



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Maps Tells Us More Than We Think, Says Concordia U's Sébastien Caquard: 'It's not the destination, it's the journey.' Geography, planning and environment professor Sébastien Caquard might understand this proverb better than most. His current research examines how new forms of maps and geovisualization can help us better understand social and environmental issues related to places. In a nutshell, instead of just using maps to explain the best route from A to B, Caquard is experimenting with creative ways to illustrate what's between A and B. He's particularly interested in combining the aural and visual storytelling qualities of cinema with cartography. [Concordia Journal](#)

Sabbatical Plans Outlined by U Waterloo's Brent Doberstein: Brent Doberstein of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo had this to say about his upcoming sabbatical plans: "My sabbatical will be used to complete field research on post-disaster reconstruction in Bukit Lawang, Northern Sumatra, and to publish the results of this and several past field research projects. I will also submit two funding applications for international collaborative research on environmental protection and hazard mitigation, and plan to attend the 2010 International Disaster and Risk Conference in Davos, Switzerland." Doberstein@UW

UVic's Ken Josephson on Oak Bay Community Map: A cartographer with the University of Victoria's geography department, Josephson is part of a plan by the school to help engage communities in the mapping process. Next week the Oak Bay Community Association, with UVic's geography department and the UVic office of community-based research, host an open house on community mapping. Maps from areas such as the Highlands, which recently completed one, will be on display. Josephson will also be there to answer questions about the importance of the work that goes into pulling together the maps. "Some people think of maps as something you turn on the computer to take a look at. But this is something completely different. It's a collective view of what we value and cherish in a community." [Oak Bay News](#)

U Toronto's Ken MacDonald Worries About Earthquakes in Vancouver During Olympics: As Vancouver prepares to host the 2010 Winter Games in two weeks, the possibility of an earthquake happening during the Games is the last thing organizers want to hear. However, the likelihood of an seismic activity happening in B.C., remains a serious worry for experts. "At some point in the future there will be a large earthquake, and it can happen anytime. Coastal B.C. always has to worry about, plan, and be prepared for a seismic event," said [Ken MacDonald](#), a geography professor at University of Toronto. [The Barrie Examiner](#)

Queen's Geographer Jamie Linton Supports Campus Water Access Group: A university-wide audit at Queen's University shows 84 of the 151 water fountains assessed on campus are in need of repair, the Water Access Group (WAG) said. "Our group has two objectives: first is to increase the number and the quality of drinking water fountains [and] second is to move towards decreasing the

number of bottled water on campus,” WAG member and assistant geography professor Jamie Linton said. “Drinking fountain water is cheaper than bottled water and it’s just as healthy,” he said. “Environmentally it’s better as it’s much less water bottles, which reduces the amount of waste. Socially it contributes to a stronger sense of public good as well as helps the University’s reputation as an environmentally friendly campus.” Linton hopes the University will be the first in Ontario to go bottled-water free. [The Journal](#)

Brock U’s Alan Hughes Answers Welland Canal Puzzler: A reader of the *St. Catharines Standard* wonders why the old canal disappears into pipe. Alun Hughes, a geography professor at Brock University and Welland Canal history buff writes that it was part of a major reclamation project that saw the entire line of the First and Second Welland Canals, between Thorold and the lower level parking lot in St. Catharines, infilled, graded and landscaped. However, the canal couldn’t be filled in completely because it served as a sewer carrying discharge from paper mills in Merriton and Thorold. [The Standard](#)

McGill U’s James Ford Says Inuit Must Adapt to Climate Change: James Ford, a professor in the Department of Geography at McGill University. has spent eight years researching the effects of climate change on the lifestyles of Inuit people living in the Far North. He’s seen evidence that local temperatures are rising and there’s a lot less sea ice floating around, for a much shorter time period each year. That means it is harder for Inuit people to hunt, fish, and eke out a livable existence, according to their traditional ways. In a new study published in the [Global Environmental Change](#) journal, Ford and a group of Canadian colleagues have concluded that Inuit must adapt to coming environmental changes that are inevitable and unavoidable. [CTV.ca News](#)

U Ottawa Student Featured in Canadian Geographic: University of Ottawa geography student Robert Way is featured in the latest issue of Canadian Geographic. The 20 year old student participated in the CryoEX program, an international exchange program established by the University of Ottawa and the University of Oslo in Norway. The story, "[The cryosphere kid](#)," gives a detailed account of research on permafrost. The online version of the story features links to additional content, such as photographs, videos and an interactive component on the current state of the world’s Northern landscapes. [UOttawa Geography](#)

Vancouver Island University Geography Welcomes New Part-time Instructors: The Geography Department welcomes four new part-time instructors to the Nanaimo campus: Matt Bowes is teaching GEOG 290 - Regions of Canada. Jeff Moore is teaching a double section of GEOG 211 - Atmospheric Environments and a section of GEOG 228 - Spatial Analysis. Brian Roberts is teaching a section of GEOG 101 - Environmental Geography. Dr. Todd Redding is teaching GEOG 374 - Hydrology. [VIU Geography](#)

Royal Canadian Geographical Society Research Funding for University Students: The RCGS is inviting applications from students for Research - \$5000 Masters studentships in Northern Geography and Human Geography; and. Undergraduate Research Grants up to \$3000 for undergraduate students for geographical research projects. Deadline for applications: February 28, 2010. For more information visit the [RCGS website](#), or call the Manager of Society Programs at (613) 745-4629 ext 121.

