



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Geographers Derek Gregory and James Ford Call for Colombia to Stop Coca Fumigations:** Since January 2010 Colombia's anti-narcotics police have established a base in the small town of Guapi in the Cauca region along the Pacific coastline, from where they have led operations to fumigate plots of illegally cultivated coca plants. However, this spraying of poisonous chemicals affects large parts of the rainforest and legally planted food crops. Derek Gregory (UBC), James Ford (McGill) have joined 55 other academics and professionals from the UK, Colombia and elsewhere, to urge the new president of Columbia to take immediate action and halt them. [The Guardian](#)

**UBCO's Jon Corbett Creates Facebook of Forest Fires:** Kelowna to see the eerie effect of the forest fires burning in the region. "When you go outside, there's an orange halo in the sky and this strange glow," said Prof. Corbett, who teaches at the Okanagan campus of the University of British Columbia. "It's coming from Kamloops, an hour to the north. In the last few days, it has been really smoky here in the Okanagan." Seeing that orange halo is part of Prof. Corbett's forest-fire experience, but the veteran map expert is interested in the experience of thousands of other residents of the region, so he and two students came up with a kind of Facebook for forest fires. [The Globe and Mail](#)

**McGill U's James Ford on Climate Change in the Canadian Arctic:** The Canadian Arctic, a huge but sparsely populated region of 108,000 people, of whom 60,000 are indigenous Inuit, has increasingly become a test case for whether commercial and military interests can trump the needs of the environment and northern peoples. A steady rise of 3 to 4 degrees Celsius in average temperatures in Canada's Far North since the 1960s has already limited access to traditional food sources, according to James Ford, a geographer at Montreal's McGill University. And an additional 1 degree Celsius of warming is expected by the middle of the century. [Americas Quarterly](#)

**David Gauthier Joins St. Mary's University as New Vice President Academic and Research:** David Gauthier, a geographer by discipline and graduate of the Universities of Calgary (BA) and Waterloo (MA and PhD), will join Saint Mary's as the new Vice President Academic and Research effective September 1, 2010. Dr. Gauthier joined the University of Regina in 1985 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography. In 1992 he was appointed as Associate Professor and was later promoted to Professor in 1993. He founded the University's Centre for Geographic Information Services and in 1995 was appointed as the Executive Director of the Canadian Plains Research Center. He was appointed Vice-President of Research in 2006. [Saint Mary's University](#)

**Trent Geographer Mark Skinner Addresses Local Hospital Board:** Mark Skinner gave the keynote address at the recent Haliburton Highlands Health Services annual general meeting in Minden, Ontario. He spoke to hospital board members, executives, staff and volunteers about the social determinants of health and rural health challenges in Haliburton County. [Minden Times](#)

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**Trent Geographers Attend Conference in Argentina:** Professor Cheryl McKenna Neuman and PhD candidate Stephen Sutton presented three papers on their wind tunnel research at the International Conference on Aeolian Research (ICAR VII) in Santa Rosa, Argentina. This meeting attracts international scientists working on problems relating to wind erosion and air quality (dust emission) in arid and semi-arid regions, representing about 1/3 of the Earth's land surface.

**UWO's Gordon McBean on "Why Stephen Harper Thinks He's Smarter than the Experts":** The Harper government has often clashed with experts who argue the fruits of their research are undervalued by the Conservatives in the development of new laws and regulations. "I think," says Gordon McBean, a University of Western Ontario geography professor and internationally respected climate-change scientist, "there is a significant problem—unwillingness to entertain, or invite, or listen to, people who are experts in their fields and want to provide advice and guidance to the government." Since he's a prominent advocate for cutting greenhouse gas emissions, McBean might be suspected of merely having an axe to grind, considering the Harper government's track record of hesitant steps, at most, on the global warming file. But it's not just that frustrated academics turn resentful when Conservatives look skeptically, even dismissively, at the recommendations that flow from their work. [Macleans.ca](http://Macleans.ca)

**Ottawa Geographer's Map Quest Changed the World:** Millions of users and more than 300,000 government agencies owe a debt to the Ottawa man who brought geography into the high-tech era. Before MapQuest and Google Earth brought high-tech geography to the masses, there was Geographic Information System technology. The system, which essentially scans maps into a computer so that data inherent in those maps and other related statistical data can be analysed, was developed by Roger Tomlinson, a consultant geographer and longtime Ottawa resident. He is often referred to as the "Father of GIS." Today, Tomlinson's innovation can be found almost everywhere in modern society, from fire departments, police services, libraries and hospitals, to foreign governments and large-scale corporations. [Ottawa Citizen](http://Ottawa Citizen)

**U Toronto's Ben Spigel Creates the Ultimate Scott Pilgrim Map:** Few superheroes have been so intimately tied to their hometown as Toronto's own Scott Pilgrim, a fictional character who regularly haunts such real-life hangouts as Sneaky Dee's, Yonge and Dundas Square, and the St Clair Goodwill store. That geographical connection has been tracked by fans before, but now Ben Spigel, a PhD student in the U of T's geography department and one of the dedicated fanboys behind the manga site [Sleep Is for the Weak](http://Sleep Is for the Weak), has created what may well be the ultimate [Scott Pilgrim map](http://Scott Pilgrim map). Spigel's map not only details the multiple characters' movements across the Toronto cityscape with painstaking thoroughness and accuracy. [Books.torontoist.com](http://Books.torontoist.com)

