



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 62, December 21, 2009
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Université du Québec à Montréal's David Hanna Watches Bridge Age Gracefully: Montreal's iconic Victoria Bridge's 150-year-old piers and century-old steel superstructure show no signs of weakening and will continue to serve the city for years to come. Unlike the Champlain, the Victoria was built using "permanent materials" – steel and stone, said David Hanna, a Université du Québec à Montréal urban geographer and expert on Montreal's railway history. The Victoria Bridge's limestone piers, rooted in bedrock, "will be there for centuries," he said. And the steel is holding up well, though the rust is unsightly. [Montreal Gazette](#)

McGill's James Ford Indicates Climate Change Costly for Inuit: A new study suggests the financial burden of Arctic climate change is already falling on Inuit people and the heaviest costs are hurting those families least able to pay. "Inuit can adapt to climate change," says James Ford, a geographer at Montreal's McGill University, whose paper will be published early in 2010. "We have a number of concerns about whether Inuit can afford to adapt." Ford's current study doesn't estimate the actual costs, but he supports recent statements that northern peoples around the world should be eligible for the proposed adaptation fund being discussed at the climate conference in Copenhagen. [CBC News](#) | [AlaskaDispatch](#)

U Ottawa's Barry Wellar Comments on Ottawa Roundabout: Plans to build a roundabout at one of the busiest intersections in Ottawa's east end are being questioned. Barry Wellar, a retired professor of geography from the University of Ottawa and a traffic expert, said roundabouts are only effective at controlling traffic if they're put in the right location. Wellar is concerned that the Orléans B.I.A. and the city may not have done enough research into the impact of placing a roundabout at St-Joseph and Jeanne D'Arc Boulevards. "If you have an ugly piece of roadway the way to correct that is not with a roundabout at one end of it. That seems to be an inappropriate solution." [CBC News](#)

Queen's Peter Harrison to Chair IPY 2012 Wrap-Up Conference in Montreal: Queen's University School of Policy Studies Director Peter Harrison has been selected to chair the pivotal wrap-up conference of International Polar Year, to be held in Montreal in 2012. Called "From Knowledge to Action" it will focus on ways to implement the findings from International Polar Year studies into policy that addresses key issues raised by this research. "The Conference will be an exciting culmination of all the diverse and important projects associated with International Polar Year" says Dr. Harrison, a professional geographer who came to Queen's from a position as Senior Associate Deputy Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. [Exchange](#)

Strange Connections - Saskatchewan Geography Quiz: From there to here, from here to there, strange connections are everywhere. Knowledge of the subject is not prerequisite for today's mid-term Saskatchewan geography quiz. An aptitude for astronomy, pop culture, sports, word play, religious studies or history should help you identify the link or relationship between these eight Saskatchewan locales and their far-flung counterparts. [Regina Leader-Post](#)

York University Department of Geography Awards Ceremony: An awards ceremony was held on 15 December 2009 to recognize the achievements of Geography undergraduate students [Olivia Molenda](#), [Myia Davar](#) and Randy Sanabria. Olivia was awarded the Geography Science Book Prize, Myia the Geography Arts Book Prize, and Randy was the recipient of the Canadian Association of Geographers Award. [York University Department of Geography](#)

McGill University's Wayne Pollard Involved with NASA IceBite Project in Antarctica: Wayne Pollard, a geography professor at McGill University and one of the world's leading experts on ground ice in polar regions north and south, is on an international research mission to Antarctica with NASA scientists. Pollard reports that the team has now left Lake Joyce in the Pearse Valley, stopping over at the U.S. base at McMurdo briefly before heading on to University Valley, where the NASA IceBite Project will be testing ice-penetrating drills in arid dry permafrost – conditions which exist nowhere else on earth but can be found on Mars. [The Montreal Gazette](#)

Can you find Spain on a world map? About a third of Canadians couldn't in the most recent survey by the Royal Canadian Geographic Society. Sixty per cent couldn't locate Egypt, and almost half shrug their shoulders and smile weakly when asked where Taiwan is. The survey's conclusion: A third of all adult Canadians are "geographically illiterate." Among "young adults," it's even worse. Test your geography skills by correctly answering these 50 questions. [thestar.com](#)

Resilience Science Blog: The Resilience Science weblog is operated by Garry Peterson, a professor in Geography and the School of the Environment at McGill University. It was started in early 2005 by [Garry Peterson](#) and Marco Janssen as an experiment to communicate recent work by and of interest to those interested in resilience in social ecological systems. Currently its contributors are members of Resilience Alliance (RA), a research network of scientists and practitioners from many disciplines who collaborate to explore the dynamics of social-ecological systems. Key RA concepts include resilience, the adaptive cycle, and panarchy. The RA works to develop a practical theoretical foundation for a sustainable civilization. [Resilience Science](#)

McMaster U's Huyen Dam Documents Hamilton's Boat People: McMaster University researcher [Huyen Dam](#) was so profoundly affected by being a boat person, she wrote her thesis on it. Her North Vietnamese-born parents can't understand why she would want to explore that troubled time. Before her birth, her parents' boat out of Hai Phong in North Vietnam was one of the last taken in by Hong Kong authorities, says Dam, a geography and earth sciences researcher. But she knows little of her parents' escape. They have never talked about the boat ride. In her recent paper, Dam wanted to document what Hamilton's boat people went through, but it was difficult to find anyone willing to reveal much. [thespec.com](#)

