



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**

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**1. Nipissing University Department of Geography Acquires New Facilities**

Nipissing University opened a new \$8.6-million Academic and Research Complex. The 3-storey, 26,000-square-foot facility features state-of-the-art classrooms, research laboratories, and faculty offices for researchers in the areas of biology, education, history, geography, and psychology. In constructing the research and academic wing, the university endeavoured to include features that would make the building energy efficient and more responsive to the environment. [Nipissing University News](#)

Geography-based projects with local and global applications are taking root in the new complex. John Kovacs, professor of geography, is using satellite images and field studies to learn how to map and detect problems with vital mangrove resources on tropical coasts. The same methods and technologies are being used to examine and protect the crop fields of Verner for the Northeastern Ontario Soil Crop Improvement Association. Dan Walters, also of the geography department, is studying how water resource protection policies work in regions where communities are evolving, as well as how local knowledge can be integrated into

management plans. Walters said one project involves working with the Dokis First Nation to document the history of local well water and what community members know about threats and how to protect it. [North Bay Nugget](#)

## **2. Memorial University's Keith Storey on Newfoundland Demographics**

For the first time in almost four decades, the population of Newfoundland and Labrador has actually grown. Many jobs in the Alberta oil and gas industries dried up in the fall of 2008, sending Newfoundlanders back to their home province, including some to the outports and other small towns that have been losing people for a long time. How to service them with health care, education, snow removal and other necessities vexes the provincial government. There's another reason for those high costs: an older population. As Memorial University geographer Keith Storey underscored in a recent paper, the median age for people living in Newfoundland in 1971 was 20.9; now it's 42. [Globe and Mail](#)

## **3. Manitoba U's David Barber on Severe Arctic Meltdown**

David Barber, Canada Research Chair in Arctic System Science at the University of Manitoba, says satellite images used to track the overall extent of Arctic ice suggest a transformative change in Arctic ecosystems is accelerating and that safe shipping in polar waters during the summer and fall will begin much sooner than many experts predict. "These are very significant findings since the scientists and public all thought that sea ice was recovering since the minimum extent in 2007," says Barber, an environment and geography professor with the university's Centre for Earth Observation Science. [Canada.com](#) | [UM News Blog](#) | [Vancouver Sun](#)

## **4. SFU's Warren Gill Looks at Vancouver's Loss of Cruise Ship Traffic to Seattle**

SFU Geographer and V-P Warren Gill and economics prof emeritus Jock Munro collaborated on a guest article for The Vancouver Sun, looking at Vancouver's loss of cruise ship traffic to Seattle: "Since our cruise home-port monopoly was partly the result of a protected market, gaining this trade back in a competitive market where we are clearly uncompetitive will be a challenge. . . . Without a coordinated a coordinated public policy response it seems unlikely that there will be an improvement." [The Vancouver Sun](#)

## **5. Queen's Geography Undergrads Author Paper in Journal of Geography in Higher Education**

Queen's Geography undergrads Joyce Davidson, Leah Huff, Jen Bridgen, Andrea Carolan, Ashley Chang, Katherine Harris, Kathryn Ennis, and Jen Miller have co-authored a paper entitled "*Doing Gender' at Body Worlds: Embodying Field Trips as Affective Educational Experience*," in the [Journal of Geography in Higher Education](#) (2009, 33(3):303-314). Their paper discusses the background, experience and outcomes of an explicitly feminist field trip to

Gunther von Hagen's Body Worlds 2: The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies. The cultural landscape of this exhibition materialized gendered geographies very powerfully, facilitating observation and analysis of embodied and emotional, social and spatial relations examined by students of two participating courses: 'Gender and the City', and 'Geographies of Embodiment and Emotion'. Beyond its examination of often shocking and stereotypically gendered displays, the paper presents a challenge to research as well as teaching orthodoxy, arguing that its (student/teacher) collaborative authorship is in itself a form of feminist practice which disrupts authoritative geographical knowledge. [Informaworld](#)