**SFU Geography Graduate John Stark Key New Westminister City Planner:** John Stark is one of the key officials at the municipality of New Westminister. Stark has a Bachelor of Arts (Geography) from Simon Fraser University and a Masters in Environmental Design (Planning) from the University of Calgary. He is the Senior Social Planner with the City of New Westminister. His major challenge has been juggling a number of different areas of responsibility, and gaining an understanding of the different settlement and integration agencies at work in New Westminister [Digital Journal](http://Digital Journal)

**U Alberta Graduate Richard Priest Hard at Work Near Olympic Park:** A new Calgary subdivision is being developed by Apex Developments. Richard Priest runs the land development division of Apex, a hugely successful company that has more than 150 employees in four divisions. It's one of the major home builders in the Calgary area through its Excel and Centrex Homes. Priest hails from Edmonton, where he graduated with a diploma in management studies at Grant MacEwan College and went on to the University of Alberta to gain a bachelor's degree in urban geography. [Calgary Herald](http://Calgary Herald)

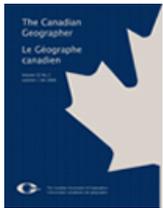
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## Geographer of the Week: Dr. Kathryn Furlong, Université de Montréal

[Kathryn Furlong](#) tient un doctorat en géographie humaine (UCB, 2007), une maîtrise en changement et gestion environnementaux (Oxford, 2000), un diplôme universitaire en génie environnemental (Carleton, 1999), et un certificat d'études supérieures en résolution de conflits et études de la paix (EPU, 2001). Avant de venir à l'Université de Montréal, elle était engagée comme titulaire post-doctorale CRSH au Stockholm Environment Institute (2009-10) et au Département de géographie à l'Université de Manchester (2008-09). Elle a aussi passé un an comme titulaire post-doctorale avec le Program on Water Governance de UCB (2007-08). Ses recherches ont été appuyées par le CRSH, Infrastructure Canada et le Réseau canadien de l'eau.

Le programme de recherche de Kathryn Furlong se concentre autour des conséquences sociales et environnementales des restructurations politico-économiques pour la gestion et de la gouvernance de l'eau, en particulier dans le contexte de la gouvernance municipale. Ses recherches rallient ainsi les disciplines des géographies économique, urbaine et de l'environnement tout en se penchant sur de nombreux enjeux liés à la gouvernance, à la restructuration politico-économique (e.g. néolibéralisme), à la prestation des services municipaux, à l'environnement et à la durabilité, aux réseaux sociotechniques et aux liens entre la société et l'environnement.



New Online in [The Canadian Geographer](#)

### Reviews/Comptes rendus

Robert North. 2010. [Russia's Northern Regions on the Edge: Communities, Industries and Populations from Murmansk to Magadan edited by Vesa Rautio and Markku Tykkyläinen](#). The Canadian Geographer 54(2):255–256.

Randy William Widdis. 2010. [Stairway to Empire: Lockport, the Erie Canal and the Shaping of America by Patrick McGreevy](#). The Canadian Geographer 54(2):257–258.

Brenda Murphy. 2010. [Environmental Hazards: Assessing Risk and Reducing Disaster \(Fifth Edition\) by Keith Smith and David N. Petley](#). The Canadian Geographer 54(2):258–259.

Jessica Lehman. 2010. [Development's Displacements: Ecologies, Economies and Cultures at Risk edited by Peter Vandergeest, Pablo Idahosa and Pablo S. Bose](#). The Canadian Geographer 54(2):259–260.

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## Other “Geographical” News

**The History of the 1:250,000 Map of Canada:** This paper traces the progress and development of the 1:250,000 map series of Canada from its inception in 1923 through to publication of the final map sheet in 1970. Originally, the maps were published at 1:253,440 up until 1949 when, by international agreement, Canada converted its basic map series from duodecimal scales to the present 1:50,000, 1:250,000 and 1:500,000 scales. Commencement of the series in 1923 marked the beginning of a national mapping program to a uniform sheet-line system that replaced the previous uncoordinated mapping of the country by different government agencies. The author discusses the selection of a map projection for the series, former topographic mapping methods, the development of the photo-topographic technique, the impact of air photography on the mapping of Canada, and the extension of ground control. [Cartographica](#)

**BlueSky Western Canada Smoke Forecasting System:** The BlueSky Western Canada Smoke Forecasting System combines forest fire information, including location and size, with weather forecast computer models to provide an hour-by-hour forecast of the location and concentrations of smoke in B.C. and Alberta up to 48 hours into the future. “BlueSky provides British Columbians with daily forecasts of wildfire smoke, which can reduce visibility and affect both respiratory health and the ability of people to participate in outdoor activities,” said Ida Chong, BC Minister of Healthy Living and Sport. “In addition to our commitment to world-class air quality standards and targets. [BlueSky Forecasts](#)

**Guerrilla geographers launch Mission: Explore iPhone app at Golden Hinde:** Last month a group of guerrilla geographers took over the Golden Hinde for the launch of a new iPhone app called Mission:Explore which encourages young people to engage in "playful research" to get to know their surroundings. "Mission:Explore London is an extension of an idea which we had about two years ago, which was that young people didn't really get out into their surroundings very much," explains Alan Parkinson of the Geography Collective. "The book has about 100 missions in it," says Alan. "The app has 1,000 missions and every mission has been risk assessed. We've visited every single location and the missions are deigned to be carried out in a range of locations". [LondonSE1](#)

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## Some not so “Geographical” News



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