



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**University of Guelph's Barry Smit Tier I CRC Renewed:** The University of Guelph will receive \$4.3 million over the next seven years through two new prestigious Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) and the renewal of three others. Included is a Tier 1 chair in global environmental change held by geography professor Barry Smit which was renewed for another seven years. Smit examines social and economic implications of climate change and how to manage associated risks and opportunities. [UG News Release](#) | [GuelphMercury.com](#)

**UBC's Geography Department Newsletter March 2010:** Featured in the departmental newsletter this month are reflections from the field provided by PhD candidate [Luna Vines](#) describing multi-sited ethnographic work in Spain, Senegal, Morocco; a 'waterlogged in India' sabbatical story provided Assistant Professor [Michele Kopps](#); a featured geographer story on Greg Henry; and an introduction to post-doctoral fellow Matthew Chuang. [UBC Geography Newsletter March 2010](#)

**Traverser la frontière Ottawa-Gatineau:** Deux villes, deux provinces, séparées par une rivière et la frontière interprovinciale qui a la plus forte charge symbolique au pays. Les liens sont étroits entre les deux villes, des dizaines de milliers de personnes traversent la frontière chaque jour. La population de Gatineau a crû plus rapidement que celle de sa voisine de 2001 à 2006. Les nouveaux résidents de Gatineau sont des familles d'Ottawa, souvent anglophones, attirées par le coût inférieur du logement et les garderies à \$7 par jour. Le visage culturel d'Aylmer par exemple s'en trouve modifié. Les immigrants sont aussi parmi les nouveaux venus. Divers mécanismes sont mis en place par la municipalité et le gouvernement du Québec pour faciliter leur intégration. Le « projet Ottawa » porte sur les pratiques et représentations liées à la frontière dans la région de la Capitale nationale, sur les cultures originales créées par la frontière, sur ses effets sur les identités particulières, sur les actions politiques qu'elle alimente. Trois membres de l'équipe du projet, [Anne Gilbert](#), [Marc Brosseau](#) et [Luisa Veronis](#) du département de Géographie de l'Université d'Ottawa ont participé à la série de reportages sur Gatineau nouveau présentée à la radio et la télévision de Radio-Canada, du 15 au 18 mars dernier. On peut voir [le dossier complet en français](#) (and [in English](#)).

**Postdoctoral Success Stories at U Toronto:** [Kate Geddie](#) will be based at The MOVE Network at the University of Lausanne and funded by the Swiss University Conference to researching issues related to "transnational education"; [Dieter Kogler](#) has accepted a post-doc at the Martin Prosperity Institute where he will be working on structural equation models that account for growth patterns among German regions over the past decade, and 'mega-regions'; [Kate Parizeau](#) received a SSHRC post-doctoral fellowship at the UBC Department of Geography. She will be working with Juanita Sandberg and studying "*Gendered experiences of urban informality among recyclers in Buenos Aires, Argentina*"; and, incoming SSHRC post-doctoral student [Michael Ekers](#) will be working with Scott Prudham on opportunities and barriers to a social and ecological recovery in the British Columbia forestry sector.

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**McMaster U's Robert Wilton Apointed Book Review Editor for *Social and Cultural Geography*:**

Rob Wilton has been appointed as Book Review Editor of the journal *Social and Cultural Geography* for a 5 year term. Rob's research interests focus on the geographies of disability and mental health; the geographies of addiction treatment and recovery; and, the social geography of cities, with an emphasis on processes of exclusion. [Wilton@McMaster](mailto:Wilton@McMaster)

**U Toronto's Marcie Snyder Awarded NEAHR Fellowship:** *Marcie Snyder* a Phd student in the [Collaborative Program of Geography and Aboriginal Health](#) has been awarded a Fellowship from the [Manitoba Network Environment for Aboriginal Health Research](#) (NEAHR) to support her research on the role of mobility in shaping Aboriginal health. In addition to providing financial support, the NEAHR program helps students to link with other graduate students in the province and across Canada who are engaged in Aboriginal health research.

