



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Laval U's Reinhard Pienitz Journeys to Pingualuit Crater to Unlock Climate Change Secrets:** A massive crater in Northern Quebec has been luring the curious for over 50 years. Now, an international team led by Laval University in Quebec City has journeyed to the Pingualuit Crater near the Hudson Strait in hopes of unlocking 120,000 years worth of secrets about climate change. "This is like a natural archive of climatic and environmental change," said lead researcher Reinhard Pienitz, a Laval University geography professor. Largely unknown to the outside world, the lake-filled crater had long been revered by local Inuit and known locally as the Crystal Eye of Nunavik for its limpid waters. [Globe and Mail](#)

**Global Warming the Anthropocentric Crisis:** Global warming has become the mother of all politically correct issues. Two years ago the UN's IPCC claimed with great fanfare that climate change would melt most of the Himalayan glaciers by 2035. What happened to this prediction? Graham Cogley, a Canadian geographer, initiated a process which ultimately revealed that this dramatic prediction was nothing more than a decade old speculative opinion by little known Indian scientist, Syed Hasnain, eight years earlier while responding to a query by the New Scientist magazine. There was no research of any kind behind the opinion. Clearly, the scientific process is being shown to have been corrupted. [The Market Oracle](#)

**Urban Food Strategy Unveiled:** Toronto's Board of Health is unveiling a wide-ranging food strategy whose broad and lofty goals include creating "food-friendly neighbourhoods," connecting city-dwelling consumers to rural producers and eliminating hunger. University of Toronto geography professor Pierre Desrochers argues this overarching food strategy is a "pie in the sky" way of trying to address real needs. If the city wants to tackle poverty, he says, it should look at economic development. Childhood obesity? Bring back home economics and mandatory gym class. But Prof. Desrochers is adamant that a renewed city focus on local food will accomplish neither. [Globe and Mail](#)

**Pierre Desrochers Reports that Buying Locally-Grown Food Doesn't Help Environment:** Pierre Desrochers admits he's not a very popular guy when he suggests people shouldn't buy locally grown foods as a way to help the environment. "From many environmentalists, I would say that the reaction I got was similar to the one I would probably get from raising the existence of God at a Baptist convention," said the University of Toronto geography professor. "Overall though, many people have been surprised, but have nonetheless been willing to listen — more than I thought — and discuss the argument with an open mind." In a new report published Tuesday by the Montreal Economic Institute, Desrochers and co-author Hiroko Shimizu say buying locally grown foods won't help the environment because it won't necessarily reduce greenhouse gases. [Toronto Sun](#)

**Correction: Royal Society of Geography Awards Rizwan Shahid Chartered Geographer GIS-CGeog (GIS) Status:** In December 2009, Rizwan Shahid, was awarded Chartered Geographer GIS - CGeog(GIS) status by the Royal Geographical Society.

**UNBC Geography Graduates in the News:** Scott Bellavance (BA Geography '07) and Dreanne (Lemoigne) Bellavance (Human Geography minor '05) have many reasons to celebrate these days. First, Scott will be inducted into the [Prince George Sports Hall of Fame](#) in April 2010. Among other achievements, Scott represented Canada at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Freestyle Skiing (Moguls) and placed 6<sup>th</sup>. More recently, though, Scott and Dreanne became parents this weekend to Olympic baby Myelle Bellavance. Check out this fun story from the Prince George Citizen "[An Olympic arrival for Bellavance family](#)".

**McMaster U's Dan Harrington Wins First Prize at Allergen Research Conference:** [Dan Harrington](#), a PhD candidate in the School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University, won first prize in the student paper competition at the [AllerGen Research Conference](#) in Quebec City for this presentation: Canadian perceptions of food allergy risk.

