



# GeogNews

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**UBC O's Bernard Momer Finds Creative Sector Key Local Economic Driver:** Kelowna's creative sector generates \$37.8 million in wages annually and has an annual economic impact of \$143.8 million. Those are just two of the key findings in a new economic impact study led by Bernard Momer, associate professor of geography at UBC's Okanagan campus. "As it was in 1998, Kelowna's creative sector is an important contributor to the local economy," says Momer. "This impact assessment demonstrates that the creative sector's economic contribution to our community is significant and, by extension, that it enriches our social and cultural capital." [Kelowna Capital News](#)

**U Guelph's John Lindsay Whitebox GAT Project:** Whitebox GAT is an open source GIS project which aims to develop transparent, open source software. The Whitebox website provides downloads, screenshots, online help, and user tutorials (using Whitebox GAT, digital elevation models and terrain analysis, streams and watersheds, creating customised Whitebox GAT tools). The project is led by Professor [John Lindsay](#) of the Department of Geography, University of Guelph. [Whitebox GAT Homepage](#)

**Memorial U's Ratana Chuenpagdee Establishes AQUAwariness Group:** A group of PhD and master's students from places as far flung as Ecuador, Columbia, Ethiopia, Croatia and the west coast of Newfoundland have taken a class assignment into the real world and onto the web. The [AQUAwariness Project](#) was established in January 2010 for the graduate class Conservation and Sustainability, taught by Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee of Memorial's geography department. "Water was one of the resources that we covered in class. After learning about water situations in places like Ethiopia and Turkey, we turned our attention to Newfoundland," says Dr. Chuenpagdee. "The project reflects the students' commitment to raise awareness about local water issues by providing a one-stop information portal." The portal consists of an overview of municipal water policy, the importance of the Windsor Lake watershed and municipal water shed area and a section on education for water conservation. [MUN.ca](#)

**UVic's Nathan Bennett Awarded 2010 Trudeau Scholarship:** As an early-career social scientist, Nathan Bennett, Department of Geography, University of Victoria, seeks collaborative research projects that advocate for environmental protection while ensuring that communities neighbouring terrestrial and marine protected areas benefit from their existence. He is particularly interested in bringing local and often marginalized voices into discussions around resource management and conservation. To this end, his master's thesis focused on Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation perspectives on the benefits of conservation, capacity building efforts to maximize local benefit, and the role of social economy organizations in facilitating development relating to the creation of a national park on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories. His doctoral research will examine several questions related to the complex and evolving relationship between coral reef marine protected areas and local livelihoods on the Andaman Coast of Thailand through a solution-oriented lens. [Trudeau Foundation](#) | [Canada Views.ca](#)

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### **U Toronto Research Fellow Matthew Robson on Effect Toronto has on Water Quality: A**

University of Toronto study of the concentrations of PCBs and other chemicals in the rivers running into Lake Ontario reveals significantly higher concentrations in areas closest to the centre of Toronto, an indication of the profound effects the city has on water quality. "In the Humber River watershed we saw an almost 100-fold increase in concentrations of Polycyclic Musks in the river water in the downtown area around Old Mill compared to parts of the river north of the city," says Matthew Robson, a research fellow in U of T's Department of Geography and Program in Planning. "We saw similar increases in concentrations for all of the other chemicals in air, rain and soil. This, in turn, has a great effect on what goes into Lake Ontario and the Great Lakes system. For example when we looked at the amounts of PCBs entering Lake Ontario in rainfall we found that when you take into account the urban effect from Toronto alone, you get about 40 per cent more PCBs entering the lake." [News@UofT](#)

**Mount Allison U's Colin Laroque Confirms Age of Oldest Hockey Stick:** Mount Allison University dendrochronologist Colin Laroque, an expert in dating samples of antique and prehistoric wood, spent months leading a research team that probed the so-called "Moffatt Stick" to see if physical evidence matched the archival and oral history tracing its origins to a Cape Breton family in the 1830s. The scientific results indicate the maple tree used to create the stick was cut down between 1828 and 1838. A team of Laroque's researchers from the Mount Allison dendrochronology lab spent a week searching through woodlots near Pottle Lake for trees old enough to compare their growth rings from the early 1800s with the 43-year record of rings preserved in the Moffatt Stick. [Edmonton Journal](#)

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#### **Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers**

Fred A. Curtis, P. Simpson-Housley, and C. Youck. 2010. [Household energy conservation and locus of control: A research note](#). International Journal of Energy Research 8(1):89-93.

Charles Hostovsky, Virginia Maclaren and Geoffrey McGrath. 2010. [The role of public involvement in environmental impact assessment in Vietnam: towards a more culturally sensitive approach](#). Journal of Environmental Planning and Management 53(3):405-425.

Diane Saint-Laurent, J. St-Laurent, L. Lavoie, A.; Drouin and B. Ghaleb. 2010. [Floodplain sedimentation rates, soil properties and recent flood history in Southern Québec](#). Global and Planetary Change 70: 76-91. DOI:10.1016/j.gloplacha.2009.11009.

Ted Lewis and Scott F. Lamoureux. 2010. [Twenty-first century discharge and sediment yield predictions in a small high Arctic watershed](#). Global and Planetary Change 71(1-2): 27-42.

Thiago F Silva, Maycira P. Costa and John M. Melack. 2010. [Assessment of two biomass estimation methods for aquatic vegetation growing on the Amazon floodplain](#). Aquatic Botany 92(3):161-167.

