



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 82, May 2, 2010**  
**Compiled by Dan Smith <[caq@geog.uvic.ca](mailto:caq@geog.uvic.ca)>**

---

**Saint Mary's University's Cathy Conrad SMU "Teacher Scholar" Award:** [Cathy Conrad](#), Chair of the Saint Mary's University Geography Department, was awarded the SMU "Teacher Scholar" award for 2010-2011. She will be working towards "Sustainability Across the Curriculum" as her focus for the year.

**Douglas College's Michael Wilson Studies Early Postglacial Fossil Bison:** Michael Wilson of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Douglas College is co-author on a new paper about the early postglacial Orcas Island fossil bison. The [paper](#) addresses possible evidence for human activity (14C date: 11,990 BP). Quentin Mackie of UVic has written about it on his blog and PNW geographers may find this of interest. [Northwest Coast Archaeology](#)

**Children's Health and the Environment: International Workshop on Research, Policy and Practice:** Western's Geography Professor Jason Gilliland and graduate student Janet Loebach, together with Robin Kearns of the University of Auckland, are hosting a conference on Children's Health and the Built Environment to be held between June 28-30 in London. Speakers from around the world as well as local agencies, organizations, designers, health professionals and policymakers are coming to London to share their latest work and insights. For more information on this workshop please contact [urban@uwo.ca](mailto:urban@uwo.ca) or visit our website at [Children's Health and the Environment Workshop 2010](#). Early bird registration ends on May 15.

**McMaster Geographers Lead Team to win AAG 2010 Burrill Award:** Social exclusion research is gaining prominence in policy circles in Canada, with recent reports being commissioned by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. A major report on the topic, authored by McMaster geographers Antonio Paez, Ruben G. Mercado, and Steven Farber, in collaboration with engineers from the Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal (Catherine Morency) and the University of Toronto (Matthew Roorda) was awarded the 2010 [AAG Burrill Award](#). The Burrill award is given to work of exceptional quality that lies at the intersection of basic geographical research and policy. The report finds evidence of low accessibility patterns for low income, single parent households, and seniors in Hamilton, Toronto, and Montreal.

**Saint Mary's University Loses Don Bonner:** SMU regrets to inform the Geographical community that their Departmental Map Librarian and Cartographer, Mr. Don Bonner, passed away on Monday, April 26 following a long and courageous battle with throat cancer. For those of you who were fortunate enough to know Don, he was a quiet, kind man who will be dearly missed in life and at Saint Mary's University. Before coming to SMU in the mid-1990s, he worked as a cartographer at the University of Waterloo.

**UWO's Chantelle Richmond Receives CIHR Award:** Dr. Chantelle Richmond of Western's Department of Geography, is a recipient of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Investigator Award for her research with Canada's First Nations. For more information on Dr. Richmond's research, please check out her [faculty webpage](#).

**Victoria Binnors Deserve Community Aid:** They are called binnors or dumpster divers, and they have become part of our economy, our daily lives and even our commitment to the environment. We see them rooting through garbage cans and hedges around downtown Victoria, looking for bottles and cans that other people have tossed aside. Still, it is good that a map has been drawn up that shows the location of downtown services for people who make their living scavenging from dumpsters. The map will help binnors, and help bring credibility to the work they do. The result of a project by University of Victoria students, done with the geography department's "[community-based research laboratory](#)," the map is based on interviews with 156 local binnors. The pamphlet includes information about binnors along with a map that shows washrooms, water sources, and the places that will accept salvaged recyclables. [Victoria Times Colonist](#)

**U Toronto's Jing Ming Chen on Value of Old Growth Boreal Forests:** A recent study found that half the world's carbon is stored within land in the permafrost region, about two-thirds of which lies in Russia. Overlying former glaciers, they are a coniferous mix called the boreal forest. Jing Ming Chen, a University of Toronto geography professor who specialises in climate modelling for the boreal region, says: "Cutting boreal trees increases the amount of carbon in the atmosphere and it takes 50 to 100 years to put that carbon back in the ground." [Telegraph](#)

**Dalhousie University Appoints Robert Summerby-Murray as Dean:** Dr. [Robert Summerby-Murray](#) has been appointed as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at Dalhousie University. Dr. Summerby-Murray is currently Dean of Social Sciences, and, Director of Academic Support Services, at Mount Allison University. In 2000, Summerby-Murray was awarded Mount Allison's Tucker Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Association of Atlantic Universities' Distinguished Teacher Award. In 2003, Summerby-Murray was awarded a Paul Pare Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research. [Recent Appointments](#)

**Trent U Geography Students Embark on Tour of Mexican Watersheds:** Trent University Geography professor Dr. Raul Ponce-Hernandez will lead a group of undergraduate students on a ten-day Mexican tour to showcase their research project regarding the sustainable land use of two watershed systems located in the states of Tabasco and Campeche in Mexico. The project is part of a fourth-year "Integrated Watershed Management" course, cross-listed between the Departments of Geography and Environmental and Resource Studies at Trent. As part of the practical component of the course, students undertook the research and development of an integrated watershed management plan. [Trent U News Story](#)

**SFU's Warren Gill Appears on Global TV:** Warren Gill, SFU's vice-president of university relations, wore his transportation geographer's hat as he appeared on GlobalTV to talk about Vancouver's expected loss of some 300,000 cruise-ship passengers this season. It's not just the money that stopover tourists spend, he said, but also losses to companies who supply the ships with goods and services. "The loss to the BC economy is hundreds of millions." He cited competition from Seattle, and tax moves by Alaska. "Alaska killed the goose that laid the golden egg" with a head-tax on cruise-ship passengers, and casino taxes. "They kept thinking it would go on for ever and . . . we've really seen an effect with cruise lines, Holland America, Princess, pulling ships out of Alaska. This is a footloose industry. It can go anywhere, and so it's gone to Europe, gone to other places."

