



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Winnipeg's Ryan Smith Created iPhone App: Ryan Smith could never have forecast that a weather application he created for the iPhone and iPod would eventually be downloaded by people across the world. A research assistant in the University of Winnipeg's Geography department, Smith created the UWeather app that takes information from the school's own weather station and filters it into an app that anyone can download for free from iTunes. "The coolest thing about the weather station is that it is updated to the minute and you can see those really small changes that are really interesting that you just don't get from Environment Canada," he said. [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

WLU's Michael English on High School Geography Movie Marathons: Provincial curriculum permits various technologies and media to be used in the classroom. The Waterloo Region District School Board buys a copyright licence giving teachers the right to show movies. Michael English, chair of the Geography and Environmental Studies Department at Wilfrid Laurier University, isn't thrilled to hear that high school geography has become a movie marathon, even if the movies shown have some sort of plot connection to the physical sciences. "These movies are garbage, basically," he says of the lengthy list I recited. "They don't represent anything that has to do with reality or science." If students require movies to be engaged, English would prefer they watch a National Geographic special on volcanos instead of Tommy Lee Jones saving Los Angeles from a river of lava. [The Record.com](#)

U Saskatchewan's Bill Barr Details Dreadful Arctic Voyage on "Hell-Ship": Tales of the hardships endured by the (mostly British) mariners who charted the northern coastline of North America during the long, futile effort at discovering the fabled Northwest Passage invariably make for gripping reading. Among them is "Arctic Hell-Ship," the story of the five-year voyage of the HMS Enterprise, authored by William Barr, an emeritus professor of geography at the University of Saskatchewan. Unlike the other rescue missions, which had followed Franklin's path to the west of Greenland and into the maze of islands and channels that comprise northern Canada, the Enterprise and its sister ship the Investigator were sent around the southern tip of Patagonia then northward around Alaska to search the western waters above North America. [Newsminer.com](#)

CAG Western Division Spring Newsletter: UVF's Claire Beaney has released the Spring 2010 edition of the WDCAG Newsletter. Features include comments from the WDCAG President Gilles Viaud and reports from most departments in the division. [WDCAG Newsletter](#)

U Saskatchewan Learning Communities Features Geography: Learning communities are groups of first-year students taking a common set of 2-3 classes who meet as an academic community once a week, guided by peer mentors and supported by professors, alumni and the University Learning Centre. [AR12: Geography 125.3 - Geography 130.3](#)

Memorial U's Department of Geography Turns 50: The MUN Geography Department celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2010-2011. The department was established as a separate unit in 1960 thanks to a Senate vote. The first head of the new Department was Dr. William Summers who was a graduate of Memorial. Summers spent the decade after 1960 building the Department by hiring new faculty, constructing a new curriculum and later establishing an MA and MSc programme in Geography. His work over this period is clear from changes in Geography's calendar entries. In the 1960-61 academic year the Department consisted of one faculty member (Summers) and 3 courses. [Memorial Grads Click Here](#).

University of Regina Department of Geography to host international "Prairie Summit"

Conference: The Department of Geography at the University of Regina will host a major conference June 1-5, 2010. The "Prairie Summit" is expected to draw over 400 delegates from across Canada, the United States and other international locations to participate in meetings of the Canadian Association of Geographers, the Canadian Remote Sensing Society, the Canadian Cartographic Association and the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group. This is the first time these four groups will meet together.

Two lectures, hosted at the U of R, will be open to the public. The Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture entitled "*Geography That Breaks Your Heart: Feminist Geography from/to the Peripheries*" will take place at 5:00 p.m. on June 2 in the Classroom Building, room 126. Dr. Catherine Nolin will deliver the Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture. Nolin is an associate professor at the University of Northern British Columbia and studies foreign brides and marriage, migration and settlement in Northern B.C., and post-war Guatemala.

The Wiley Lecture entitled "*Ethnohistorical Geography and Aboriginal Rights Litigation in Canada: Reflections of an Expert Witness*" will take place at 5:00 p.m. on June 3 in the Research and Innovation Center theatre. It will be delivered by Dr. Arthur Ray who is the author of numerous articles and book chapters on Canadian indigenous peoples. [University of Regina News & Events](#)



New Online in [The Canadian Geographer](#)

Stéphane Héritier. 2010. [Parcs nationaux et populations locales dans l'ouest canadien : de l'exclusion à la participation](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2010.00314.x

Josh Lepawsky, Chrystal Phan, and Rob Greenwood. 2010. [Metropolis on the margins: talent attraction and retention to the St. John's city-region](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2010.00315.x

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Wendy Hales, Douglas College

Dr. [Wendy Hales](#) is an instructor at Douglas College in New Westminister. Wendy's main interest is in coastal geomorphology. She did a Masters degree at McMaster University in physical geography. While there she studied the morphology and management of coastal sand dunes in Nova Scotia. During my PhD at the University of British Columbia she researched the impact of human activity on the Fraser River delta. She is also interested in environmental issues; as can be seen in her research where she combines physical geography with a study of the impact of human activity. She is a strongly believer that one of the most important things to acquire is a good understanding and appreciation of the environment around you, and that the best way to learn this is through practical experience. For more information on Dr. Hales's research, check out [her webpage](#).