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## New Online in [The Canadian Geographer](#)

Aurélié Lalanne at Richard Shearmur. 2010. [La métropolisation à l'aune de la 'loi' taille/rang : Le cas Canadien, 1971–2001](#). Canadian Geographer/Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2010.00311.x

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### Geographer of the Week: Dr. Jill Gunn, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. [Jill Gunn](#) is an Assistant Professor Department of Geography and Planning & School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan. Jill completed a B.A. in Regional and Urban Development at the University of Saskatchewan, an M.Sc. Natural Resources Management at the University of Northern British Columbia and her a Ph.D. in Environmental Geography at the University of Saskatchewan. Since 1997, she has been involved in planning and assessment activities for a variety of institutions and organizations including: the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment, Environmental Assessment Task Group; the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency; the Canadian International Development Agency; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; the Government of Saskatchewan; the City of Saskatoon; Forest Renewal BC; and BC Hydro.

Jill's [research](#) currently focuses on the integration and application of strategic environmental assessment and cumulative effects assessment on a regional basis in Canada. I am working to bridge the fields of environmental management and urban planning, and draw attention to regional environmental and planning issues associated with large-scale land and resource development activities. For more information on Dr. Gunn's research, check out her [faculty webpage](#).

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### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Dilumie Saumedaka Abeyisirigunawardena. 2010. [Climate variability and change impacts on coastal environmental variables in British Columbia, Canada](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

Christie Andrews. 2010. [A stream in transition: short term morphodynamics of Fishtap Creek following wildfire](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Emily Eaton. 2010. [Getting behind the grain: the politics of producer opposition to GM wheat on the Canadian Prairies](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of Toronto, Ontario.

Melissa Anne Ewin. 2010. [Spatial patterns of large wood debris in the northern interior of British Columbia](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Ranae Leann Kowalczyk. 2009. [Plotting a route to effective web-based avalanche education tools using geovisualization principles](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia.

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Brandy J. Patterson. 2010. [A good investment: women and property ownership in a mid-twentieth century Canadian suburb, Oak Bay, British Columbia, 1940-1960](#). Unpublished MA thesis. University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

Nicolas Daniel Teichrob. 2010. [The downstream effects of salt application on Horstman Glacier, Whistler, British Columbia](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Lynn Adam Saffery. 2009. [The art of citizenship: mythmaking and neighbourhood change](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia.

Joseph Michael Shea. 2010. [Regional-scale distributed modelling of glacier meteorology and melt, southern Coast Mountains, Canada](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Colette Catherine Chantal Wabnitz. 2010. [Sea turtle conservation and ecosystem-based management with a focus on green turtles \(\*Chelonia mydas\*\) and seagrass beds](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

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### **Other “Geographical” News**

**Geography of Surfing:** To surf is to explore, to connect with nature, and to embed oneself in history. Surfing, in one respect, is simply a recreational sport, but it is also ...a multi-billion dollar global industry, a reflection of global climate patterns interacting with reef formation and sedimentation, a globalizing culture diffusing from strong regional identities, and a reason to travel to exotic locations and explore the planet. This course uses a geographic perspective to study the many facets of the sport. Geography provides a perfect set of tools to study surfing ranging from the propagation of swells to the diffusion of culture. The goal of the course is to introduce students to geographic approaches to understanding human cultural patterns, physical processes, and their dynamic interactions. [Geog 20, UCSB Geography](#)

**Exploring the Early Americas. The Jay I. Kislak Collection:** Exploring the Early Americas features selections from the more than 3,000 rare maps, documents, paintings, prints, and artifacts that make up the Jay I. Kislak Collection at the Library of Congress. It provides insight into indigenous cultures, the drama of the encounters between Native Americans and European explorers and settlers, and the pivotal changes caused by the meeting of the American and European worlds." The exhibition website provides photographs of artifacts and maps together with interactive resources. [Exploring the Early Americas Webpage](#)

**DISDATA, Disaster Data Portal:** DISDATA, the disaster data collection initiative portal, is the result of a collaboration between the Centre for Research in Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) and the Global Risk Identification Program (GRIP) which aims to facilitate access to disaster data compilations by providing a portal to the various data compilation initiatives. The DISDATA website provides a database of over 60 known disaster databases. [DISDATA Webpage](#)

**Social Panorama of Latin America 2009:** The 2009 edition of the Social Panorama of Latin America report by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. This report "links trends in poverty and income distribution with social protection systems, placing special emphasis on how these systems have responded to the social impacts of the current crisis and on medium- and long-term projections. It focuses in particular on the impact of public transfers, trends in social spending, the mechanisms by which social vulnerability is reproduced and changing intergenerational and gender

relations." This Web page offers a number of options which include: accessing the abstract and full-text of the report. [ECLAC](#)

**Is Geography the New History?** It is getting harder and harder in conversation to raise one or other of the most basic subjects in geography—agriculture, glaciation, rivers and population—without a flicker of panic crossing the other person’s face. You are no longer talking about a neutral subject. At any moment you might be about to discuss water salinity in Bangladesh, or the acidification of the ocean, or desertification in sub-Saharan Africa. Whatever aspect of geography it is that you start with threatens to segue into a discussion on the most polarising topic there is: climate change. Something similar has happened to atlases. They were once placid, unhurried publications with additional information on the colours of national flags. Now atlases are freighted with maps showing cities that are likely to be submerged if the Arctic melts, or projected population growth, or the relative size of countries in terms of CO2 emissions, or areas where water scarcity will be most intense and resource wars most likely to break out. An atlas is beginning to look like a long-term forecast—history before it happens. [More Intelligent Life](#)

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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>