



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Laurier PhD student wins Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research: Laurier student Kevin Turner has received a prestigious Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research. Turner, who is working on a PhD in geography and environmental studies, is one of six recipients across Canada at the PhD level from this year's competition. Turner's supervisor, associate professor and NSERC Northern Research Chair Brent Wolfe, says the honour is well deserved. "Kevin's work is a significant contribution to the field of northern hydrology," says Wolfe. Through his research, Turner focuses on using water isotope tracers to characterize the present and past hydrology of lakes in the Old Crow Flats in northern Yukon Territory. [Laurier Headlines](#)

Dr. Jean C. Nelson Memorial Award Presented to Rizwan Shahid: Rizwan Shahid of Calgary has been selected as the recipient of the Dr. Jean C. Nelson Memorial Award for 2009. The award is given annually to a graduate student who best meets the criteria based on the late former Alberta Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Dr. Jean Nelson's commitment to community health and services for children. Rizwan began his PhD (Department of Geography) at the University of Calgary in 2006, has been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II scholarship for academic excellence, presented his research at two conferences and had a research paper published in a peer-reviewed journal (BMC Health Services Research) as lead author. Rizwan plans to complete his PhD by the end of 2011. The title of his research is "*Integrating Spatial Analysis and System Dynamics to Analyze Childhood Overweight and Obesity Prevalence*". [CPHA*ACSP Health Digest](#)

U Manitoba's Jeff Masuda Receives CIHR New Investigator Award: [Jeffrey Masuda](#) of the University of Manitoba, Department of Environment and Geography, has been awarded a CIHR New Investigator Salary Award - PA: Knowledge Translation valued at \$300,000 over 5 yrs. The funding supports The Canadian Environment, Health, and Social Equity Proof-of-Concept Project: Mobilizing Knowledge for Addressing Urban Environmental Health Inequities. This project develops a process for bridging the gaps between scientific research and community expertise and priorities in order to inform best practices in policy action to address urban environmental health inequities. [CIHR](#)

U Lethbridge's Karl Staenz Wins Canadian Remote Sensing Society 2010 Gold Medal: University of Lethbridge Professor of Geography Dr. [Karl Staenz](#) has been awarded the prestigious 2010 Gold Medal from the Canadian Remote Sensing Society. This award recognizes a significant long-term contribution to the field of remote sensing in Canada, and is the highest award in the country granted by the Society for excellence in remote sensing. Dr. Staenz worked at the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing in Ottawa for over 20 years before moving to Lethbridge in 2006 where he was appointed to the University Faculty, as well as the Science Director of the Alberta Terrestrial Imaging Corporation (ATIC) in Lethbridge. The Gold Medal was awarded to Dr. Staenz at the 31st Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing - the Prairie Summit held June 2-5, 2010 in Regina Saskatchewan.

U Lethbridge Geography Graduate Student Wins Hydrology Award: Katie Burles, an MSc candidate working with Dr. Sarah Boon, has been awarded the [DM Gray Award for Best Student Paper in Hydrology](#) at the CMOS-CGU Joint Assembly, held in Ottawa 31 May - 4 June. Katie received a medal and a \$1000 cash prize for a short paper and oral presentation based on her thesis research: "Snow melt energy balance in a burned versus healthy forest stand, Crowsnest Pass, Alberta, Canada"

SFU's Warren Gill on Port Mann Bridge Toll: It is unreasonable to expect motorists who use the Port Mann Bridge to pay tolls within 48 hours, say critics of a video processing fee that could see tolls hiked to \$5 from around \$3. Warren Gill, a professor of geography and transportation at Simon Fraser University, welcomed the \$2.85 toll on cars as a good incentive for drivers to take alternative forms of transportation but said it is unreasonable to hike the fee for those who don't pay within 48 hours. "A \$3 toll is not a bad toll but if you are me -- someone who doesn't use the bridge very often -- and I drive across and then have 48 hours to pay? This is absolutely crazy," said Gill. [Vancouver Sun](#)

Department Chair Shuffle: The arrival of the summer term often brings with it a new administrative responsibilities for some departmental colleagues. Among those soon to assume the role of department chair are: [Jim Buttle](#) who is replacing Cheryl McKenna Neuman at Trent University; [Kathi Wilson](#) who is replacing Amitra Daniere at University of Toronto Mississauga; [Ulrike Hardenbicker](#) who is replacing Bernard Thraves at the University of Regina; [Michel Lapointe](#) who is replacing Tm Moore at McGill University; and, [Brian Ceh](#) who is replacing Shuguang Wang at Ryerson University.

