



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Regina 'Prairie Summit' and CAG Annual Meeting Draws Accolades: The hugely successful annual meeting hosted by the Department of Geography at the University of Regina last week easily won the praise of all attendees. An army of 'blue shirt' volunteers kept the event running smoothly and ensured the meeting will be long remembered as one of the best ever. Among the many noteworthy moments at the meeting, the CAG award ceremony saw attention drawn to the accomplishments of a number of geographers:

Service to the Profession of Geography: Dr. Bob Sharpe, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies Wilfrid Laurier University. Dr. Bob Sharpe's substantial contributions to the profession of geography can be summarized in three main areas; a) in promoting geographical education in the K-12 sector b) his administrative contributions to his profession, institution and community and, c) in his research and graduate training. From 2002 to 2009 Bob was the CAG's representative on Canadian Council on Geographic Education from, which oversees the educational programs of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, and in 2009 he was appointed a Fellow of the RCGS.

Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography: Dr. Barry Smit, Department of Geography University of Guelph. Dr. Barry Smit has a truly outstanding record of geographic scholarly accomplishment. His research initiatives in agricultural systems dynamics, resource evaluation and climate change adaptation represent major developments in the fields. co-recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize as a member of the IPCC. On the teaching and mentoring side, he has received awards for teaching excellence, and has created a significant legacy through the many graduate students who have gone on to develop successful careers in their own right. Perhaps most importantly, at least for him, Dr. Smit is a proud Geographer.

Award for Geography in the Service of Government or Business: Dr. Joan Marsha Schwartz, Department of Art, Queen's University. Dr. Joan M. Schwartz has followed an unconventional career path for a Geographer. Working in positions and fields outside the usual scope of Geography, she has bridged professional and disciplinary divides, bringing visual and archival concerns to the attention of historical and cultural geographers, and raising geographical concerns among archivists and photographers, artists, art historians, and social historians.

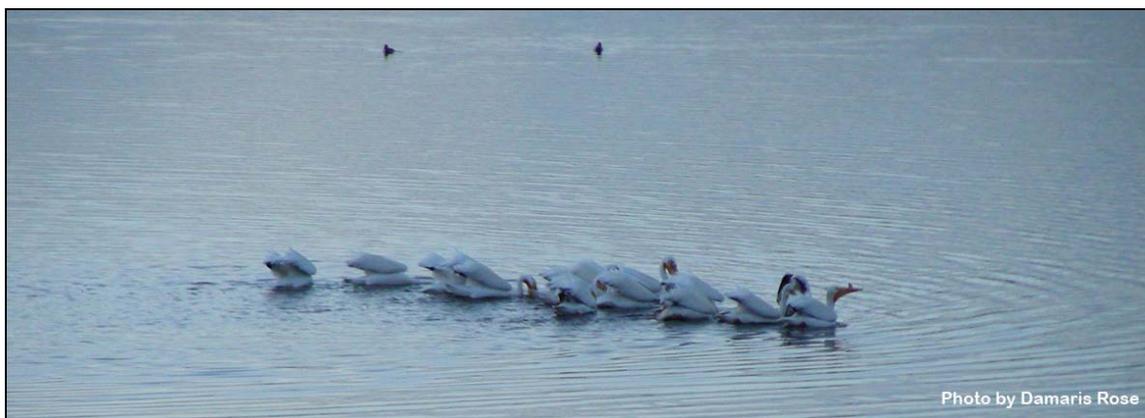
Award for Excellence on Teaching Geography: Dr. William Gough, Department of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto at Scarborough. Dr. Bill Gough is a physical geographer at the University of Toronto at Scarborough. He is widely acknowledged at UTSC and downtown as an exceptional teacher and mentor. He has brought many innovations to the classroom. Bill's course evaluations are truly outstanding, with average scores well above the departmental averages. Bill's devotion to his students and to teaching is admirable and his teaching record is excellent.

Award for Excellence on Teaching Geography: Dr. Jody Decker, Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University. Dr. Jody Decker is an outstanding teacher. She is a shining example of dedication to both geography and pedagogy. Jody has demonstrated an unwavering commitment as she challenges students to think critically and grow as engaged, informed citizens. Her energy, multi-faceted teaching style and enthusiasm captivate both university students and community members. As a student noted, "Geography is no doubt Dr. Decker's primary and foremost interest, and her commitment to it is truly remarkable".

