



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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1. UBC O's Carlos Teixeira Housing Barriers Facing New Immigrants in Kelowna

The successful integration of immigrants into a new society is based on their attainment of several basic needs, including access to adequate, suitable and affordable housing," said Carlos Teixeira, Associate Professor of Human Geography. "While this has long been a concern in Canadian cities such as Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal, it is also increasingly an issue in growing mid-size cities such as Kelowna." In September, Teixeira published a paper in *The Canadian Geographer* that indicates immigrants searching for rental housing in Kelowna met with significant barriers in finding affordable housing. Among the barriers cited were high housing costs, lack of reliable housing information, and prejudice by landlords based on the immigrants' ethnic and racial background. Kelowna.ca | [CKFR](#)

2. Queen's Betsy Donald Urges Kingston City Council to Abandon Land Grab

Calling it "a cheap land grab," Barriefield resident Betsy Donald urged city council to abandon any attempts to go ahead with a low-income housing development proposed for the historic village. Since the spring, the city has been negotiating behind closed doors to acquire surplus Department of National Defence lands. Residents are upset about the size of the development since it will house almost as many residents as now live in the historic former village. They say it doesn't conform to either the city's official plan or zoning bylaws. "You're jeopardizing a national, historic treasure," Donald, a geography professor at Queen's University who specializes in urban geography, told council. "It's a cheap land grab, but at what cost?" [Kingston Whig-Standard](#)

3. UBC Geographer Daniel Hiebert Cited on Immigrant Wages

The United Nations' independent expert on minority issues has said there is "limited discussion" in Canada about the impact of race. Gay McDougall is visiting Canada this month to examine this country's human-rights laws and policies. She suggested that "significant differentials in income, income security, [and] net worth" would attract her attention if the divide was along racial, ethnic, or religious lines. For instance, she notes that UBC geographer Daniel Hiebert recently published a paper noting that Canadian-born males had an average income of \$50,461 in 2005, whereas immigrant males earned an average of \$37,242. Immigrant females earned an average of \$24,431 in 2005, compared with \$32,408 for Canadian-born women. "Studies conducted at the national level have documented a steep decline in the initial earnings of immigrants over the period 1980 to 2005 and have reported that a large proportion of immigrants fall into the low-income category, as defined by Statistics Canada," Hiebert wrote. [Straight.com](#)

4. SFU Geography Vanier Scholar Sai Soe Win Latt Begins Study

Among the 4,462 SFU graduate students pursuing degrees this fall is one of the university's first six Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship recipients Sai Soe Win Latt of the Department of Geography. Sai Soe Win is researching issues involving the gigantic Tasang hydroelectric dam project in Burma (Myanmar) supported by the Asian Development Bank. Sai Soe Win is among 166 of the world's top doctoral scholars chosen last spring to receive the prestigious new award, the Canadian equivalent of the U.S. Fulbright and U.K. Rhodes scholarships. Vanier winners receive \$50,000 a year for up to three years to support their doctoral studies. [SFU Online](#)

5. UVic's Jutta Gutberlet Finds Ways to Make Life Better for Binnners

You may think it's the end of the line when you put a beverage container into your recycling bin, but as Jutta Gutberlet knows, it's really just the beginning. The University of Victoria geographer is finding ways to help make life better for informal recyclers or "binnners"—people

who make their living collecting the beverage containers we put in our recycling bins and dumpsters. Gutberlet's Community-Based Research Laboratory at UVic has teamed up with Tony Hoar, an engineer and founder of Tony's Trailers, to create a unique "shelter-in-a-cart" that solves that problem—and more. The roomy, collapsible cart can be towed behind a bicycle, and when it's empty, it unfolds to support a built-in tent with an elevated cot built into the base. It's a livelihood and living accommodation all in one. [UVic knowEdge](#)

6. McGill PhD Graduate Appointed to Roberta Bondar Postdoctoral Fellow in Northern and Polar Studies at Trent University

Trent University has announced the appointment of Dr. Scott Heyes, a lecturer from the University of Melbourne in Australia and northern Indigenous researcher, as the 2010 Roberta Bondar Postdoctoral Fellow in Northern and Polar Studies. Dr. Heyes, who holds a Ph.D. in geography from McGill University, is a lecturer in landscape architecture at the University of Melbourne, Australia. He has been conducting research on Indigenous conceptions of landscape for nearly a decade, including fieldwork with the Inuit of Arctic Quebec. In his current research, Dr. Heyes is developing a dictionary of sea-ice terms for an Inuit community as part of a knowledge preservation project, and is investigating how Aborigines in Southern Australia have historically modified the land to facilitate fishery enterprises. He is also investigating how Inuit have been involved in the design and determination of Arctic parks in Northern Quebec. [Trent University Daily News](#) | [Peterborough Examiner](#)

