



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Promoting Cultural Awareness Through Project Based Learning:** A third year geography class at Memorial has been working on a project this semester that they hope will help to address the unique problems of small communities in rural Newfoundland. Assistant geography professor Dr. Kelly Vodden was approached by Tanya Noble of the Rural Secretariat in July 2009 to examine communities in the Kittiwake Coast area. The communities in question in the Kittiwake Coast area include Twillingate, New World Island, Gander Bay, New-Wes-Valley, Fogo Island and Change Islands, including the Town of Tilting and Lewisporte. Dr. Vodden, a big believer in project-based learning, explains that geographers, who have a long history of involvement in planning, are uniquely positioned to look at the relationships between spatial scales or between one community and several communities. [MUN Today](#)

**Queen's Warren Mabee on CBC Radio:** Warren Maybe of the Queen's University Department of Geography was recently on CBC Radio Quebec City, Thunder Bay, Corner Brook, Cape Breton and Ontario Morning. Warren was discussing whether Alberta and Saskatchewan meet the same greenhouse-gas emissions targets as eastern provinces. [Warren Mabee Homepage](#)

**U Regina's Dave Sauchyn on Scientific Evidence of Man-Made Climate Change:** David Sauchyn, a U of R geography professor who led a federal government study on the impact of climate change on the Prairies, won't be going to Copenhagen but is a firm believer in the scientific evidence of man-made climate change. Sauchyn, who briefed 30 or 40 MPs about climate change in September in advance of the Copenhagen meetings, said he has become cynical about politicians actually doing anything about man-made climate change. "It's really discouraging as a scientist because they don't seem to be that interested in the facts. They all have their own partisan positions and they just use the scientists to support what they think." [The StarPhoenix](#)

**UBC-O's Dan Durall Looks Below Ground to Learn About Healthy Forests:** UBC researchers are looking below ground in a forest near Kamloops, B.C., to better understand how the health and survival of Douglas fir trees may be affected by the relationships and connectivity of webs of fungi that grow on tree roots. "The functional aspects of mycorrhizal networks are very important and there is substantial evidence now that suggests the transfer of important nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, occur from one plant to another through this web-like underground system," says Dan Durall, associate professor of biology and physical geography at UBC Okanagan. "However, no one has ever looked at the structure of these networks." [Kelowna.com](#)

**Memorial Geography Students Take Presentation Honours at ArcticNet:** At the annual science meeting of ArcticNet in Victoria, B.C., this past week, two geography graduate students took top honours for their research project presentations. Christina Goldhar received first place for her poster in the social sciences, titled Bringing water to the cabin: Vulnerability of drinking water systems under a changing climate in Nunatsiavut. Melanie Irvine was awarded third place in the terrestrial sciences for

her poster, titled Building on unstable ground: Identifying physical landscape constraints on infrastructure sustainability and planning in Nunavut communities. [MUN Today](#)

**University of Guelph Geography Professor Barry Smit Guest on TVO's *The Agenda Monday*:** Dr. Smit took part in a live panel discussion on saving the South Pacific Island Nations. It was part of TVO's "Countries in Crisis" series. Smit holds a Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Change and a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. [Episode Page](#)

**University of Alberta Professor Duane Froese Makes Mammoth Discovery:** Woolly mammoths and ancient horses disappeared from North America thousands of years later than originally thought, casting doubt on common theories of a sudden mass extinction, says Duane Froese. New research techniques enabled Froese and his colleagues to find evidence of mammoths and wild horses as recently as 7,600 years ago, indicating the mammals held on in slowly dwindling herds for about 5,000 years longer than originally thought. The findings blow holes in a theory that mammoths and other ice age megafauna, such as sabre-toothed tigers, were wiped out when some sort of comet or extraterrestrial impact hit the Earth 13,000 years ago. [Edmonton Journal](#) | [Science Centric](#) | [Vancouver Sun](#) | [UA Express News](#)

**University of Saskatchewan's Scott Bell Receives Funds from CFI:** University of Saskatchewan researchers have been awarded a total of more than \$1.46 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) in support of 16 wide-ranging projects. [Scott Bell](#) (geography and planning), Nazeem Muharjarine (community health and epidemiology), and Karen Chad (kinesiology) will study the relationship between neighbourhoods and health, research that could assist in city planning and in ensuring healthy cities across Canada. [U of S News Release](#)