The Julian M. Szeicz Award for Early Career Achievement: Dr. Heather Castleden, School for Resource and Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University. Dr. Heather Castleden is receiving the Julian M. Szeicz Award in recognition of the methodological innovations she has introduced to the discipline that have led to significant theoretical and disciplinary advances. The CAG recognizes that Heather is not only an astonishing early career researcher and professor, but a woman who serves as a mentor and role model to numerous graduate students and colleagues.

The Starkey-Robinson Award for Graduate Research on Canada: Andrey Petrov, Department of Geography and Program in Planning, University of Toronto. Andre Petrov is the 2010 recipient of the Starkey-Robinson Award for Graduate Research. His research focuses on marginal regions in discursive space: An examination of socio-economic conditions, development paths and spatial differentiation in frontier economic systems of the Canadian and Russian North

The Robin P. Armstrong Memorial Prize for Excellence in Native Studies: Nathan Bennet, Department of Geography, University of Victoria. Nathan Bennet is the winner of the Robin P. Armstrong Memorial Prize in recognition of his Masters of Environmental studies thesis (Nature Based Recreation and Tourism, Lakehead University) "*Conservation, Community Benefit, Capacity Building and the Social Economy: A Case Study of Lutsel K'e and the Proposed National Park.*"



3D Visualization and Mapping Lab at McMaster University: The Imperial Oil Foundation has donated \$250,000 to McMaster University to build an advanced 3D imaging laboratory that will grab the interest of high school students. Led by Bill Morris, a professor in the Department of Geography & Earth Sciences, the program will include a series of comprehensive, one-day workshops - the Imperial Oil Learning Units on Remote Sensing - that will give students from high schools throughout Hamilton and the surrounding area the chance to learn about remote sensing, a key of GIS analysis. In the lab, the high school students will have the opportunity to build a 3D model of downtown Hamilton, and use aerial photographs to map changes in Hamilton since 1945. [McMaster Daily News](#)

Mount Allison Researchers say Hockey Stick is at Least 172 Years Old: Mount Allison University scientists have confirmed that a piece of Cape Breton sugar maple is in fact the oldest known hockey stick in existence. Specialists at the Sackville university working in Atlantic Canada's only dendrochronology lab, in the Department of Geography and Environment, believe the stick was carved between 1835 and 1838 - at least 172 years ago. "We were able to establish a very firm conclusion," said specialist Colin Laroque, who uses tree rings to date objects. "For, at times, not thinking we would be able to get anything, this is a great find." [Telegraph-Journal](#)

Roger Tomlinson Named Recipient of GITA's 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award: The Geospatial Information & Technology Association (GITA) announced today that Dr. Roger Tomlinson of Ottawa, Ontario, has been given GITA's 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award. The award, the highest honor the association can bestow, recognizes an individual's lifelong contributions and long-standing commitment to the geospatial industry. He is a past president of the Canadian Association of Geographers and a recipient of their rare award for Service to the Profession. Included among his many international awards are the Association of American Geographers' James R. Anderson Medal of Honor for Applied Geography in 1995 and the first Robert T. Aangeenbrug Distinguished Career Award in 2005. [The American Surveyor](#)

Carleton's Sean Carey Receives Canadian Geophysical Union Young Scientist Award: The Canadian Geophysical Union (CGU) has conferred its Young Scientist Award on Carleton University's Sean Carey. Carey, an associate professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, received the award for his outstanding research contributions that further our understanding of hydrological processes in northern environments. Head of Carleton's Cold Regions Hydrology Lab, Carey's research focuses on cold climate processes - snow, ice, frozen ground and cold temperatures, and their effects on hydrological processes. Carey was nominated for the award by his colleagues. "It is very humbling to be given such an award by my peers," says Carey. "I am lucky in that in hydrology, my peers are my friends, and I thank my friends for providing such an enjoyable and stimulating research environment." [Carleton Newsroom](#)

U Lethbridge Confirms Honorary Degree to Hank Margolis: Dr. Hank A. Margolis, a professor in the Faculty of Geography and Geomatics at Laval University in Quebec, is known as a driving force for Canadian research into the carbon cycle of forests and wetlands, and has been instrumental in the development of several national and international efforts to better understand climate change. Dr. Margolis has made significant and long-term contributions to public service in Canada. The major form of this public service has been in the role of principal investigator and program leader of three national research networks in Canada. In addition, the research networks lead by Dr. Margolis in Canada have contributed significantly to the education and academic training of a large group of undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and technicians in Canada. [UL Notice Board](#)

UWO Adjunct Professor Jane Bowles Recognized by the Urban League of London: Geography Adjunct Professor Jane Bowles, having been recognized by the Urban League of London with community awards. Bowles, the Director of Western's Sherwood Fox Arboretum and Curator of

