



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**UVic's Jutta Gutberlet Unveils New Map to Show Bidders the Way:** Daffoni Pendleton turned up Friday for the unveiling of a map that outlines downtown services for people who make their living scavenging from dumpsters. The project -- done with the geography department's "community-based research laboratory" -- was based on interviews with 156 local bidders. The result is a pamphlet with information about bidders, as well as a map that shows everything from where bidders can get water and use the washroom to where to take their salvaged recyclables. "It could be a tool for bidders to more easily access services and for other people to learn about the service the bidders actually provide," said Jutta Gutberlet, director of UVic's community-based lab. Gutberlet sees bidders as environmental stewards. [Times Colonist](#)

**U Lethbridge's Sarah Boon on Research Describing Shrinking Devon Ice Cap:** Between 1961 and 1985 the Devon Island ice cap, one of the largest ice masses in the Canadian High Arctic, grew in some years and shrank in others, resulting in an overall loss of mass. But that changed 1985 when scientists began to see a steady decline in ice volume and area each year. "We've been seeing more mass loss since 1985," says Sarah Boon, lead author on the paper and a Geography Professor at the University of Lethbridge. The reason for the change? Warmer summers. One warm summer can wipe out five years of growth. And though the accelerated melting trend began in 1985, the last decade has seen four years with unusually warm summers - 2001, 2005, 2007 and 2008. "What we see during these warm summers is the extent of the melt is greater," says Boon about the results of a five-year remote sensing study that ran between 2000 and 2004. [UNews](#) | [EurekAlert!](#) | [Los Angeles Times](#) | [Planetsave.com](#) | [Lethbridge Herald](#)

**Michael Hayes Appointed as Director of Health Education and Research at UVic:** Dr. Michael Hayes was recently appointed as the inaugural Director of Health Education and Research at the University of Victoria. Dr. Hayes comes to UVic from Simon Fraser University where he was the Associate Dean in the Faculty of Health Sciences since 2004. He has a B.A. (Hons) in Geography, a M.Sc. in Health Sciences and Ph.D. in Geography from McMaster University. A key part of his role will be to lead the development and implementation of a strategic vision for health research and education at UVic.

**Laurentian U's Jorge Virchez Offers Advice on Avoiding Being a Theft Target:** Jorge Virchez, a veteran traveller and Laurentian University geography professor, said Canadians are highly visible targets for thieves. "When you are out there in a foreign country, you are a target," Virchez said. "You may think you are of modest means, but compared to them, you are well-off financially. Canada is one of the seven richest nations in the world, so (thieves) will target you." Most of Virchez's travelling tips have been learned from decades of travelling, either by himself, with friends, or with students. [NorthernLife.ca](#)

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**More Cellphones than Toilets in India Reports Susan Elliott:** In India, one of many parts of the world where poor sanitation devastates human health, the environment and the economy, more people have cellphones than access to adequate toilets. A Hamilton-based UN water agency is presenting the report, which suggests the worldwide problem could be resolved by 2025 with adequate resources. The agency behind the report, the Institute for Water, Environment and Health, is based at McMaster Innovation Park on Longwood Road. But it's more than a hardware problem, said co-author Susan Elliott. "We talk a lot about water. It's really easy to talk about water, but it's not so easy to talk about sanitation," said Elliott, a Mac geography professor and senior research fellow at INWEH. "Sanitation happens in a social and cultural context. There's stigma associated with it. People don't like to talk about it." [Hamilton Spectator](#)

**UVic's Phil Dearden Focuses on Establishing and Maintaining Protected Areas:** How can you protect an endangered species if it is worth more dead than alive? "The short answer is you can't," says Dr. Phil Dearden, chair of the University of Victoria's geography department. "We set up protected areas, fence them and guard them, but if the species we're trying to save provides a greater source of income for local people when it's dead than when it's alive, we're not going to succeed," he says. Dearden's fascination with conservation extends far beyond whale and shark-watching. His interests range from marine mammals and seagrass ecology, to coral reef monitoring, community-based governance of marine protected areas, and Indigenous perspectives on conservation. [UVic EDGEwise](#)

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### **Geographer of the Week: Dr. Pamela Shaw, Vancouver Island University**

Dr. [Pamela Shaw](#) is a University-College Professor in the Geography Department at the University of Vancouver Island. Pam is the former director of community planning for the Regional District of Nanaimo. Since joining Vancouver Island University in 2002, Pam has been responsible for delivering courses in human geography, geographic communication, urban and regional planning, urban social geography and issues in urban growth management. After spending 20 years in the planning field, Pam received her Ph.D. from the University of Victoria in 2009. Last year she completed a textbook published by Oxford University Press entitled [A Field Guide to Communication](#). The textbook is based on curricula that Pamela prepared for GEOG 322 - Geographic Communication. [Geography@VIU](#)

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### **Other "Geographical" News**

**Ice Age Climate Change Did Not Pose Significant Challenges to First Americans:** Paleoindian groups -- the first people to enter and subsequently inhabit the American continent during the final glacial episodes of the Pleistocene period -- occupied North America throughout the Younger Dryas interval, which saw a rapid return to glacial conditions approximately 11,000 years ago. Until now, it has been assumed that cooling temperatures and their impact on communities posed significant adaptive challenges to those groups. Conditions were in reality less extreme and therefore may not have measurably added to the challenge routinely faced by Paleoindian groups, who during this interval, successfully dispersed across the diverse habitats of Late Glacial North America. All things considered, it is likely that Paleoindians were not constantly scrambling to keep up with Younger Dryas age climate changes. [Science Daily](#)

**Maps of Ottoman Geographers on Display in Washington:** *'The Ottoman Worldview from Piri Reis to Katip Çelebi'* exhibition is on display at the Washington Marriot Hotel following an opening ceremony attended by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. The five-day exhibition features maps that display

the Ottomans' refined cartographic skills in pre-modern era, especially with 16th century maps of the world. The maps are very important since they show the power of the Ottomans at that time. [Daily News](#)

**Mapping Drug Addicts' Tracks:** At the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, there's a lot of map talk. But one of the most compelling maps traced the steps of a single man, a drug addict, as he traveled through Baltimore. The man carried a GPS unit, given to him by clinicians who were treating him at a methadone clinic. Over the course of 18 weeks, a team of researchers collected the data and lined it up with the man's geographical position. [ScienceNews](#)

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**Software Might Help Predict Disease Spread:** A U.S. geographer says he has created a user-friendly software program that allows the discovery of geographic patterns and trends. Pennsylvania State University scientist Frank Hardisty said disease statistics contained in patient records or detailed in newspaper clippings can be sorted and organized by his computer program to depict geographic patterns. "The use of interactive maps and graphs, combined with word search interfaces, can lead to greater insight into complex events like the spread of swine flu," he said. Hardisty describes his GeoViz Toolkit as a user-friendly application that combines text mining with geographical mapping, allowing a user to search publicly available data to identify and visualize specific patterns. [UPI.com](#)

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## Some not so "Geographical" News



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