## **6. York U's Peter Vandergeest Discusses Challenges in Certifying Seafood**

York geography Professor Peter Vandergeest says that there is more than meets the eye when it comes to the fish and seafood that make it to the dinner plate. He should know. Active in controversies around eco-labelling and the certification of seafood, Vandergeest participated in a United States National Academy of Sciences workshop that launched efforts to systematize eco-labelling and certification for sustainability. "These are excellent opportunities to bring our research into an ongoing discussion about how certification systems are being set up," says Vandergeest, the lead investigator on the three-year (2007 to 2010) Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada funded research project, *Privatizing Environmental Governance (PEG): A Global Analysis of the Effects and Effectiveness of Environmental Certification for Farmed Salmon and Shrimp*. [Ylife](#)

## **7. Concordia U's Damon Matthews Receives 2009 New Scholar Award**

More than 50 gathered in the Hall Building Faculty Lounge for the fourth annual Arts and Science Dean's Awards reception at Concordia University to honour six outstanding individuals for their lasting contribution to the university, the Faculty, their colleagues and students. One of two New Scholar awards, recognizing outstanding achievement by a tenure-track faculty member was awarded to Department of Geography, Planning and Environment professor Damon Matthews. Publishing his research in the most prestigious journals in his field, Matthews has established himself as a leader in climate stabilization, carbon cycle-climate feedbacks and land-cover change. [Concordia Journal](#)

## **8. WLU's Barbara Carmichael Appointed as Director of the Next Centre**

Dr [Barbara Carmichael](#) is a Professor in human geography who teaches tourism courses in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. Her courses are Geography of Tourism, Geography of Recreation, Geography of Tourism Marketing and Seminar in Tourism Research. Her research interests include tourism experiences; tourist-resident interactions; tourist decision making and tourism entrepreneurship. Her recent work in tourism involves tracking tourism experiences using mobile technologies in joint research with Dr Sean Doherty. In entrepreneurship her work focuses on transnational tourism entrepreneurship, commercial home entrepreneurship and lifestyle entrepreneurship. She has just accepted an appointment

as Director of the Next Centre ([Centre for the Study of Nascent Entrepreneurship and the Exploitation of Technology](#)) and in this role is planning a series of events including an academic conference on [Tourism Entrepreneurship](#) to be held April 22, 23rd 2010.

### **9. Carleton U's Michael Brklacich Video Interview on Hacked Climate Change Email Furor**

The controversy over the email leaks—or I should say stolen emails—from the climate research unit at East Anglia University in England is still raging. Joining us now to help us make sense of all this is Mike Brklacich. He's a professor and chair at the Geography and Environmental Studies Department at Carleton University, and he's the lead author of the North American Chapter by the Working Group 2 of the International Panel on Climate Change report, which was awarded a Nobel Prize in 2007. [theREALnews network](#)

### **10. McGill U's Nigel Roulet Presents Alarming Statistics Concerning Global**

Three climate scientists and one historian of science discussed today's climate problems and possible solutions to prevent rising atmospheric CO2 levels at the Lorne Trottier Public Science Symposium. McGill geography professor and symposium moderator Nigel Roulet initiated the discussion by citing a 2007 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicting that worldwide temperature levels would be 1.4 to 4.8 degrees warmer by 2100 compared to conditions in 1850. "There is a large body of literature that suggests that these kinds of changes in climate will have a profound effect on society, including things like the global economy, environmental resources, and water," said Roulet. Roulet introduced the two main policies for dealing with climate change: mitigation of greenhouse gases to reduce the concentration of CO2 in the atmosphere, and geoengineering, or the "deliberate manipulation of the physical chemicals and the biological aspects of the Earth system." [The McGill Tribune](#)

### **11. News from the University of Western Ontario Geography Department**

Congratulations to Professors Jeff Hopkins, Chantelle Richmond and Graham Smith who were recognized with USC Teaching Honour Role Awards of Excellence for 2008 - 2009. This award acknowledges outstanding teachers at Western and is based on information received from the course and teacher evaluations. In the course surveys that are completed by undergraduate students, they received an average assessment of 6.3 or more out of 7 on the first 10 questions. This recognition, which comes on behalf of the entire student body, is well deserved. Further information about Western Geography can be found at: [www.uwo.ca/geog](http://www.uwo.ca/geog)

Congratulations to Rachel Bezner-Kerr, who along with colleagues from the Ekwendeni Hospital (Malawi), our own Isaac Luginaah and others, have received funding from IDRC to determine how farmers and policy makers can best respond to emerging climate change, HIV/AIDS and rising food vulnerabilities in Malawi. The project, which is funded for four years,

includes research opportunities for post doctoral and graduate students. Further information on the research undertaken to date can be found at [www.soilandfood.org](http://www.soilandfood.org).