Western's Herbarium, will get the Green Umbrella Award. It is given to individuals who demonstrate community citizenship in London. Bowles is trained as a botanist and vegetation ecologist. Her research interests centre on the conservation of biodiversity and species-at-risk in the fragmented landscape of southern Ontario. She has taught or lectured in many courses, including in the area of Conservation Biology. [Western News](#)

Geographer of the Week: Manon Savard, l'Université du Québec à Rimouski

[Manon Savard](#) est professeure en géographie humaine de l'environnement à l'Université du Québec à Rimouski depuis janvier 2005. Elle détient un B.Sc. et un M.Sc. en géographie de l'Université du Québec à Montréal, un D.E.A en Environnement et Archéologie de l'Université de Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne et un doctorat en archéologie de l'Université de Cambridge. Elle s'intéresse, entre autres, aux relations Homme-milieu, à l'impact des changements environnementaux sur les sociétés humaines et, inversement, aux impacts humains sur le milieu naturel ainsi qu'aux ressources culturelles et patrimoniales. Ses recherches en cours au Proche-Orient, dans les Balkans et au Québec portent sur la reconstitution des stratégies de subsistance, des paléo-environnements et des relations Homme-milieu par l'archéobotanique. Elle travaille présentement à mettre sur pied un laboratoire d'archéologie environnementale pour contribuer à développer cette discipline au Québec.

Other "Geographical" News

Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area Reserve and Haida Heritage Site: The federal government has announced plans to expand protection for an area off British Columbia's northern coast known among conservationists as the "Galapagos of the North." The spectacular islands that make up Haida Gwaii have long been protected within Gwaii Haanas national park, but for years that protection stopped at the beach. Now the federal government says it will protect a 3,500-square-kilometre area covering the waters and seabed surrounding the archipelago formerly known as the Queen Charlotte Islands. [CBC News](#)

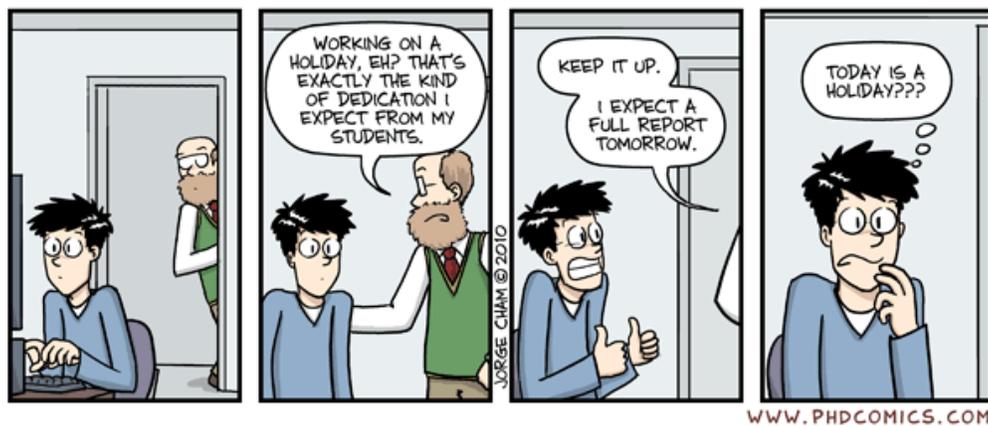
World Resources 2008. Roots of Resilience: Growing the Wealth of the Poor: This website provides access to "Roots of resilience: growing the wealth of the poor", the World Resources Report 2008, which examines the potential to scale up environmental income to assist the global, rural poor. The report was prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, and the World Resources Institute. The report can be downloaded in its entirety or as individual chapters and is available as PDF files. [World Resources Institute](#)

Pathways of Women's Empowerment: Pathways of Women's Empowerment is a consortium of five institutions which links academics, activists and practitioners who are working to advance women's empowerment for a five-year programme of work funded by the UK Department for International Development. Each institution forms the basis of a research hub working to identify regional priorities and opportunities. The website provides details of these hubs and of the project's research themes (conceptions of women's empowerment, empowering work, building constituencies for equality and justice, changing narratives of sexuality). [Pathways](#)

Rural Poverty Portal: The Rural Poverty Portal is a resource for information sharing provided by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The website can be searched by topic, region or country and covers topics such as community-driven development, desertification, gender,

indigenous peoples, land, livestock, market access, poverty reduction strategies, rural finance, rural institutions, trade liberalisation and water. [Rural Poverty Portal](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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