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Grace Baey. 2010. Borders and the Exclusion of Migrant Bodies in Singapore's Global City State. Unpublished MA thesis. Queen's University, Kingston. Supervisor: Dr. Beverley Mullings.

Hilary Dugan. 2010. Long Term Evolution and Recent Dynamics of High Arctic Coastal Basins. Unpublished MSc thesis. Queen's University, Kingston. Supervisor: Dr. Scott Lamoureux.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

R. Thorne. 2010. [Uncertainty in the impacts of projected climate change on the hydrology of a subarctic environment: Liard River Basin](#). Hydrology and Earth System Science 7:3129-3157.

Other "Geographical" News

Sable Island to be National Park: The federal government has started the process to designate Sable Island in Nova Scotia to be a national park. The ecologically sensitive spit of land sits in the North Atlantic about 300 kilometres southeast of Nova Scotia. Known as the "Graveyard of the Atlantic," Sable is home to about 400 wild horses whose ancestry traces back to some of the 223 ships known to have wrecked off the island. [CBC News](#)

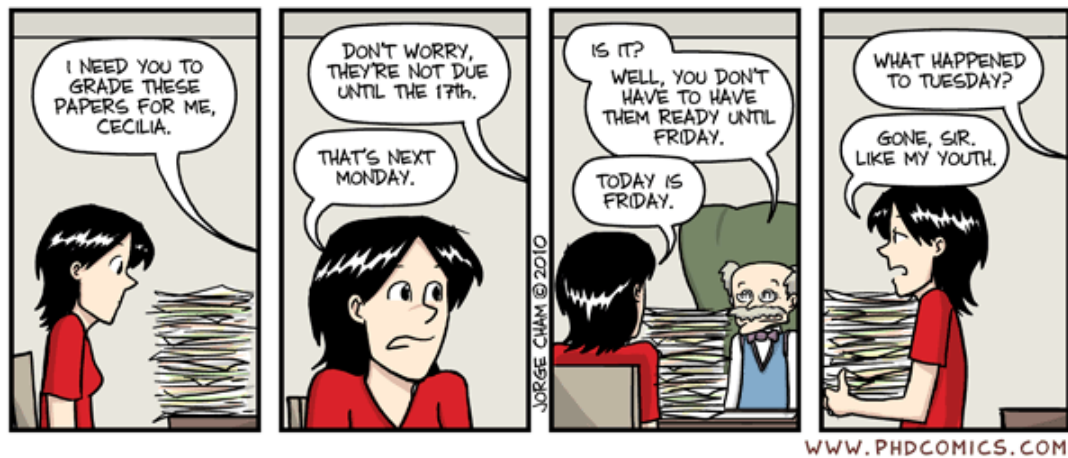
Structure Believed to be the World's Largest Beaver Dam Located, Thanks to Google: A Canadian-based ecologist said that he has located the world's largest beaver dam in northwestern Canada using Google satellite technology. Ecologist Jean Thie located the 2,788-foot (850-meter) dam using Google Earth and NASA technology while researching the rate of melting permafrost in the country's far north. Keizer flew over the beaver dam, but said there was no safe place to land anywhere nearby because it's either overly boggy or the foliage is too dense. Using past images and park aerial photography, Thie concluded that the eager beavers began their work in the 1970s and that generations of the rodents have worked on it since. [Los Angeles Times](#)

BSU Maps Out Areas of Stray Animals: It's raining stray cats and dogs in Muncie, and there doesn't seem to be any way to stop it. Students in Matt Wilson's GIS workshop mapped more than 4,000 stray animal, dead animal, neglected animal and other calls to the city animal shelter during 2009. Besides finding a higher concentration of stray animals in south Muncie, geographic information systems (GIS)

students at Ball State also found a corresponding higher concentration of poverty and human population density in much of that area. Starpress.com

About Planning: About Planning is a resource guide and directory for websites on planning topics including land use planning, growth management, comprehensive planning, smart growth and new urbanism. Compiled and maintained by Richard H. Carson, the site also includes lists of planning publications and books, and a selection of planning quotes. About Planning

Some not so “Geographical” News



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