



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Guelph U's Evan Fraser on a Secure Supply Food:** An opinion piece by geography professor Evan Fraser was published in the Ottawa Citizen. The column, written with U.S. journalist Andrew Rimas, looks at how agricultural specialization creates areas that lack the food diversity needed to survive shortage. [Ottawa Citizen](#)

**SFU's Valerie Crooks on Medical Tourism:** People are opting to skip the line, save money on their operation and take a vacation — all at the same time. Medical tourism is a rapidly expanding health industry, says health geographer Valerie Crooks, who has examined some of the ethical issues involved in crossing borders to access health-care services. Crooks shared some of her observations at a Simon Fraser University conference on the ethics of medical tourism. "We wanted to look at why and how Canadians go abroad for surgery and what kind of ethical issues they should be concerned with," Crooks said. [The Province](#)

**U Ottawa's Ian Clark on cause of Global Warming:** A new report by 300 scientists has flagged the past decade as the hottest on record and compiled 10 "unmistakable" indicators that the world is getting warmer. Meanwhile, opponents of agreements and policies to reduce carbon emissions, including a handful of scientists, have argued there could be a natural cause for global warming. Among them is Ian Clark, a geography professor at the University of Ottawa who researches Arctic permafrost. He thinks the reason the climate report doesn't deal much with the cause of global warming is because "nobody really knows the cause." Clark is among those who think global warming may be due to variations in solar energy hitting the Earth. [CBC News](#)

**Guelph U's Barry Smit and Tristan Pearce on Science of Climate Change:** An inquiry into the "climategate" controversy reported recently what the scientific community and most Canadians have known for some time: the climate is changing and human activities are a major influence. Unfortunately, the reputation of climate science has been damaged. The climategate accusations made front-page news, yet the debunking is hardly reported. For those not wanting to see policies or changes in consumer behaviour to address climate change, the skeptics' attacks were successful. [thestar.com](#)

**U Alberta's Glen Hvenegaard asks 'Do Wildlife Festivals Actually Benefit Wildlife?':** Glen Hvenegaard is researching whether these festivals actually help the species and ecosystems they celebrate. Hvenegaard is investigating whether festivals, like the Swan Festival in Grande Prairie or the Salmon Celebration in Vancouver, manage their own waste appropriately, promote safe wildlife-watching etiquette and guarantee that the proceeds will be used to preserve the habitat. His studies so far have shown that festivals benefit greatly from sharing information and practices with each other, but his overarching perspective is that these festivals need to be certified and accountable for their conservation efforts. [Augustana News](#)

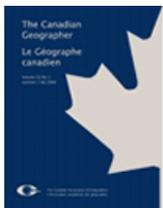
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**James Argo on Link Between Sour Gas and MS:** Some experts are quick to point to the emissions produced by the oil and gas industry, such as the chemical brew that goes into the air when a sour gas well is flared. Flaring is the practice of burning natural gas as a safety procedure to depressurize equipment during emergencies or maintenance shutdowns, or as a means of disposing flammable waste gases and by-products for which there is no use. So far, no definitive link between sour gas flaring and MS has been proven. "If there is a link, there's nothing I would like better than to find it," says James Argo, an Ontario medical geographer who for years has been tracking the relationship between industrial air pollution in various parts of Canada and diseases such as MS. [thestar.com](http://thestar.com)

**McGill U's Bernhard Lehner Creates First Accurate Digital Map of World's Rivers:** For Bernhard Lehner, an assistant professor in the geography department at McGill University, it seemed a daunting task: to design a detailed digital map of the world's rivers. But seven years and thousands of computer hours later, Lehner finally has a finished product: a global map detailing the world's rivers, which has been posted online courtesy of National Geographic. [thestar.com](http://thestar.com)

**Ryerson Graduate Student Aaron Pothier to Create Inventory of University's 800 Trees:** As part of his master's thesis, spatial analysis student Aaron Pothier, geographic analysis '05, is meticulously studying the 800-plus trees on Ryerson's campus. "Ryerson's urban forest is unique," Pothier says. "It's rare to find this much greenery in the city's core and it creates an urban oasis." For that reason, he believes Ryerson is an ideal place to explore the many stressors that trees face in the city. Those challenges include pollution, lack of light exposure and water, the urban heat island effect and a shortage of growing space, says Andrew Millward, a professor of geography and principal investigator of Ryerson's Urban Forest Research and Ecological Disturbance Group. Millward also serves as Pothier's thesis supervisor. [Ryerson University News & Events](http://Ryerson University News & Events)

