



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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UBC's Ian McKendry on Incinerating Metro Vancouver's Garbage: An approved plan to seriously consider a mass incinerator in Metro Vancouver has churned up opposition. According to UBC Geography and Atmospheric professor, Ian McKendry, an incinerator in or near Vancouver would contribute to declining air quality, which we will already have problems with due to rising urban pollution and climate change. Many pollutants, including "ozone and particulate matter" are increasing already. Our air quality cannot be "guaranteed for our future," he said. He said he questions the wisdom then of adding a new source of toxins to our atmosphere. [Vancouver Observer](#)

UVic Grad Patrick Smith Survives Meager Creek Landslide: Patrick Smith and three buddies had just begun unpacking their camping gear when they heard a loud cracking noise that turned into the sound of a freight train that "just got bigger and bigger." The foursome didn't know it then, but their annual camping trip had just turned into a long night of fleeing the second-largest landslide in Canadian history. About seven kilometres from the Upper Lillooet Forest Service campground a massive rock slide had swept down from Capricorn Glacier on Mount Meager. When the cracking noises turned into a freight train, Smith, a 38-year-old Port Moody resident, knew enough about geomorphology from courses he had taken at the University of Victoria to be aware that what was happening was a slide. "It sounded like the whole mountain across the river is coming down on top of our heads and we're standing there in the pitch dark," Smith said. [The Vancouver Sun](#) | [Photos from that night](#)

McMaster U's Allison Williams On Value of Bike Paths into Hamilton: Al Kirkpatrick, manager of strategic planning for Hamilton says He says the hope is to morph Hamilton from its current form into a rambler's paradise with a mixture of street art, improved streetscapes and more cycling lanes. McMaster professor of geography Allison Williams agreed that something has to be done and applauded the city's efforts. The therapeutic landscape specialist, who lives in Stoney Creek, said she would like to see specialized bike paths from people's homes directly to major employers and educational institutions. "It would be great to have cycle routes from Stoney Creek into Hamilton allowing people like me to cycle in. But I would also like to see better access to the Mountain from Hamilton with cycle and walking paths. At the moment, stairs are the only access point if you are not in a car." [thespec.com](#)

CBC Radio Interview with UWO's Bharat Punjabi, Geography PhD Candidate: Relations between India and Pakistan are strained and, current flooding aside, things could deteriorate if the two countries find themselves competing for water. Bharat Punjabi is working towards his doctorate in geography and discusses the possibility of a conflict between the two countries over water. [Listen](#)

News from UNBC

Recent Graduate Theses

Chelan Zirul. 2010. [The Changing Governance of Rural Regional Development: A Case Study of the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition](#). MA Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography). Supervisor Dr. Greg Halseth.

Nathan Einbinder. 2010. [Dams, Displacement, and Perceptions of Development: A Case Study from Río Negro, Guatemala](#). MA Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography). graduate program, on August 3, 2010. Supervisor Dr. Catherine Nolin. [Click here](#) to access the introductions, 20 minute presentation & the first questions and answers.

Graduate Student Awards

[Christine Creyke](#) (Co-supervisors: Drs. Gail Fondahl & Greg Halseth) and [Jocelyn Joe-Strack](#) (Supervisor: Dr. Ellen Petticrew) each received a [Jane Glassco Arctic Voices Fellowships from the Walter Gordon Foundation](#). For more details on the awards & their policy-relevant research in the North go to [UNBC Student News](#)

In the News

Dr. **Greg Halseth** writes on the rural renaissance: BC's small-town economy, "The success of rural and small-town B.C. was, is and will be important for the success of metropolitan economies and the province as a whole." [BC Business](#)

Dr. **Catherine Nolin** delivered the Suzanne Mackenzie Memorial Lecture at the University of Regina as part of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers. Dr. Nolin's talk was entitled "Geography That Breaks Your Heart: Feminist Geography from/to the Peripheries." The video-recording of the talk will soon be posted on the [new CWAG site](#) . :

Geography Field School to Guatemala (May 2010): A photo essay & several "dispatches from the road" are [now archived](#) from the May 2010 delegation.

Fact Finding Mission to Guatemala: Rights Action and a group of investigators from the UNBC (University of Northern British Columbia, at Prince George) will visit with Mayan Qeqchi communities in Guatemala, August 22-24, 2010, whose human rights and community well-being have been violated, repeatedly, to make way for global nickel mining interests, including those of the Canadian "HudBay Minerals" company. [Click for follow-up reporting](#).

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Gita Laidler, Carleton University

Dr. [Gita Laidler](#) is an Assistant Professor in the [Department of Geography and Environmental Studies](#) at Carleton University. Gita completed her undergraduate degree at York University, her MSc at Queen's University and her PhD at the University of Toronto. Her doctoral research sought to characterize the local importance of sea ice processes, use, and change based on Inuit expertise, and in so doing to provide points of intersection with scientific sea ice monitoring and investigations. Since 2003 she has been working with the Nunavut communities of Pangnirtung, Cape Dorset, and Igloodik

since 2003, as part of ongoing, long-term projects in each to continue exploring human-environment interactions and understandings at local and regional scales.