U Toronto Mississauga Student Wins Cressy Student Leadership Award: Tooba Shakeel, a 4th year ENV student, has won a UofT Cressy Student Leadership Award for her ongoing leadership in campus naturalization initiatives and environmental work. The [Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Awards](#) recognize students for outstanding extra-curricular contributions to their college, faculty, school or department, or to the university as a whole. The awards were established in 1994 by the University of Toronto Alumni Association (UTAA) and the Division of University Advancement. [UTM Geography](#)

New Online in [The Canadian Geographer](#)

Anne Godlewska, Jackie Moore, and Drew Bednasek. 2010. [Cultivating ignorance of Aboriginal realities](#). DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2009.00297.x

Pamela Stern, and Peter V. Hall. 2010. [Historical limits: narrowing possibilities in 'Ontario's most historic town'](#). DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2009.00296.x

R. Daniel Jacobson, and William N. Holden. 2010. [The Roman Catholic Church: committed to the poor in Guatemala](#). DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2009.00295_2.x

Arn Keeling. 2010. ['Born in an atomic test tube': landscapes of cyclonic development at Uranium City, Saskatchewan](#). DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2009.00294.x

Guillaume Fortin. 2010. [Variabilité et fréquence des cycles de gel-dégel dans la région de Québec, 1977–2006](#). DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2009.00291.x

Peter Rohloff. 2010. [Liberation theology and the voice of the indigenous other in Guatemala](#). DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2009.00295_1.x

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Patricia Ballamingie, Carleton University

Dr. [Patricia Ballamingie](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University. She completed a B.A. (Honors) in Economics and Geography at Queen's University, a Master's in Environmental Studies at York University, and her Ph.D. in Geography at Carleton University. Her doctoral thesis – First Nations, ENGOs, and the Paradox of Lands for Life – is a poststructural analysis of how power operated in the Lands for Life public consultation process. Prior to joining the department Patricia held the position of Senior Manager, Global Priorities, World Wildlife Fund Canada. For two years Patricia worked as an Environmental Consultant on a CIDA-funded project; and for four more years as principal of my her own company. Patricia is most interested in praxis – the application of theory, and she seeks to make her teaching transformative, and her research critical yet constructive and action-oriented. [Carleton GES](#)

Other “Geographical” News

Arctic Ocean Warming Up: The Arctic ocean is warming up, icebergs are growing scarcer and in some places the seals are finding the water too hot. Reports from fishermen, seal hunters and explorers all point to a radical change in climate conditions and hitherto unheard-of temperatures in the Arctic zone. Exploration expeditions report that scarcely any ice has been met as far north as 81 degrees 29 minutes. Soundings to a depth of 3,100 meters showed the Gulf Stream still very warm. Great masses of ice have been replaced by moraines of earth and stones, the report continued, while at many points well known glaciers have entirely disappeared. Very few seals and no white fish are found in the eastern Arctic, while vast shoals of herring and smelts, which have never before ventured so far north, are being encountered in the old seal fishing grounds. Within a few years it is predicted that due to the ice melt the sea will rise and make most coastal cities uninhabitable. [The Washington Post, November 2, 1922](#). (note: thanks to Keith Fraser for this item)

New Geospatial Data Products Released: The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service announced the release of new satellite images depicting agricultural land cover across most of the nation for the 2009 crop year. The images, referred to as cropland data layers (CDL), are a useful tool for monitoring crop rotation patterns, land use changes, water resources and carbon emissions. These crop-specific, digital data layers are suitable for use in geographic information systems (GIS) applications. They can be used by agribusinesses, farmers, government agencies, researchers and academic institutions to study pesticide risk, epidemiology, transportation, fertilizer usage, carbon dioxide flux and other topics. [ScienceDaily](#)

Invasive plants are beneficiaries of climate change in Thoreau's woods: Invasive plants could become even more prevalent and destructive as climate change continues, according to a new analysis of data stretching back more than 150 years. Charles C. Davis, assistant professor at Harvard, and his colleagues analyzed a dataset that began with Henry David Thoreau's cataloging of plants around Walden Pond in the 1850s, when the famed naturalist kept meticulous notes documenting natural history, plant species occurrences, and flowering times. Since then, the mean annual temperature has increased by 2.4 degrees Celsius causing some plants to shift their flowering time by as much as three weeks in response to ever-earlier spring thaws. [EurekAlert!](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



Geographer Puzzler Answer



Brent Barr, Doug Day, Len Evenden
at a CAG meeting in the 1980s
(credit: Keith Fraser)

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