



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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McGill U's Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne Develops New Ecological Trade-Off Approach: Following an intense study of agricultural ecosystems near Montreal, a new tool that enables the simultaneous analysis and management of a wide range of ecological services has been developed by Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne of McGill University's Department of Geography and her collaborators. The researchers show that ecosystems that maximize agriculture offer fewer hidden ecosystems services than more diverse agricultural landscapes. Ciara Raudsepp-Hearne says "Landscapes managed to provide a lot of one service, such as pig production, can be costly because they have fewer of the hidden services, such as the regulation of nutrient pollution, which are also important to people." [McGill Newsroom](#)

UVic PhD Graduate Nandan Nandakumar Reports in From Kerala, India: A group of college students from a local government college - most of who did not even have personal e-mail ids a couple of years ago - have created digitized maps of the panchayat using GPS tools. The undergraduate BSc geography students of the Government College, Kariavattom who undertook the digital resource mapping had only an old computer to work on, and the entire project was completed on a shoestring budget of Rs 45,000. Says D Nandakumar, head of the department of geography at the college, who led the team of students: "Resource maps have been done before, but those were commissioned works undertaken by private parties. The Kazhakoottam mapping was the first by undergraduate students, and we could do it with open source GIS system instead of proprietary software." [The Economic Times](#)

Carleton U's Fiona Mackenzie Made Honorary Professor of University of the Highlands and Islands: A leading academic who is researching land reforms incrofting communities has been made an honorary professor of the prospective University of the Highlands and Islands. Professor Fiona Mackenzie has been conducting research in the Highlands and islands over the past 15 years, concentrating on the expansion of community land ownership and working particularly closely with the North Harris Trust and the North Sutherland Community Forest Trust. She is a professor in the department of geography and environmental studies at Carleton University, Ottawa, where she has been a member of staff since 1986. [The Press and Journal](#)

McMaster U's Mike Waddington Leads Kids on Adventure Trail: Adventure Running Kids is a new 13-week program that starts March 24 and runs once a week at various trails and forests in the Hamilton area. Kids ages eight to 16 will use a map to navigate their way as they run through forests, trails, mud and shallow streams. Elite athletes Mark Tarnopolsky and Mike Waddington, a professor of geography and earth sciences, formed the program, with support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, out of concern for the rise in child obesity and the decrease in kids' knowledge of their local environment. [The Hamilton Spectator](#)

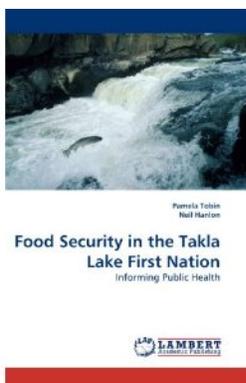
Queen's Geographers John Holmes and Warren Mabee Receive SSHRC CURA Funding: John Holmes and Warren Mabee are co-applicants on a project titled "*Work in a Warming World: Adapting Canadian Employment and Work to the Challenges of Climate Change*" recently funded under the SSHRC CURA program and led by Carla Lipsig Mummé, (York University). SSHRC provides \$1 million over five years and partners (universities, unions (USW, CEP, CUPW, NUPGE, UFCW), and other labour market stake holders) have pledged a further \$1.5 million to support the research. Warren Mabee is co-convenor of the "policy, governance and regulation" research theme and will lead research on renewable energy strategies. John Holmes is a member of the core steering committee for the project and will lead the research on the forestry sector. [Queen's Geography Newsletter](#) | [The Toronto Star](#)

Memorial U's Norm Catto Comments on Beach Erosion at Northern Bay: A warmer winter might be welcomed by many Conception Bay North residents, but it has wreaked havoc on a popular summer spot, the beach at Northern Bay Sands. Norm Catto, a professor in Memorial University's geography department who specializes in beach erosion, said that although he hadn't seen how much of the sand was washed away, there has been erosion in other parts of the Avalon peninsula, and the warmer winter weather this year was likely the reason for the sand lost at Northern Bay. Some sand is washed away every year, but sand is also deposited on the beach every year as well. Catto noted Northern Bay Sands has been washed away before. According to local history, the professor said, the beach was washed away during a major hurricane in 1775. "That caused a lot of damage at Northern Bay Sands and killed a number of people." [The Compass](#)