**WLU Geography and Environmental Studies - GeoHorizons:** The most recent issue of the WLU departmental newsletter contains items on: the GG399 Field Trip to Leamington, Ontario; visiting professor Janis Dale of the University of Regina; Geography Awareness Week 2009 activities; the John McMurry research chair in environmental geography established with a \$2.5 M anonymous gift; the First Nations and Source Waters Project; the activities of Professor Emeritus Gordon Young in 2009; a perspective on the talks by Bob Sanford sponsored by the Cold Regions Research Centre and the Laurier Institute for Water Science; and a library update. [GeoHorizons Winter 2010](#)

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**Geographer of the Week: Dr. Suzanne Mills, McMaster University**

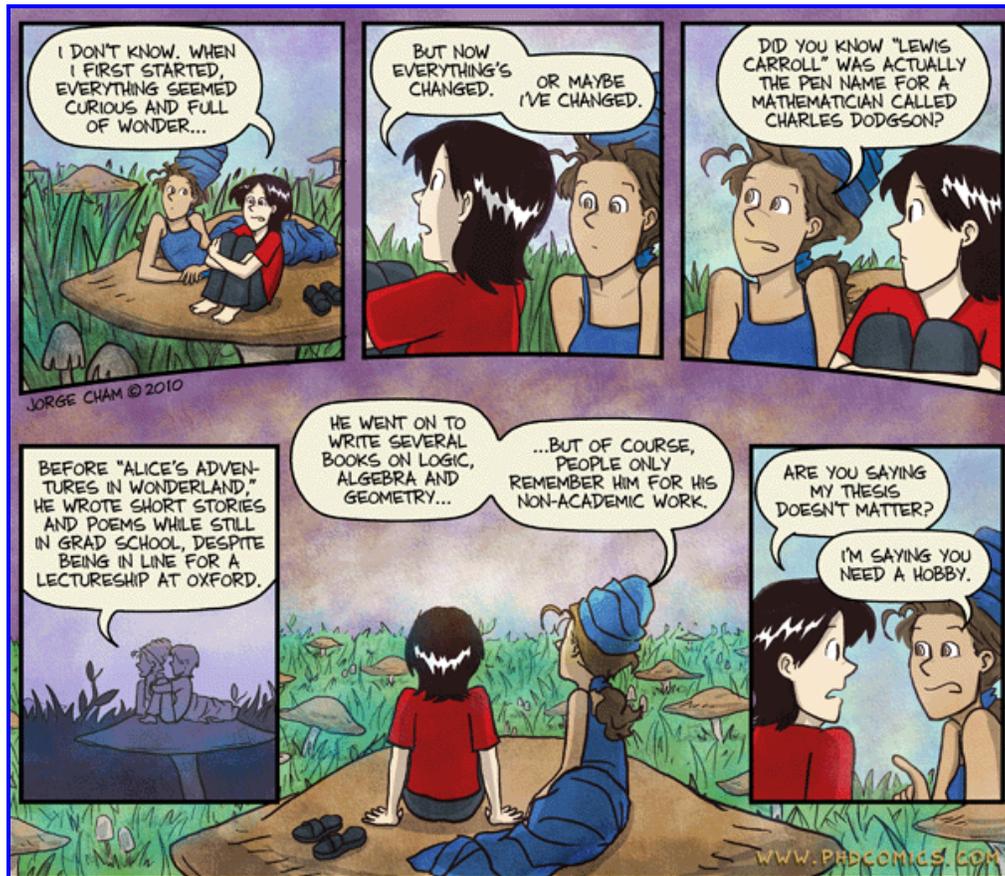
Dr. [Suzanne Mills](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Labour Studies Programme and the School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University. She is presently working on two research projects. The first is funded by a SSHRC Research Development Initiative grant and examines how labour unions are changing in response to institutional changes in the north and is entitled: "Effecting change in long-standing institutions: Aboriginal employment and labour unions in northern resource development projects." (PI with co-applicant Angela Robinson, 2009). The second examines how faculty and support staff unions at a community college in British Columbia were involved with initiatives to increase First Nations' control over and representation within the college. "Union solidarity and Aboriginal difference: broadening the parameters of worker equality within a Canadian public sector union." (PI with Tyler McCreary). Suzanne is a member of Canadian Association of Geographers Equity Committee.

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**Other "Geographical" News**

**Parks Canada to Demolish Wheeler House This Year:** A federally recognized heritage building will be demolished by Parks Canada this year because it poses a safety hazard and there's no money to restore it. Known as the Claremount House or Wheeler House, the building holds significance in Banff because it was built in 1920 as a summer home for famed mountain surveyor and Alpine Club of Canada founder AO Wheeler. It is an example of early development in the national park and Canadian tourism, as Wheeler operated his backcountry tour company out of the home. It's located on a lot just outside the Town of Banff boundaries, and has an adjacent pond that still has goldfish living in it. [Banff Crag & Canyon](#)

## Some not so "Geographical" News



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