UVic Geographers Help Chart the Heart of a Neighbourhood: Community mapping does just that. It takes a street map, commonly the domain of cartographers, and leaves its creation up to a neighbourhood and the people within in. Ken Josephson is an expert in community mapping. In the decade since founding the Common Ground Community Mapping project, he has assisted in the creation of numerous community maps. Josephson works in the geography department at the University of Victoria, and teaches community mapping as a continuing education course. "A community map ... ideally it becomes a tool for engagement, and empowers people to make change in their communities." says Josephson. [Victoria Times-Colonist](#)

UBC's Geraldine Pratt Quantifies Impact of Migration of Live-Care Givers: Despite our relatively large population of live-in caregivers, hard data on the long-term economic and social impact of family separation is hard to come by. A recent study by UBC geographer Geraldine Pratt is one of the academic works attempting to quantify the impact. Pratt found that, on average, caregivers under the program wait about seven years to be reunited with their families, despite a clause that allows work ers to apply for sponsorship after two years. That separation is not only difficult on the worker, but has also resulted in dangerous consequences for their children, who are often teenagers when they arrive in Canada. [The Vancouver Sun](#)

UVic's Trisalyn Nelson Receives Grants for Spatial Analysis Research: British Columbia Innovation Council (BCIC) awarded Dr. Trisalyn Nelson (UVic Geography) and Nicholas Coops (UBC) \$287,500 over 2010-2013 from the Natural Resources and Applied Sciences Endowment for their project *Development of BC-wide Biodiversity Indicators using Earth Observation Data*. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) awarded Dr. Trisalyn Nelson with Craig Stephens (U of Alberta) and others \$923,230 over 2010-2012 from The Canadian International Food Security Research Fund for their project *Social Learning in Rural Aquaculture to Break the Cycles of Poverty, Food Insecurity, and Unsustainable Practices in Sri Lanka*. The Ivey Foundation awarded Dr. Trisalyn Nelson and Nicholas Coops \$100,000 over 2010-2011 for their project *Development of Pan-boreal Indicators of Environmental Diversity for Assessing Current Protected Area Representativeness and Future Protection Initiatives*. [UVic Geography](#)



Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Tompkins, Jordan W.; Luginaah, Isaac N.; Booth, Gillian L.; and Harris, Stewart B. 2010. [The geography of diabetes in London, Canada: The need for local level policy for prevention and management](#). International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 7(5):2407-2422.

Geographer of the Week: Claire Beaney, University of the Fraser Valley

[Clair Beaney](#) is an instructor in the Department of Geography at the University of the Fraser Valley. She completed her BSc in Geography at University of St Andrews and an MSc in Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta. Claire is interested in community-focused research initiatives and is currently involved in projects ranging from: mapping of the hydrology of Silverdale Creek in Mission in an area designated for wetland restoration; to hydrometric monitoring of stream flow at multiple sites in Nathan Creek to develop discharge rating curves that can be used for contaminant loading studies of organic and inorganic pollutants ; to ongoing projects to monitoring nitrate and bacterial levels in the Abbotsford-Sumas Aquifer with students collecting the required samples; and in various field-based learning initiatives that are investigating how different styles of field-based learning can be integrated into the classroom.

Other “Geographical” News

GPS vs. Map and Compass: "This study examined the effectiveness of a GPS system in comparison to paper maps and direct experience of routes. Results showed that GPS users traveled longer distances and made more stops during the walk than map users and direct-experience participants. Also, GPS users traveled more slowly, made larger direction errors, drew sketch maps with poorer topological accuracy, and rated wayfinding tasks as more difficult than direct-experience participants." [Journal of Experimental Psychology](#)

New Online Map Shows Network of Protection for North America's Marine Ecosystems: North America's nearly 2,000 marine protected areas represent an unprecedented effort to protect the continent's fragile marine environments and are found throughout the marine ecoregions that encircle our continent. The latest map from the [North American Environmental Atlas](#)—coordinated by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC)—for the first time brings together information about all types of marine protected areas in Canada, Mexico and the United States, offering details about protection status and those responsible to manage the sites. [EurekaAlert!](#)

Advisory to CanVec Users: This advisory is for GeoGratis users who downloaded CanVec version 6 topographic data since May 5, 2010. Several errors have been identified in the latest CanVec release, including various missing or incorrect attributes. These errors affect all CanVec formats (SHP, FGDB,

GML) for all of Canada. Natural Resources Canada recommends all users who have downloaded CanVec data since May 5, 2010 to re-download corrected data through [GeoGratis](#). We sincerely regret any inconvenience this may cause. Corrected SHP and FGDB format files are now available for download. Files in GML format are currently being re-processed and will be available by June 15.

Some not so “Geographical” News



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