**Mount Allison Geographers Tell the Story of Historic Bathurst House:** Jarratt and her cousin Patsy Hennessy began a mission this year to learn more about the house in Bathurst, which their family bought in 1914 and where members of the Hennessy family still live today. Earlier this month, scientists from Mount Allison University visited the home to remove samples of wood for dendrochronological analysis from beams in the basement and attic, which will allow them to determine when the house was built. [The Daily Gleaner](#) | [The Chronicle Herald](#) | [CTV News](#) | [Telegraph-Journal](#) |

**Queen's University's Dongmei Chen Receives CFI Funds to Establish GCAL:** Seven Queen's researchers received a total of \$873,556 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) Leaders Opportunities Fund. In the Department of Geography, [Dongmei Chen](#) received \$100,882 to establish a GeoComputation and Analysis Laboratory (GCAL) for Population Health and Disease Modeling. [Queen's News Centre](#)

**SFU Geography Grad Elected New Member of the Squamish Nation Band Council:** The [Whistler Pique](#) and the [Squamish Chief](#) reported the election of a new member to the Squamish Nation band council: Christopher Lewis. A senior policy advisor with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations, Lewis has a BA in Geography with a minor in First Nations Studies from SFU. [Squamish Chief](#) | [Whistler Pique](#)

### **Geographer of the Week: John Iacozza, University of Manitoba**

[John Iacozza](#) is an Instructor in the Department of Environment and Geography at the University of Manitoba. He completed a BSc. at McMaster's University and an MA at the University of Manitoba. John's research focuses on the physical controls of habitat selection of Arctic marine mammals (i.e. polar bears, ringed seals, whales). He uses remote sensing technologies and geographic information systems to study the Arctic environment. [U of M Department of Environment and Geography](#)

## Other “Geographical” News

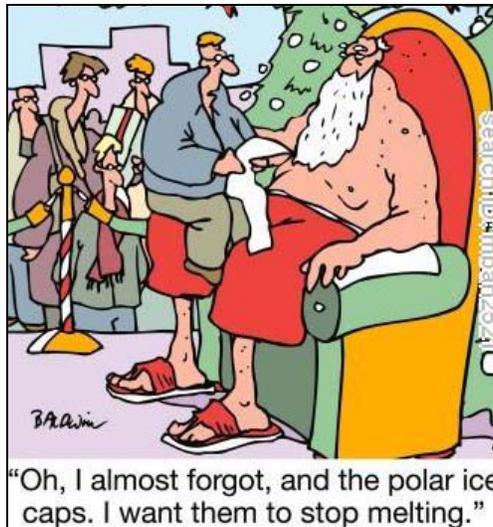
**Cartography 2.0:** Professor Mark Harrower at the University of Wisconsin Madison's Department of Geography was frustrated with the "inability of traditional textbooks to keep pace with Web technologies." So he and his colleagues set out to create Cartography 2.0, which is a "free knowledge base and e-textbook for students and professionals interested in interactive and animated maps." First-time visitors might want to look over the "Purpose" section before diving into the separate "Chapters" of the book. [Cartography 2.0](#)



[mountain.TRIP](#)

**mountain.TRIP (Mountain Sustainability: Transforming Research Into Practice):** The project's remit is sustainability in mountain regions, making research findings available for practical application. Lead partner is the Institute of Mountain Research: Man & Environment of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. TRIP products will make use of new communication and information technologies and will be available via an interactive internet platform.

**Earth's Polar Ice Sheets Vulnerable to Even Moderate Global Warming:** A new analysis of the geological record of the Earth's sea level reveals the planet's polar ice sheets are vulnerable to large-scale melting even under moderate global warming scenarios. Such melting would lead to a large and relatively rapid rise in global sea level. This rise would inundate low-lying coastal areas where hundreds of millions of people now reside. It would permanently submerge New Orleans and other parts of southern Louisiana, much of southern Florida and other parts of the U.S. East Coast, much of Bangladesh, and most of the Netherlands. [Science Daily](#)



## Some not so “Geographical” News

Geography field camps are an exciting part of departmental life. Should your department chair ever ask what the students learned at field camp, it might be better not to mention their mountainside adventures [buggyrolling](#)

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