



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Compiled by Dan Smith <caq@geog.uvic.ca>

WLU's Ken Hewitt Helps to Understand Glacier Changes: Kenneth Hewitt, professor emeritus in Geography and Environmental Studies and research associate at the Cold Regions Research Centre at Wilfrid Laurier University, writes: "Glaciers are quite sensitive to climate change and, recently, there have been many reports of major changes in the Himalaya and other parts of High Asia; mostly of glaciers retreating fast. Impacts of a range of glacier hazards, and on the reliability of water resources, are of concern at local, national and transnational scales. However, there is also a growing recognition that glacial conditions in the region are very diverse, and so are their responses to climate change." [The Guardian](#)

Trent Glacier Expert Graham Cogley Sets Record Straight on Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Error: Trent Geography professor and glacier expert Dr. Graham Cogley is gaining national media attention for challenging and ultimately debunking an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report that the Himalayas could be glacier-free by 2035. Dr. Cogley has reported five glaring errors, including the publication of the wrong date, that appear in one paragraph of an IPCC report described as "the world's most authoritative report on global warming." His research into the claims led to an apology by the Nobel Prize-winning panel of climate scientists who wrote it. [Trent University](#) | [Daily Exchange](#)

UNBC's Brian Menounos Teams Up to Show Melt from Alaskan Glaciers Overestimated in Previous Studies: Researchers at the Laboratory for Space Studies in Geophysics and Oceanography and their US and Canadian colleagues in Geography at UNBC have shown in a recent paper published in [Nature Geoscience](#) that previous studies have largely overestimated mass loss from Alaskan glaciers over the past 40 years. Recent data from the SPOT 5 and ASTER satellites have enabled researchers to extensively map mass loss in these glaciers, which contributed 0.12 mm/year to sea-level rise between 1962 and 2006, rather than 0.17 mm/year as previously estimated. [Science Daily](#)

Royal Society of Geography Awards Rhizwan Shahid Chartered Geographer GIS-CGeog(GIS) Status: In December 2009, Rizwan Shahid, Senior Research Analyst, Public Health Innovation, Alberta Health Services, was awarded Chartered Geographer GIS - CGeog(GIS) status by the Royal Geographical Society. Rizwan is only the third Canadian to be awarded this prestigious status. [Royal Geographical Society](#)

York U Geography Student Doris Lam Wins Prestigious Award: Geography graduate student Doris Lam was awarded first prize by the [Geospatial Information & Technology Association - Ontario Chapter](#) for her undergraduate thesis work that she completed at York University. Doris is currently working on her MSc degree under the supervision of [Tarmo Remmel](#). This award is open to individual students who completed projects during the current school calendar year while enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program in geospatial studies at an Ontario University or College. [York Geography News](#)

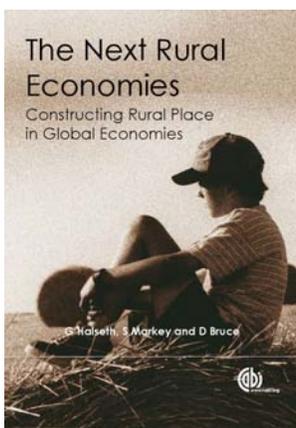
New Experiments in 2010 Media Landscape: The first, [Vancouver \[de\]Tour Guide 2010](#), is an interactive city map created by local artists, cartographers and **geographers**. Coloured markers indicate areas of interest that might not make it onto Tourism Vancouver pamphlets. Click on Ballantyne Pier, for instance, to read about a bloody 1935 confrontation between longshoremen and police. "It's an attempt to represent the city in a more kaleidoscopic and nuanced way than how it's being currently promoted," said Althea Thauberger, a local artist who helped create the site. She hopes the map becomes a must-stop destination for tourists and media looking for alternative Vancouver perspectives. It's built on a Wikipedia-type model where a constantly growing team of editors invite regular people to join and post content. [The Hook](#)

Carleton U's Mike Pisaric and Collaborators Awarded NSERC Strategic Grant: [Mike Pisaric](#), Department of Geography and Environmental Studies Carleton University and his collaborators will be undertaking a paleoclimatological assessment of the central Northwest Territories. The research falls within the Strategic Project Grants target area of Healthy Environment and Ecosystems (Ecosystem Adaptation, Interventions and Modeling). The team intends to provide a detailed assessment of the impact of climate change, as archived in lake sediments and tree ring records, to provide information management of the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road. [Carleton Success Stories](#)