Valorie A. Crooks; Heather Castleden; and Ilja Tromp-van Meerveld. 2010. [Teaching Research methods courses in human geography: Critical reflections](#). Journal of Geography in Higher Education 34(2):155-171.

Robert Summerby-Murray. 2010. Writing for immediacy: [Narrative writing as a teaching technique in undergraduate cultural geography](#). Journal of Geography in Higher Education 34(2):231-245.

---

### **Geographer of the Week: Dr. Natalie Oswin, McGill University**

Dr. [Natalie Oswin](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at McGill University. Natalie completed a BA Hons at the University of Toronto, her MA at Dalhousie University and her PhD at the University of British Columbia. Following this Natalie was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the National University of Singapore, before being appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Dept of Geography at NUS. Natalie's research crosses the subdisciplines of urban, cultural and political geography and is inflected by a broad interest in critical social theory. Research to date has coalesced around two main themes: 1) Queer geographies: A key aim is the advancement of a queer geography nuanced by engagement with feminist, postcolonial, and materialist thought and a critical geography that attends to the relevance of sexual norms to its wide-ranging concerns; and 2) Urban mobilities: After the romanticization of motion and nomadicization of thought that characterized much social theory in the 1990s, a more critical 'mobility turn' has recently gripped the social sciences. It attends to the power and politics of movement – to its friction, its unevenness and its inevitable territorialization. Informed by this scholarship, she is interested in the ways in which ideas about the city move. For more information on Dr. Oswin's research, check out her [faculty webpage](#).

---

### **Recent Theses and Dissertations**

Catherine Crawley. 2010. "Spatial and temporal assessment of the Thames River surface water quality monitoring program, Ontario". Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Chris Smart.

Catherine Hickey. 2010. "Adapting to Climate Change in Guyana: Necessities, Options and Constraints". Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Tony Weis.

Rachel Hirsch. 2010. "Pesticide Policy Preference and Risk Perception in Canada: A Case Comparison in the Neighbourhood Context". Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jamie Baxter.

Yunliang Meng. 2010. "Evaluating Web-based Public Participatory GIS for Multicriteria Site Selection Analysis: A Case Study in Canmore, Alberta". Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jacek Malczewski.

Alison Park. 2010. "The Iwokrama Challenge: Balancing Conservation and Development in Guyana". Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Tony Weis.

---

## Other “Geographical” News

### **Canadian Water: Towards a New Strategy / Le Canada et son eau: vers une nouvelle stratégie:**

The McGill Institute for the Study of Canada (MISC) is pleased to announce that videos and photos from the *Canadian Water: Towards a New Strategy* conference are now available [online](#). / L'Institut d'études canadiennes de McGill (IECM) a le plaisir d'annoncer que les vidéos et les photos de la conférence *Le Canada et son eau: vers une nouvelle stratégie* sont maintenant disponibles en ligne à l'adresse suivante: [www.mcgill.ca/water2010/video](http://www.mcgill.ca/water2010/video). Les séances de la conférence ont été doublées en français par la Chaîne d'affaires publiques par câble (CPAC) et peuvent [être visionnées en ligne](#).

**London's Richest People Worth 273 Times More Than Poorest:** London is most unequal city in the developed world, with the richest tenth of the population amassing 273 times the wealth owned by the bottom tenth – which creates a "means chasm" not seen since the days of a "slave owning society", according to a new book. *In Injustice: Why Social Inequality Persists* published by Policy Press, Danny Dorling, a professor of human geography at Sheffield University paints a bleak picture of an extremely unjust Britain where differences in wealth have led to a profoundly divided society. [The Guardian](#)

**Ancient Artifacts Revealed in Canada's Mackenzie Mountains as Northern Ice Patches Melt:** High in the Mackenzie Mountains, scientists are finding ancient hunting tools being revealed as warming temperatures melt patches of ice that have been in place for thousands of years. Researchers have found 2400-year-old spear throwing tools, a 1000-year-old ground squirrel snare, and bows and arrows dating back 850 years. [ScienceDaily](#) | [Arctic Institute of North America](#)

**Preservation Directory:** Persons with a penchant for preservation will find that this clearinghouse website is a top-notch resource for materials on historic preservation, preservation-based tourism, and downtown revitalization projects across the United States and Canada. The materials on the site are divided into topical areas that include "Preservation Events & Conferences", "Grants & Funding Sources" and nine other headings. [Preservation Directory](#)

---

## Some not so “Geographical” News



---

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