



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**UBC Geographer Geraldine Pratt Says Caregiver Changes Not Enough:** Geraldine Pratt says there's no reason why present-day ethnic-minority caregivers should be treated differently from the mostly European women who came to Canada as domestic workers prior to the mid 1970s. Pratt an expert on the federal government's Live-in Caregiver Program, explained that starting in the 1890s, Europeans who came as nannies were granted permanent-residency status immediately upon entering the country. According to Pratt, that privilege was taken away in 1973 when Canada implemented a predecessor to the LCP that mostly saw women from non-European countries being employed as caregivers. [Straight.com](#) | [Vancouver Sun](#)

**U Waterloo's Brent Doberstein on Sri Lankan Tsunami Reconstruction:** The catastrophic tsunami that killed nearly a quarter of a million people in Southeast Asia and shattered the lives of millions more five years ago on Boxing Day triggered an equally powerful force that still reverberates today. "I don't think we should be surprised it takes five years or more to respond to a disaster of this size," said Brent Doberstein, an associate professor in UW's department of geography and environmental management who joined the effort. Doberstein, with an expertise in project management, ran a training workshop for Sri Lankan academics at the project's end to check on reconstruction progress in the Indonesian town of Banda Aceh devastated by the tsunami and figure out what worked well. [The Record.com](#)

**U Toronto's Pierre Desrochers Raises Questions Resources Used to Grow Local Food:** In many ways, the local food movement is a good thing — biting into a fresh peach intuitively makes more sense than chomping on a peach-flavoured fruit gummy — but a small but growing number of academics and environmental experts are now questioning our love affair with all things Canadian — especially in a country that prevents you from growing a darn thing for at least half the year. That is the question raised by University of Toronto geography professor Pierre Desrochers and others who examine our use of land, water, energy, and other resources involved in food production and consumption. [Toronto Star](#)

**U Winnipeg's Tom Carter on the Challenges of Urban Agriculture:** A new food rights discussion has emerged in jurisdictions big and small. What about the right to grow food? A Lac du Bonnet-area family unexpectedly found themselves at the centre of this one last fall after their decision to keep a few laying hens and a rooster on their one-acre property ran into conflict with a local bylaw. The municipality prohibits keeping livestock on properties that are zoned residential. So Allison and Jeremy Maki received a letter saying their chickens would have to go. Tom Carter, a University of Winnipeg geography professor and Canada Research Chair in urban change and adaptation, said the issue has forced administrations to rethink their zoning bylaws, and the pressure is likely to rise. "It is a debate that is surfacing in many cities, and not just in Canada, but in the U.S. as well," he said. [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

**Saint Mary's Danika van Proosdij Receives Visionary Award from the Gulf of Maine Council:** Dr. Danika van Proosdij, a coastal geomorphologist with 17 years experience studying and conducting research in coastal environments across North America, received a Visionary Award from the Gulf of Maine Council during a gala celebration in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Dr. van Proosdij and her students have worked closely with CB Wetlands & Environmental Specialists to examine the vegetative, sedimentary, nekton and hydrologic conditions pre- and post-restoration at sites across the province both on the Fundy and Atlantic coasts. The most notable project, the Cheverie Creek Tidal River and Salt Marsh Restoration Project in Hants County, was the first intentional salt marsh restoration and monitoring project of its type in province. [Saint Mary's University News Release](#)

**McMaster's Joshua Evans Heads in New Direction:** [Joshua Evans](#) recently successfully defended his doctoral thesis entitled "*Emergency Powers: Addressing the Crisis of Homelessness in a Canadian City*" in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences at McMaster University. Joshua has accepted a tenure tract appointment in Geography at [Athabasca University](#).

### **Geographer of the Week: Dr. John Lindsay, University of Guelph**

Dr. [John Lindsay](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Guelph. John completed his PhD at the University of Western Ontario. His research interests focus upon the development and application of spatial analysis techniques to the study of the physical environment. Much of his work has focused on applications in the areas of hydrology, geomorphology, and environmental contamination. He is interested in digital terrain modelling and analysis and in the study of error in environmental modelling applications. He has several ongoing research projects that involve topographic data derived from laser altimetry (LiDAR). [U Guelph Geography Department](#)

### **Recent Theses and Dissertations**

Jeremy Gabriel. 2009. "*Late Holocene (3500 yBP) Salinity Changes and Their Climatic Implications as Recorded in an Anchnialine Cave System, Ox Bel Ha, Yucatan, Mexico*". Unpublished MSc thesis. School of Geography and Earth Sciences, McMaster University, Hamilton. Supervisor: Ed Reinhardt.

Darryl Pierce. 2009. "*A Changing Social Geography of the Hamilton Census Metropolitan Area*". Unpublished MA thesis. School of Geography and Earth Sciences, McMaster University, Hamilton. Supervisor: Walt Peace.

### **Other "Geographical" News**



**Geographers Use Computers to Determine Where to Build Ski Resorts:** [New Scientist](#) reports that geographers Jordan Silberman and Peter Rees, both professors at the University of Delaware, have developed a geographical information system (GIS) that allows resort entrepreneurs to plug in their resort dream — small and exclusive resort or mega slopes — and the app will geolocate the best conditions and spot for the venture. [io9](#)

## Some not so “Geographical” News



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