U Guelph HBSc Graduate Appointed Lakehead University Vice-President: Lakehead University has announced the appointment of Mr. Lee Gould to the position of Vice-President (University Advancement). Lee graduated in 1992 from the University of Guelph with an HBSc in Geomorphology. Since 2007, Lee has served as Vice-President of Communications and Director of Community Relations with Runnymede Healthcare Centre in Toronto. [Lakehead News](#)

McMaster U's Pavlos Kanaroglou has Canada Research Chair Renewed: Dr. Pavlos Kanaroglou, who holds a Canada Research Chair in Spatial Analysis, was awarded \$1.4 million following the renewal of his award. Kanaroglou, director of the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, is using spatial analysis and mathematical modeling to understand complex systems. His work is helping to formulate public policy on a number of issues, including housing choices for the elderly, household energy savings, vehicle energy consumption and associated air pollution. [McMaster Daily News](#)

New Book. Food Security in the Takla Lake First Nation: Informing Public Health:



UNBC's Neil Hanlon and Pamela Tobin (MA IDIS '07) recently published [Food Security in the Takla Lake First Nation: Informing Public Health](#). Food security, defined as people having access to food that is nutritionally adequate, safe, culturally appropriate and socially acceptable, is increasingly becoming a public health concern. In many First Nations communities, issues of food security are the result of geographic isolation, low socioeconomic status, threats to traditional food resources and inflated costs of store-bought foods. This research gives the Takla Lake First Nation community a voice and we discover that food security is overwhelmingly and directly attributed to the cumulative legacies of multiple colonial processes.

Paul Bussi res, g ographe (1932-2010): C'est avec grand regret que nous avons appris le d c s de M. Paul Bussi res, survenu le 3 f vrier 2010. Paul Bussi res fut professeur au D partement de g ographie de l'Universit  Laval de 1963   1995. Pleinement g ographe d' me et d'esprit, Paul Bussi res fut un maitre inspirant et un coll gue d vou . Il acc da au professorat apr s avoir soutenu une th se remarquable sur la C te-Nord, texte brillant o  se d couvrait une plume vive mise au service de la plus fine des analyses g ographiques. Apr s s' tre longtemps consacr  aux questions  conomiques et  nerg tiques, il  tudia, comme jamais on l'avait fait auparavant au Qu bec, la g ographie du monde arabe, sujet qu'il investit de toute sa contagieuse passion pour la connaissance du monde. [Laval D partement de g ographie](#)

Memorial U's Josh Lepawsky Comments on e-Recyclers Livelihood Strategies: To boost e-waste recycling, the UNEP recommended the development of large, state-of-the-art recycling centers and "ambitious" regulations on the collection and handling of old electronics. This approach would likely solve some of the environmental and health problems associated with informal recycling centers. However, the UN should not view informal recyclers as a barrier to progress, but as businesses in their own right, said Josh Lepawsky, a professor of geography at Memorial University in Newfoundland. Although "there's no denying" that e-waste is toxic, Lepawsky said, it isn't clear that the UN's solutions would create new jobs to replace the ones lost if the informal system were shuttered. "This is, for a lot of people, a livelihood strategy, a survival strategy," Lepawsky said. [TechNewsDaily](#)

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Merrin Macrae, University of Waterloo

Dr. [Merrin Macrae](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo. Merrin completed an M.Sc. Hydroclimatology & Biogeochemistry at York University and her Ph.D. in Biogeochemistry & Hydrology at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her research examines linkages between hydroclimatology, biogeochemical cycling and surface-water chemistry in both natural and impacted systems under variable climatic regimes and following disturbance or land use change. She is particularly interested in carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus storage and movement in both temperate and high latitude environments, with an emphasis on wetland systems. She has research underway in a forested riparian swamp in an agricultural setting in Flamborough, Ontario; as well as in tundra ponds in the Hudson Bay Lowland near Churchill, Manitoba. [Macrae Homepage](#)