7. UVic Flag Lowered in Honour of Dr. Harry Foster

The University of Victoria flag was lowered on Tuesday, October 27 in honour of Dr. Harry Foster, who passed away August 15, 2009. Foster was a professor in the geography department for 40 years, until his retirement in 2008. He will be remembered for his many contributions to medical geography, where he developed many early concepts regarding the spatial distribution of and environmental causality behind diseases such as schizophrenia, AIDS and cancer long before such relationships were recognized. He is sorely missed by his colleagues, students and friends. [UVic](#) | [Globe and Mail](#) | [Harold Foster Foundation](#)

8. U of A Augustana's Glen Hvenegaard Investigates Benefits of Wildlife Festivals

Dr. Glen Hvenegaard, Augustana's Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Alberta's Augustana campus, spent last summer with his research assistant, Jodi Rintoul, investigating the conservation benefits of wildlife festivals in Canada after winning a research grant from the prestigious Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). The project will last for three years and will inventory about 85 wildlife festivals across Canada. Specifically, the project will be evaluating conservation objectives, analyzing mechanisms, documenting outcomes and explaining consistencies or inconsistencies of these objectives, as well as outcomes. Hvenegaard is using this research as a case study to represent a larger concept of ecotourism. He will focus on Canada; however, he will use

similar studies in the United States to make a comparison. The US has some of the biggest wildlife festivals which attract tens of thousands. [Augustana News](#)

9. Concordia Student Featured in Story on How Going Green is Shifting Workforce

“Public awareness of environmental issues has never been better understood. The new jobs we’re seeing emerge are related to consumer and public awareness -- what products you’re buying, how you’re consuming energy.” For Karel Mayrand, who heads the David Suzuki Foundation in Montreal, the environment is increasingly built into jobs, from office work stations to the factory floor. “It’s becoming part of your job description,” he says. “Corporations need to include environmental consciousness in the way they do business.” The story is accompanied by a photograph captioned “Travis Ahearn, a geography student, works on the Sustainable Development Concordia composter in Montreal, Friday, October 24, 2008.” [The Calgary Herald](#)

10. UWO Geography Introduces Geography Internship Program

The Department of Geography offers an Internship course for those students interested in gaining practical workplace experience as part of their undergraduate program. Students in the internship will spend 8 to 16 months (between May of one year to August of the next year) working in a degree-related position, between the third and fourth year of their academic studies. 2010 is the first year in which Geography students will be placed in Internship positions. Although the course has just been approved, many companies and organizations have already expressed their interest in recruiting Geography students. [UWO Geography Internships](#)

11. UNBC Graduate Student Accomplishments

MA Interdisciplinary Studies (Anth/Geog) graduate student **Cristian Silva** (supervisor: C. Nolin) is in Buenos Aires, Argentina this week at the [5th Forensic Anthropology Congress of the Latin American Forensic Anthropology Association \(ALAF\)](#) to present his paper: Silva, C. and C. Nolin (2009), “*La exhumación de Margarita Telón Cún: analizando los efectos del conflicto armado interno en Guatemala rural / The exhumation of Margarita Telón Cún: Analysing the effects of the internal armed conflict in rural Guatemala*”



Cristian Silva with Dr. Clyde Snow in Argentina – Dr. Snow is considered the “founding father” of forensic anthropology. Cristian arranged for Dr. Snow’s travel to UNBC last year to present findings from his decades-long career in forensic anthropology (in November 2008:

http://www.unbc.ca/geography/whats_new/faculty_member_news.html)

MA Natural Resources & Environmental Studies (Geography) grad student **Courtney LeBourdais** (supervisor: C. Nolin) traveled to UBC-O in Kelowna on 24 October 2009 for the [4th Annual Cascadia Critical Geographies Conference](#) & received one of the awards in the Paper Competition for her presentation: LeBourdais, C. and C. Nolin (2009), "[Marriage migration in Northern BC: The negotiation of place and identity among foreign brides](#)"

12. UWO PhD Student Wins Best PhD Student Presentation Award at ELDAAG 2009

Richard Sadler, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario, won the Best PhD Student Presentation Award for his talk entitled "*The Availability and Price of Nutritious Foods in a Declining Rust Belt City*" at the [2009 East Lakes Division Association of American Geographers Conference](#) held in Dayton Ohio on October 23/24. More information on Western can be found at: <http://geography.ssc.uwo.ca/grad/>

13. Prairie Summit - CAG AGM 2009 at the University of Regina

The Department of Geography at the University of Regina invites you to participate in the first joint meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG), the Canadian Cartographic Association (CCA), the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group (CGRG) and the Canadian Remote Sensing Society (CRSS). The conference organizers have launched the English version of the summit webpage and are inviting you to check in periodically for updates. [The Prairie Summit](#)