**Outreach Program Highlighting Green Mining Technology by McMaster U's Lesley Warren to be Featured in Centre for Climate Change:** Hamilton has the potential to be a go-to city for climate change research thanks to McMaster University's new climate centre, said its director Altaf Arain. The university's Centre for Climate Change hosts its inaugural seminar today. Research focuses on seven disciplines, including physical climate, ecosystem impacts, water resources and infrastructure impacts. An outreach program highlighting green mining technology research by McMaster geography professor Lesley Warren is also in the works. [The Hamilton Spectator](#)

**U Windsor's Alan Trenhaile Gives Keynote Address:** Alan Trenhaile, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Windsor, was invited to give the keynote lecture at a Geological Oceanography session at the American Geophysical Union's 'Oceans 2010' conference in Portland, Oregon. The talk was entitled: *Modelling the response of hard and soft rock coasts to climate change*. Alan has also been appointed by the French organising committee as a foreign representative to the Scientific Committee for 'Paris 2013', the next international conference of the International Association of Geomorphologists. [UW Geology, Physical Geography and Environmental Science News](#)

**Mount Allison University Students Involved in Innovative Course on How "Place Matters":** A group of 33 Mount Allison students spent a week studying how they could work within the University to improve their community in a course designed by Natalie Gerum, a Mount Allison alumna, and Dr. Michael Fox, head of the department of geography and environment. Entitled '*Place Matters*' this intensive five-day course explored the ways in which Mount Allison University, through its academic programming, can contribute to the betterment of the Sackville community. The course was based on Gerum's research for her honours thesis at Mount Allison, which uses the study of local place as a vehicle to achieve social change. [Mount Allison News](#)

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**Geographer of the Week: Dr. Aaron Berg, University of Guelph**

Dr. [Aaron Berg](#) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Guelph. Aaron completed a BSc and MSc degree in Geography at the University of Lethbridge, an MS in Geological Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin, and his PhD in Earth System Science at the University of California, Irvine. His research focuses on hydrology, and hydro-climate simulation. Areas of current research interest include: macro-scale modeling of hydrological states and fluxes; climate change and water resources; the spatial scaling of hydrological properties; and evaluating the impact of land use change on regional hydrologic cycles. To accomplish these research objectives I use hydrologic models together with physical and remotely sensed observations.

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Ice Sheet Melt Identified as Trigger of Big Freeze:** The main cause of a rapid global cooling period, known as the Big Freeze or Younger Dryas has been identified has been related to a mega-flood path across North America. Before now, scientists have speculated that the mega-flood was the main cause of the abrupt cooling period, but the path of the flood waters has long been debated and no convincing evidence had been found establishing a route from the ice-sheet to the North Atlantic. The research team studied a large number of cliff sections along the Mackenzie Delta and found that many of the cliff sections showed evidence of sediment erosion. This evidence, which could only be explained by a mega-flood from the over-spilling of Lake Agassiz at the front of the Laurentide Ice-sheet rather than a normal flood of the river. [EurekaAlert!](#) | [Science Daily](#)

**Eleven Questions for the Next Decade of Geographical Sciences:** Eleven questions that should shape the next decade of geographical sciences research were identified in a [new report](#) by the U.S. National Research Council.

- How are we changing the physical environment of Earth's surface?
- How can we best preserve biological diversity and protect endangered ecosystems?
- How are climate and other environmental changes affecting the vulnerabilities of coupled human-environment systems?
- Where and how will 10 billion people live?
- How will we sustainably feed everyone in the coming decade and beyond?
- How does where we live affect our health?
- How is the movement of people, goods, and ideas changing the world?
- How is economic globalization affecting inequality?
- How are geopolitical shifts influencing peace and stability?
- How might we better observe, analyze, and visualize a changing world?
- What are the societal implications of citizen mapping and mapping citizens?

## Science News

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## Some not so “Geographical” News



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