**U Winnipeg's Ed Cloutis to Aid in Search for Life on Mars:** A University of Winnipeg professor has been named to a Canadian Space Agency team that will help look for life on Mars in 2016. Ed Cloutis, a geography professor and director of the Centre for Forest Interdisciplinary Research at the U of W, is one of the atmospheric and planetary researchers for the joint Canada-U.S. mission. The mission's goal is to provide new interpretations of the gas's origin on Mars. [Winnipeg Free Press](http://Winnipeg Free Press)



New Online in [The Canadian Geographer](http://The Canadian Geographer)

Elizabeth L. Simms. 2010. [Representation in remote sensing classifications of Aboriginal landscape descriptions](http://Representation in remote sensing classifications of Aboriginal landscape descriptions). The Canadian Geographer. DOI 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2010.00317.x

Sébastien Fleuret et Philippe Apparicio. 2010. [Essai de typologie des centres de santé et de services sociaux au Québec](http://Essai de typologie des centres de santé et de services sociaux au Québec). The Canadian Geographer. DOI 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2010.00318.x

Damaris Rose. 2010. [Refractions and recombinations of the 'economic' and the 'social': a personalized reflection on challenges by—and to—feminist urban geographies](http://Refractions and recombinations of the 'economic' and the 'social': a personalized reflection on challenges by—and to—feminist urban geographies). The Canadian Geographer. DOI 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2010.00316.x

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Chris Hugenholtz. 2010. [Topographic changes of a supply-limited inland parabolic sand dune during the incipient phase of stabilization](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI 10.1002/esp.2053

James D. Ford and Maude Beaumier. 2010. [Feeding the family during times of stress: experience and determinants of food insecurity in an Inuit community](#). The Geographical Journal. DOI 10.1111/j.1475-4959.2010.00374.x

Christopher W. Stevens, Brian J. Moorman, and Steve M. Solomon. 2010. [Interannual changes in seasonal ground freezing and near-surface heat flow beneath bottom-fast ice in the near-shore zone, Mackenzie Delta, NWT, Canada](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes DOI 10.1002/ppp.682

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### Geographer of the Week: Dr. Paul Kingsbury, Simon Fraser University

Dr. [Paul Kingsbury](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University. Paul completed a B.A. (Hons. Geography) at the University of Wales, a M.A. in Geography at the University of Kentucky and a Ph.D. in Geography at the University of Kentucky. Prior to accepting his position at SFU, he was Visiting Assistant Professor at Miami University. Paul's research interests focus on cultural geography, tourism and consumption, social and psychoanalytic theories, aesthetics North America, and the Caribbean. The above research is funded a 2009-2012 SSHRC Standard Research Grant, "*Enjoying Ethnic Diversity? Multicultural Consumption, Cultural Politics, and Emotional Geographies*"; as well as a CIHR award shared with Valorie Crooks and Jeremy Snyder "*An Ethics Approach to Canadians' Decision-Making in Medical Tourism*".

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### Other "Geographical" News

**Mapping Champlain's Travels: Restorative Techniques for Historical Cartography:** Samuel de Champlain's travels through what would become New France have been extensively documented and mapped by geographers and historians today. As conventional cartographic depictions of the routes of a European explorer and colonizer, these maps portray the locational details of Champlain's journeys but omit the emotional geographies and the sense of place evoked in his journals, as well as the Indigenous geographies interwoven with Champlain's story. This article suggests techniques for restoring multiple experiences and multiple voices to the historical cartography of Champlain's travels, including the expressive use of colour and type, the blending of spatial and temporal scales in sequential insets, the incorporation of mental maps and dream geographies, and the representation of Native voices through place names and imagined dialogue. [Cartographica](#)

**Staggering Tree Loss from 2005 Amazon Storm:** A single, huge, violent storm that swept across the whole Amazon forest in 2005 killed half a billion trees. Previous research had attributed a peak in tree mortality in 2005 solely to a severe drought that affected parts of the forest. The new study says that a single squall line (a long line of severe thunderstorms, the kind associated with lightning and heavy rainfall) had an important role in the tree demise. This type of storm might become more frequent in the future in the Amazon due to climate change, killing a higher number of trees and releasing more carbon to the atmosphere. [Science Daily](#)

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