14. Geographer of the Week: Sally Hermansen, University of British Columbia

[Sally Hermansen](#) is a Senior Instructor in Geographic Information Science at the Department of Geography, University of British Columbia. She also currently holds the position of Assistant Dean Student Services in the Faculty of Arts. Her main area of interest is Geographic Data Visualization, and she teaches courses in Cartography, Geographic Information Science and Remote Sensing. Sally works on collaborative research projects that use GIS to visualize environmental history and she undertakes research on the evolution of the teaching of cartography in academia, and the learning of spatial concepts by children. She teaches an introductory course on geography (Vancouver and its Region) and specialized project courses on sustainability when the opportunity arises. [UBC Geography Department](#)

15. Recent Theses and Dissertations

Drew Bednasek. 2009. *Aboriginal and Colonial Geographies of the File Hills Farm Colony*. Unpublished PhD Dissertation. Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisors: Drs. Anne Godlewska and Laura Cameron.

16. *The Canadian Geographer* - Early View (Articles on line in advance of print)

The aim of *The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien* is to publish original writing of the highest scholarly quality on topics of interest to geographers and scholars in related fields worldwide. CAG members are entitled to online access through [Wiley-InterScience](#). Presented below are the manuscripts currently presented on line in advance of print as [Early View](#) papers.

[Awake anon the tales of valour: the career of a war memorial in St. Catharines, Ontario.](#) Russell Johnston, Michael Ripmeester

[Ethnoscaping Canada's boreal forest: liberal whiteness and its disaffiliation from colonial space.](#) Andrew Baldwin

[Fringe explosions: risk and vulnerability in Canada's new in-between urban landscape.](#) Roger Keil, Douglas Young

[Where does all the talent flow? Migration of young graduates and nongraduates, Canada 1996–2001.](#) Françoise Delisle, Richard Shearmur

[Hydrology and water resources in Canadian geography.](#) Sean K. Carey

[The changing biosphere: recent insights from paleoenvironmental science into drivers, mechanisms and impacts.](#) Sarah A. Finkelstein

[Mapping international flows of electronic waste.](#) Josh Lepawsky, Chris McNabb

[Une histoire de résidus : à propos des facteurs généraux et locaux de croissance régionale au Canada, de 1971 à 2001.](#) Philippe Apparicio, Mario Polèse, Richard Shearmur

[The influence of betterment discourses on Canadian Aboriginal peoples in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.](#) C Drew Bednasek, Anne M. C. Godlewska

[Legacy databases and GIS: a discussion of the issues illustrated by a case study of archaeological site data from southeast Alberta, Canada.](#) Robin Woywitka, Alwynne B. Beaudoin

[Spatial-temporal patterns of snow cover in western Canada.](#) Carson J.Q. Farmer, Trisalyn A. Nelson, Mike A. Wulder, Chris Derksen

[Capacity, scale and place: pragmatic lessons for doing community-based research in the rural setting.](#) Sean Markey, Greg Halseth, Don Manson

[A geographic assessment of 'total' health care supply in Ontario: complementary and alternative medicine and conventional medicine.](#) Stephen P. Meyer

[Geomorphology of snow avalanche impact landforms in the southern Canadian Cordillera](#). Alexis L. Johnson, Dan J. Smith

17. Other “Geographical” News

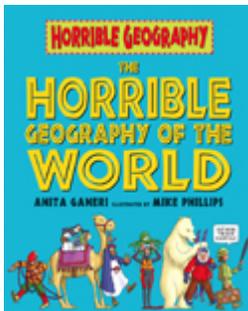
The New Geography of Health Care in the U.S.A.

Many of the House members in both parties who are most opposed to the health care reform legislation moving toward a historic vote represent districts where the share of residents without insurance exceeds the national average, often by substantial amounts, according to recently released census data. That dynamic creates the likelihood of a deeply ironic result: If health care reform passes, many of the districts that benefit most from the federal subsidies to expand access to coverage will be those represented by members who voted against the bill. [NationalJournal.com](#)

'Chicken Run' Empties City Classrooms

Cities are losing thousands of pupils a year as families move out when their children reach school age, according to statistics obtained by the Observer which document the dramatic effect on education in England and Wales. Academics say the so-called "chicken run" – parents leaving city centres to chase the best schools – is most obvious in London but happens in other cities. Danny Dorling, a professor of human geography at the University of Sheffield said "It's families leaving for all kinds of reasons, but fear about education is one of the key ones," he said. "You see it in the youngest ages leaving. You have that fast decline in the years up until primary school, then a continued decline in teenage years. It's people deciding they need to get out. [The Observer](#)

18. Some not so “Geographical” News



Geography with the gritty bits left in! Inside you'll find out what happens when a volcano turns nasty, whether you'd survive at the frozen poles, how a frog can help you get a drink in the desert. Hold on tight as you embark on a whistle-stop trip around the globe taking in everything from the perishing poles to desperate deserts, stormy weather to earth-shattering earthquakes. Crammed full of far-out facts, it's the ultimate Horrible Geography guide to the planet. Geography has never been so horrible

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