Geography Professor Square off on Local Food: University of Toronto professors Pierre Desrochers and Sarah Wakefield held online discussion on subject of local food following [trumpeting of 10,000-mile diet](#) in Globe and Mail commentary. [Pierre Desrochers](#): "Food activists should keep in mind that modern agricultural technologies and the global food supply chain have had many beneficial impact through increased productivity, such as forest re-growth or improvement in all countries that are the level of wealth of Chile and higher. Alternative technologies means that a lot of forestland and marginal land will have to be ploughed under...". [Sarah Wakefield](#): "I think food is different than shoes and ships. Food is a basic requirement of life, and we ignore our inability to feed ourselves at our peril. During the recent food crisis, India stopped exporting grain crops in order to feed the local people. In the event of a more serious crisis, a region that cannot meet its basic food needs may well find that the global marketplace is not interested in providing for them." What then? Full text @ [Globe and Mail](#)

Mount Allison University's Brad Walters Comments on Proposed Sale of NB Power: "The proposed sale of NB Power to Hydro-Québec will enable the province to sharply and quickly curtail its greenhouse gas emissions by phasing-out its existing oil- and coal-fired power production well ahead of schedule. By doing so, New Brunswick will jump from laggard to a leader in the critical fight against global warming. But there is another important opportunity being presented here: with the right political leadership and appropriate legal framework in place, the sale of NB Power to Quebec could unleash a renaissance in renewable energy development across the region." [Telegraph-Journal](#)

Geographer of the Week: Dr. [Jeffrey Cardille](#), Université de Montréal

Le créneau de recherche de Jeffrey s'insère dans le domaine de la science de l'information géographique. Il s'intéresse en particulier aux méthodes de traitement des données spatiales. Jeffrey détient un PhD (2002) de University of Wisconsin-Madison. Avant d'amorcer un stage postdoctoral au GRIL en septembre 2005, il avait complété un premier stage postdoctoral (2005) au sein du groupe avec lequel il a œuvré au doctorat. Le créneau de recherche de Jeffrey s'insère dans le domaine de la science de l'information géographique. Il s'intéresse en particulier aux méthodes de traitement des données spatiales et ce, dans le but de représenter, comprendre et modéliser la dynamique des changements environnementaux. Dans ce contexte, Jeffrey a, entre autres, créé METALAND un outil disponible sur internet qui permet de quantifier et de représenter cartographiquement les patrons spatiaux des paysages naturels. [Département de géographie, Université de Montréal](#)

Other "Geographical" News

Nahanni National Park Seeks Input: You are invited to help guide the future management of the Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada. Add your voice to the development of the Nahanni Management Plan by contributing to the discussion topics and sharing your vision for Nahanni. Review and comment on elements of the draft plan link as they are developed. [Find out more](#)

Earth Wins Again - Now Best Atlas: EARTH, the world's largest atlas was announced as 'Best Atlas' at the 24th International Cartographic Conference 2009 (ICC 2009) in Santiago, Chile. The 20-kg limited edition tome was judged by an independent jury of seven professors and doctors of Cartography from the International Cartographic Association (ICA). Over 70 atlases and 450 maps from around the world were entered into the awards, with EARTH taking the most coveted award of Best Atlas. The accolade establishes EARTH as the best atlas produced in the world in 2009. [AboutMyArea](#)

UNBC's Stephen Déry Helps with Stellat'en First Nation Carbon Footprint Project: What can a small, rural community do to become greener? The Stellat'en First Nation recently recruited environmental scientist Stephen Déry from the University of Northern British Columbia to help find answers for their community of Stellaquo, located west of Fraser Lake. Dr. Déry, who lives near Fraser Lake, and is a Canada Research Chair in Northern Hydrometeorology, and an expert in how global warming affects the environment, says he was approached by Stellat'en band representatives late last year and told they wanted to reduce the pollution in their community, and also lessen its carbon footprint. [UNBC Communications](#)

Marine Ecoregions of North America: a Tool for Ocean Conservation: Marine Ecoregions of North America, a new book produced by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), is a joint effort of American, Canadian and Mexican ecologists, marine biologists, geographers and managers. It classifies North America's oceans and coastal waters into 24 ecological regions according to oceanographic features and geographically distinct groups of species. Through maps, photos and detailed information on habitats, ecosystems and human activities, the book describes the oceans from the Beaufort Sea to the Gulf of Mexico, covering the continent's territorial waters in the Pacific, Atlantic

and Arctic Oceans. To download an electronic version of the book visit: <http://www.cec.org/marine.EurekAlert>

Pakistan Glaciers are Growing: Two UNO professors have discovered that some glaciers in Pakistan are growing in size — a discovery that could toss them into the center of a climate-change controversy. The discovery doesn't disprove climate change", said Shroder, who has studied the western Himalayas for decades. "We're not headed into conspiracy land here," Shroder said. "People have to remember that climate change doesn't always march monolithically in one direction." [Omaha World-Herald](#)

U Florida Geographer's Use Cell Phone Activity to Predict Spread of Malaria: Researchers at the University of Florida are predicting the spread of malaria based on their analysis of more than 21 million cell phone calls that track where and how often Zanzibar residents travel. The study revealed that most of the 140,000 Zanzibar residents who leave the islands make short, one- or two-day trips by ferry to the relatively low-risk city of Dar es Salaam in mainland Tanzania. But a few hundred residents travel to and from high-risk areas farther inland, and it is this tiny minority that poses the greatest threat to infection rates. "That group of the population is the real risk if Zanzibar wants to eliminate malaria," said Andy Tatem, an assistant professor of geography, member of U of F's Emerging Pathogens Institute. [Health Tech](#)



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