## **12. Algoma University's Nairne Cameron on Shift to Post-Carbon Economy**

A panel of speakers held a town hall meeting organized by the Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains (CAPT) and Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas, and Knowledge (NORDIK) to discuss the urgency of securing effective train service for Algoma. Dr. Nairne Cameron, a geography professor at Algoma University, talked about the shift to a post-carbon economy. Professor Cameron said this shift is inevitable and rail transportation of both goods and people will be a vital link in a post-carbon world. "Whatever we do, we can't wait until it's upon us," she said. "It's important we begin to prepare now because we really don't know how much longer people are going to be able to drive cars around and live they way they live now." [SooToday.com](http://SooToday.com)

## **13. Geographer of the Week: Dr. Deborah Cowen, University of Toronto**

[Deborah Cowen](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geograph & Planning at the University of Toronto. She completed a BA at the University of Toronto, a MScPI at the University of Toronto, and her PhD University of Toronto. My work explores citizenship, labour, and the geographies of belonging. I am captivated by the ways groups claim space, organize and design space, interpret space, fight over space, govern space, and share space, particularly in cities. Her research follows two main trajectories. The first examines borders, militarism, security, and violence, where she is interested in how territory is fashioned and how the political is remade through conflict. The second examines urban politics and planning, with a focus on the racialization of poverty and space in the changing postwar suburbs. [Geography & Planning, University of Toronto](#)

## **14. Other "Geographical" News**

### **CPAWS Manitoba Releases New Report "Caribou and You"**

The Manitoba Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) recently released its new report entitled "*Caribou and You*". The report tells the story of the woodland caribou's decline and how saving the threatened species from extinction will help slow the affects of climate change. [Caribou and You](#)

### **Points of View: Capturing the 19th Century in Photographs**

The British Library has a spectacular online and physical exhibit of photographs of the 1800s made available here. The website has a minute-long video introduction to the exhibit that starts upon arriving at the homepage. Visitors can "view exhibition online" by clicking on the

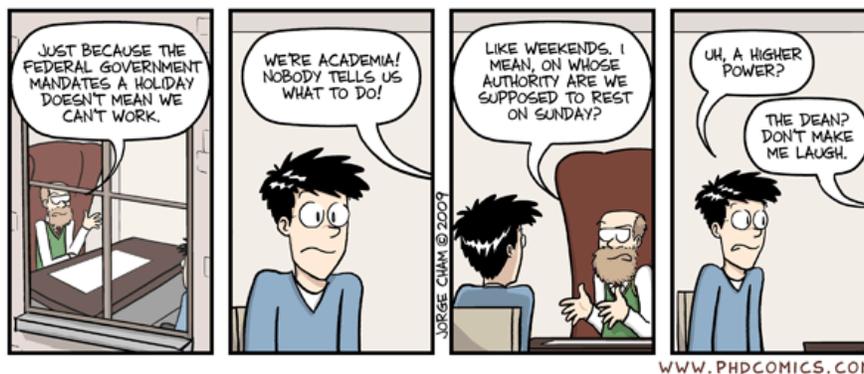
entitled link near the bottom of the page. The exhibition is divided into eight themes of 19th-century life, such as "Art", "Portraits", "Science", and "Travel". [Points of View](#)

### 15. Some not so “Geographical” News



**The One that Didn't Get Away**

It may sound like a big fish tale, but the blue marlin hanging in the Diefenbaker Canada Centre on the University of Saskatchewan campus was indeed caught by Canada's 13th Prime Minister himself. While on a trip to Jamaica in January 1961, Diefenbaker ventured out into the deep sea where it took him over three hours to reel in the 140-pound monster. One month after his vacation, Diefenbaker met with U.S. President John F. Kennedy at the White House. The two swapped their best fish stories as Kennedy bragged about the sailfish he had hanging on the wall in the Oval Office. He asked his Canadian counterpart if he had caught anything better. Kennedy, apparently, didn't believe Diefenbaker had reeled in a bigger fish but when he visited the Prime Minister's office a few months later, Diefenbaker had the marlin hanging from the wall to prove his feat. [US OCN Campus News](#)



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