfrid Laurier grad program with about 40 persons. Dr. **Jean Andrey** of Waterloo has been a long time supporter of CAGONT and is one of the faculty who spearheads this attendance. Of note this year was a group of 23 3rd and 4th year undergraduate students from Laurentian University who make the trek in a convoy of 4 vehicles from Sudbury to Mississauga. Dr. **Nicole Yantzi** of Laurentian University was instrumental in encouraging so many undergraduate students to attend and 5 or 6 indicated that they are now serious about pursuing grad studies in the next year or two.

14. Geographer of the Week: Christopher Hugenholtz, University of Lethbridge

Dr. [Christopher Hugenholtz](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge. He is a geomorphologist with a broad background in wind erosion, permafrost, geophysics, mass movements and sedimentology/stratigraphy. He received an MSc at the University of Ottawa in Physical Geography and then went to the University of Calgary where he completed a PhD (2006) as a Killam scholar. Before arriving at Lethbridge in 2007, he held a NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of Geoscience, University of Calgary. Chris' main research focus is the interaction between wind and the landscape. Over the last five years his research has focused on the dynamics of inland sand dune systems in the northern Great Plains. He established the [Applied Geomorphology Research Lab](#) (AGRL) to

investigate connections between climate, sediment transport, anthropogenic activities, and geomorphic systems. Current field research activities include: wind erosion process studies, large-scale terrain instability and glacier recession, geomatics applications to environmental issues, Quaternary environments, boundary-layer meteorology, sedimentology, stratigraphy & landform experiments.

15. Other “Geographical” News

Thaw Scars Widespread Across Northern Yukon Lands

Slump caused by thawing permafrost look like a bomb craters leaking mud. There are also many of these beacons of change in the Yukon Territory that form when warm air eats at permafrost that contains large bodies of ice. Though it's not part of Davidge's job for Environment Canada, the giant scar on the landscape intrigued him enough to send him to Google Earth on his own time to search for more of the characteristic scoops missing from hillsides along the remote Peel River drainage. He found a lot of them. "I don't have the total count in front of me," he said from his office in Whitehorse. "I keep adding them to the list, but it's probably in the range of 200 or so. ... There are many other huge ones out there." [The Bristol Bay Times](#)

200,000 Years of Baffin Island Lake Sediments Show Recent Changes Unprecedented

An analysis of sediment cores indicates that biological and chemical changes occurring at a remote Arctic lake are unprecedented over the past 200,000 years and likely are the result of human-caused climate change. While environmental changes at the lake over the past millennia have been shown to be tightly linked with natural causes of climate change -- like periodic, well-understood wobbles in Earth's orbit -- changes seen in the sediment cores since about 1950 indicate expected climate cooling is being overridden by human activity like greenhouse gas emissions. The sediment core predates by about 80,000 years the oldest cores from the Greenland Ice Sheet, capturing two ice ages as well as three interglacial periods. [EurekAlert!](#) | [Queen's News Centre](#)

Greenwashing the Globe, Hijacking the Sustainability Movement



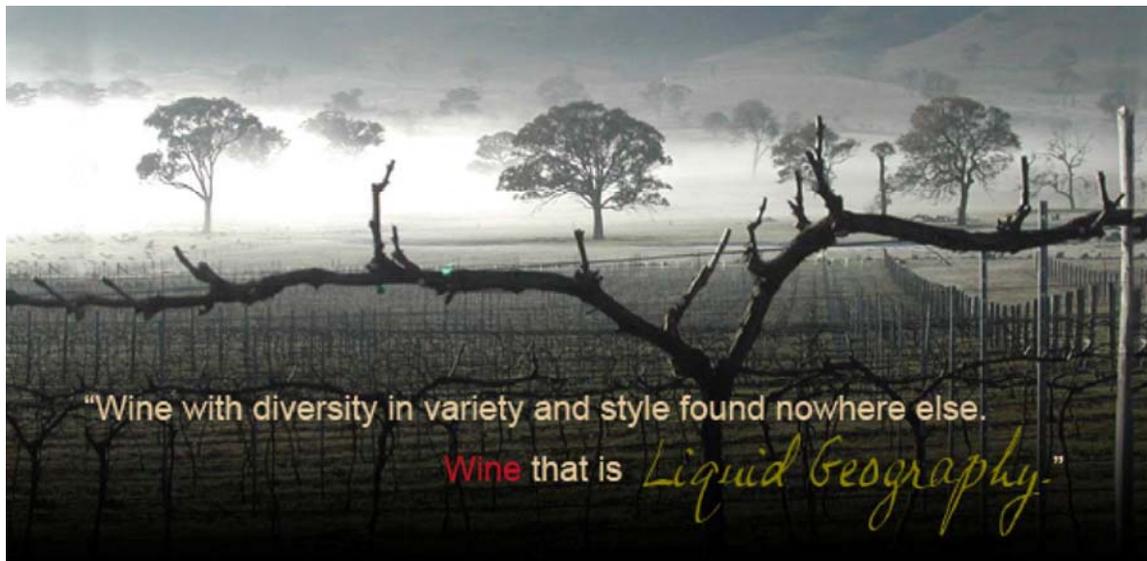
Once upon a time, “sustainability” was a buzzword for hippies and activists, shouted through megaphones with increasing frustration at an SUV-driving,

suburb-loving public. “In order for the sustainability movement to realize its goals, it has to become popular,” says Dr. Adrian Parr, “but as it becomes popular, it’s being appropriated by the interests of Big Business.” Parr, the author of *Hijacking Sustainability*, worries that even new sustainability technologies might be co-opted for corporate gain. “Who’s going to own the patents on this new technology?” she asks. “If all the patents for green technology are owned by the privileged, we’re essentially saying to countries like India, China or Sudan, ‘if you want to go green in your economic development, we’re going to make you pay for it.’” [Fast Forward Weekly](#)

Giant Impact Near India -- Not Mexico -- May Have Doomed Dinosaurs

A mysterious basin off the coast of India could be the largest, multi-ringed impact crater the world has ever seen. And if a new study is right, it may have been responsible for killing the dinosaurs off 65 million years ago. “If we are right, this is the largest crater known on our planet,” Sankar Chatterjee of Texas Tech University said. “A bolide of this size, perhaps 40 kilometers in diameter creates its own tectonics.” [Science News](#)

16. Some not so “Geographical” News



Winemaking is the most sensual way to understand a piece of land. Canberra District wines deliver unique qualities derived from an environment like no other in Australia. The range in temperature, vineyard elevations, soil types and the careful influence of the winemakers skill and individual character help to shape the refined, unique qualities of the final product. Wine with diversity in variety and style found nowhere else. Wine that is Liquid Geography. [Thanks to [Anne-Louise Semple](#) for pointing the way to this site]. [Canberra District Wine](#)

GeogNews Archives:

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