UNBC and U Calgary Geographers Explore Future of Columbia Basin Glaciers: A distinguished panel of glacier scientists was in Golden on Feb. 1 week to present information about the state of water reserves in the Columbia Basin, and to discuss the impacts of shrinking water supply. Speaking at the event, [Brian Menounos](#), UNBC Geography Program, and [Sean Marshall](#), U Calgary Geography Department, provided information for the citizens of the area about glacial recession. Marshall touched on the local weather phenomenon over the last 100 years, and gave an overall picture of the number of glaciers in the area. He noted that as of 2005 the entire Columbia Basin contained 2089 glaciers, totalling 1759 square kilometres. [Revelstoke TimesReview](#)

McMaster U's Mike Waddington Aims to Get Kids Off the Sofa and on the Trail: Two McMaster professors have turned their love of adventure running into a community program they hope will get youngsters off the couch and into a recreational sport. [Mike Waddington](#), professor of Geography and Earth Sciences, and Mark Tarnopolsky, professor of medicine, came up with the idea of Adventure Running Kids when they witnessed an increase in child obesity and a decrease in children's knowledge of their environment. Adventure running, aimed at children aged eight to 16, combines navigation, trail running, night running, cross-country running and snowshoe running with a fun and sometimes muddy eco-adventure. [McMaster Daily News](#)

New Book Notice: "The Next Rural Economies: Constructing Rural Place in Global Economies"



In May 2008, UNBC's Community Development Institute, headed by Greg Halseth (UNBC Professor, Geography and CRC, Rural and Small Towns), hosted 23 rural and small town scholars from 8 OECD countries to participate in a workshop on "Space to Place: The Next Rural Economies". Participants discussed possibilities regarding what our next rural economies might look like. The audience included more than 50 government and community participants from across northern BC. The presentations from that workshop have now been published: "[The Next Rural Economies: Constructing Rural Place in Global Economies](#)", edited by Greg Halseth, Sean Markey (SFU), and David Bruce (Mount Allison University). The book has been called a 'game changer' in how we approach rural and small town development issues.

Geographer of the Week: Dr. John Johnston, Wilfrid Laurier University

Dr. [John Johnston](#), Assistant Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies obtained his honours bachelor of science degree from the University of Guelph, master of science in earth sciences at the University of Waterloo and doctorate in geological sciences at Indiana University. He was a hydrodynamic geologist at Chevron Canada Resources in Calgary, research associate at the Indiana Geological Survey / Indiana University, lecturer and post doctoral fellow and now a research assistant professor in the department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Waterloo. John Johnston is a leader in two large and long-standing, multidisciplinary research groups focused on the hydrology of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence watershed and Peace-Athabasca-Slave River watershed. His current focus is on freshwater resources in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and Mackenzie watersheds. [WLU Geography and Environmental Studies](#).

Other "Geographical" News

Labrador Gets New National Park: Federal and provincial government officials said that they will establish a new National Park in Labrador. [Mealy Mountain](#) National Park will protect roughly 10,700 square kilometres, between Happy Valley-Goose Bay and the Labrador coast, which will make it the largest national park in eastern Canada. "This part of Labrador is not only of ecological significance, it is also of great cultural importance," said Prentice, in a government news release Friday. "We are committed to moving forward in a way that recognizes and respects the traditional connections people have with the land." [CBCNews](#)

University of Buffalo Geography Students Help Map Devastation in Haiti: In the wake of the earthquake in Haiti, University at Buffalo geography students are participating in a global effort to enhance the international response and recovery effort by helping to assess damage, using images hosted by Google Earth and the Virtual Disaster Viewer, which shares imagery of disasters from various sources. Eight graduate and undergraduate students are conducting the research, under the direction of Chris Renschler, UB associate professor of geography, in his Landscape-based Environmental Systems Analysis and Modeling Laboratory (LESAM) in UB's Department of Geography in the College of Arts and Sciences. [UB NewsCenter](#)

Urbanization, Export Crops Drive Deforestation: The drivers of tropical deforestation have shifted in the early 21st century to hinge on growth of cities and the globalized agricultural trade, a new large-scale study concludes. The observations starkly reverse assumptions by some scientists that fast-growing urbanization and the efficiencies of global trade might eventually slow or reverse tropical deforestation. "The main drivers of tropical deforestation have shifted from small-scale landholders to domestic and international markets that are distant from the forests. One line of thinking was that concentrating people in cities would leave a lot more room for nature. But those people in cities and the rest of the world need to be fed. That creates a demand for industrial-scale clearing." [EurekAlert!](#)

SFU Study Traces Roots of Turkey Taming: Simon Fraser University archaeologists involved in a study of ancient turkey DNA found that turkeys were actually domesticated twice in North America. According to the study pre-Aztec people in south-central Mexico and the ancestral Puebloans in the southwestern U.S. were raising domestic turkey stocks by 200 B.C. The Spanish who came to the New World took the turkeys back to Europe. There, they became popular and several varieties were developed before they were brought back and re-introduced in America. [SFU Media Releases](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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