Gita is committed to undertaking research that addresses northern needs and interests through the coupling of social and environmental research. She is also interested in exploring the utility and applicability of collaborative research approaches within a range of potential topics, to address local concerns in other Aboriginal or local expert groups in southern Canadian or even developing nation contexts. Her current research interests include: Inuit knowledge of arctic environments; relationships between language, knowledge, and use of northern environments; geomatics and multi-media tools to represent dynamic knowledge and environmental systems; sea ice and marine environments; human dimensions of environmental change; cross-cultural, collaborative, research methods; linking Inuit and scientific knowledge in a complementary manner; and, northern content and contributions in education materials and programs.



Caroline Desbiens. 2010. [Step lightly, then move forward: exploring feminist directions for northern research](#). The Canadian Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2010.00320.x

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Katharine A. Forbes, Stefan W. Kienzle, Craig A. Coburn, James M. Byrne and Joseph Rasmussen. 2010. [Simulating the hydrological response to predicted climate change on a watershed in southern Alberta, Canada](#). Climatic Change. DOI: 10.1007/s10584-010-9890-x

Kathy L. Young, Jane Assini, Anna Abnizova, and Nelson De Miranda. 2010. [Hydrology of hillslope-wetland streams, Polar Bear Pass, Nunavut, Canada](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.7751

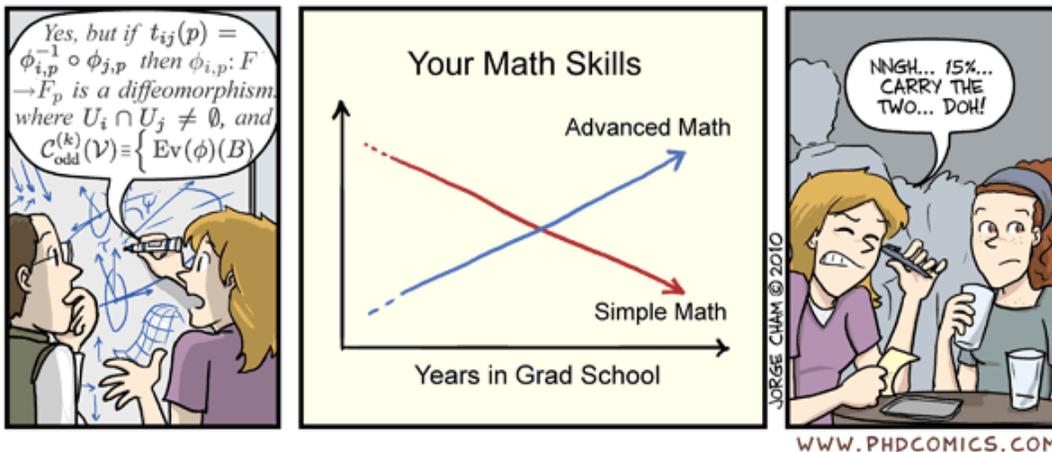
Other “Geographical” News

Rare Map Stamped for Success: A rare and valuable map housed at Memorial University is now getting widespread attention thanks to its incorporation into a stamp celebrating the Cupids 400 anniversary. The Cupids 1610-2010 stamp features a portion of a 17th-century map of the Avalon Peninsula – the first map to show the settlement’s location. The map was prepared by John Mason around 1617 and it was first published with Vaughan’s Cambrensius Caroleia in 1625. The Mason Map is actually a chart used for navigation by early seamen – as amazing as this seems, considering its lack of detail – up to 1780, when James Cook’s General Chart of Newfoundland became commonly available. The map is held by Memorial’s Centre for Newfoundland Studies (CNS). It can be [viewed online](#). In August, 1610, English colonists led by Bristol merchant John Guy arrived where Cupids (originally called Cupers Cove) now stands on the north side of Conception Bay on Newfoundland’s Avalon Peninsula and established an English settlement there. [MUN Today](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News

"Ultrinsic" lets college students gamble on grades: Starting this month, a website called "[Ultrinsic](#)" will take bets on grades from students at 36 colleges across the US. A student will register for the site, upload his or her schedule, and give Ultrinsic access to official college records. The site then calculates odds based on the student's college history and any information it can gather on the difficulty of each course, the topic, and other factors. The student decides how much to bet up to a cap that begins at \$25 and increases with use. Ultrinsic will pay top dollar for A grades, a little less for a B average or better, and so on. A student can bet on failing a class by buying what the site calls "grade insurance." [The Huffington Post](#)

Echoes of Elvis: After his death on August 16, 1977 millions of people around the world mourned the passing of Elvis Presley. Since he passed away, there have been many tributes to his work in the form of paintings, portraits, graphic arts, and so on. This collection from the National Portrait Gallery looks at a selection of these images. Visitors can click on "The Exhibition" to look over several dozens pieces of art, including Elvis in army uniform by Howard Finster and a glazed ceramic bust of Elvis by Robert Arneson. Moving on, the "Visit" area provides information about the exhibit, along with some photos of the gallery. [Echoes of Elvis](#)



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