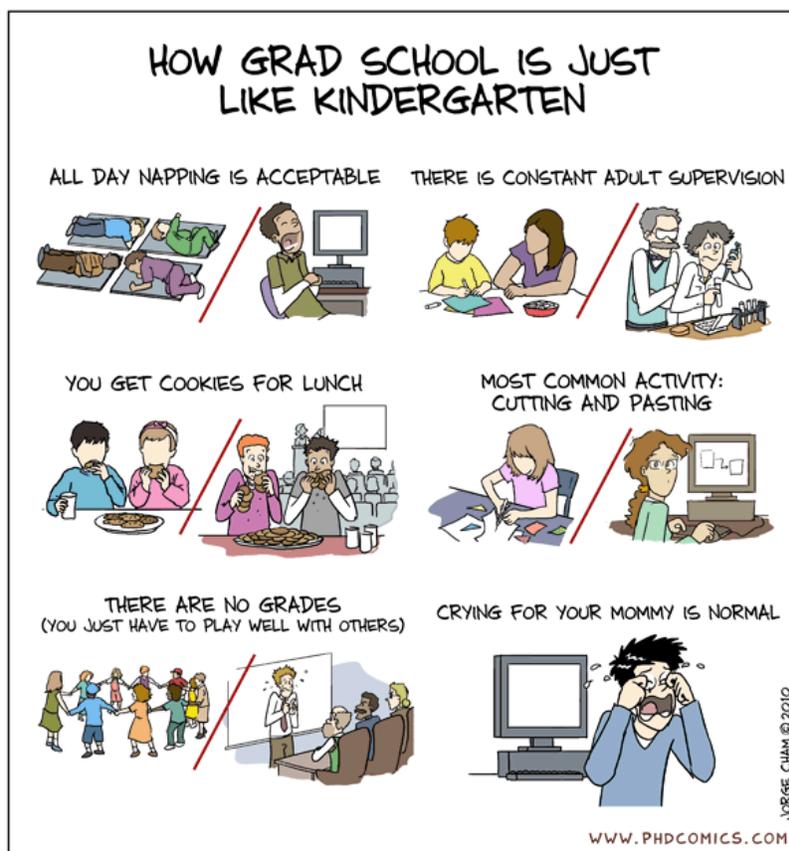
Other "Geographical" News

Salt bad for the Health of Ontario's Frenchman's Bay: The levels of contamination to water and sediment in Pickering, Ontario's Frenchman's Bay greatly exceed provincial water quality standards, in some cases by as much as 250 per cent, according to a new study by researchers at the University of Toronto Scarborough. This is mostly due to large amounts of road salt applied in winter, especially to Highway 401, the study finds. Roads, parking lots and railways are the primary source of contaminated water and sediment and a decline in aquatic life in the watershed and lagoon, according to a recent article in Sedimentary Geology written by geology professor Nick Eyles and recent PhD graduate Mandy Meriano. "Our findings are pretty dramatic, and the effects are felt year round," said Eyles. "This is a really bad news story about the relentless chemical assault on a watershed, with bleak implications that go far beyond the lagoon itself. We now know that 3,600 tonnes of road salt end up in that small lagoon every winter from direct runoff in creeks and effectively poison it for the rest of the year. The future of Frenchman's Bay is not bright, but this also affects the Great Lakes." [News@UofT](#)

Chilean Quake May Have Shortened Earth Days: The Feb. 27 magnitude 8.8 earthquake in Chile may have shortened the length of each Earth day. Using a complex model, scientists came up with a preliminary calculation that the quake should have shortened the length of an Earth day by about 1.26 microseconds (a microsecond is one millionth of a second). Perhaps more impressive is how much the quake shifted Earth's axis. Gross calculates the quake should have moved Earth's figure axis (the axis about which Earth's mass is balanced) by 2.7 milliarseconds (about 8 centimeters, or 3 inches). Earth's figure axis is not the same as its north-south axis; they are offset by about 10 meters (about 33 feet). [ScienceDaily](#)

Haiti Aid Workers use Google Earth to Map Survivors: Aid workers in Haiti are using Google Earth to track the needs of earthquake survivors in hundreds of makeshift camps, pioneering a technique which could be used in future emergencies. Relief teams log on to Google Earth from camps and upload information about water, food, shelter and population movements, providing an instant snapshot, along with global positioning, of conditions on the ground. The information is fed into a [link with maps](#) of many of the 414 settlement camps and tent cities which host 600,000 people left homeless by the 12 January quake. Over a normal Google Earth screen of Haiti, blue spots show where Haitians have settled. Some are named by street, zone or landmark, and others are simply numbered as "IDP" internally displaced persons camps. [Guardian.co.uk](#) | [Toronto Sun](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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