



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 94, August 27, 2010**  
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**UFV Geography Graduate Ashley Peters Featured in “Toads on the Road”:** Thousands of tiny Western Toads (size of a dime) are helped in their migration across Elk View Road by members of Fraser Valley Conservancy who block part of this road now during migration time in Chilliwack. The young toads migrate from their wet land habitat, back to the forested habitat. Involved this year is Ashley Peters who graduated from UFV this spring with a BA in Geography and now has a position with Fraser Valley Conservancy. [UFV News & Events](#) | [Vancouver Sun](#)

**U Manitoba Department of Geography and Environment Moves:** The University of Manitoba Department of Environment and Geography has moved to the [Sinnott Building](#). The Departments new Address is: 220 Sinnott Building, 70A Dysart Road, Winnipeg, MB. R3T 2M6. All Department phone numbers and fax will remain the same.

**Mount Allison U’s Leah Huff Answers Some Questions:** Leah Huff has been a lecturer in the department of geography and environment for the past two years. She was awarded a J.E.A. Crake Teaching Award earlier this year for her innovative approach to teaching, humanity, and commitment to excellence. Why did you decide to focus your research on Guatemala?; You research culture and social geography. What led you to geography? What do you love most about teaching? You took part in a delegation to Guatemala in May. How did this come about and what did you achieve there? Where else in the world would you like to do research? [Mount Allison News](#)

**U Toronto Department of Geography Celebrates 75th anniversary:** This year marks the Department of Geography’s 75th anniversary. To celebrate the events, UTAGA and the department have a number of activities planned, from book exhibits to alumni mapping projects. Our activities will peak during a weekend of celebrations (September 17th to 19th), which will bring together alumni, current students, faculty and staff for three days of events and field trips. [More information](#).

**McGill U’s Nancy Ross on Low-Income Women at Greater Risk for Diabetes than High-Income Women:** Lower-income women were more likely to develop Type 2 diabetes than high-income women in a 14-year study, even when researchers controlled for the effects of being overweight, obesity and ethnic and cultural background. One of the researchers, Nancy Ross, a professor in the department of geography at McGill University in Montreal, said that beyond what was controlled for in the study, something else remains that’s contributing to low socio-economic status being associated with greater risk of diabetes onset. One element could relate to women having children, she theorized. “For example, women at risk for gestational diabetes also fall into very low income categories, and that may then translate into onset of Type 2 diabetes later on in life,” Ross said. [The Record.com](#) | [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

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**Université du Québec à Montréal's Sylvain Lefebvre on the Big O:** the City of Montreal seems to be stuck with the ill-fated Olympic Stadium, an enigma and concrete representation of government incompetence, cost overruns and crumbling infrastructure, but also an iconic city symbol, a dramatic fixture on the skyline and a major draw for tourists. Sylvain Lefebvre has a few ideas. The Université du Québec à Montréal geography professor and expert on festive spaces has thought a lot about the stadium and its surroundings. Unlike most Montrealers, Lefebvre doesn't see a money pit, a crumbling relic, an object of ridicule mocked as a giant toilet. He sees an opportunity. Lefebvre is working with IPSO, an urban-planning consulting firm, on a refurbishing concept. IPSO created preliminary sketches to show how it might look. Lefebvre said he and his students will put together a more detailed proposal in the fall that will include a rough price tag. [Winnipeg Free Press](#) | [The Gazette](#) | [National Post](#)

**UBC's David Ley on the New Middle Class:** "Middle class" has multiple meanings in Britain, signified by accent and background as much as money. Although you hear almost as much about it in North America, often preceded by the adjective "squeezed," here the term has come to mean everything and nothing. "Those good blue-collar jobs have shrunk, and those were middle-class incomes, no doubt about it," says David Ley, professor of geography at the University of British Columbia and author of *The New Middle Class and the Remaking of the Central City*. Other factors intervene to moderate the squeeze, according to Prof. Ley. "How does a household avoid falling into the bottom sector?" he asks. "It is, of course, by having two members working." Thus, the middle class survived while the welfare state crumbled. "A generation ago, a single earner was enough to give you middle-class status. Now, it isn't." [The Globe and Mail](#)

**UWO's Jason Gilliland Reports London's Food Desert Has Become an Oasis:** A study by a University of Western Ontario professor in 2008 determined downtown and east London were "food deserts" as they had few grocery stores within easy commute of residents and some were forced to buy from costly corner stores. But the opening of the Western Fair's Farmer's Market on Saturdays has ended that designation for the east end — offering quality food at a reasonable price, said Jason Gilliland, director of urban development and associate professor of geography at Western. "The difference now between east London and the rest of the city is negligible. We argue now it is no longer a food desert in old east," he said. [The London Free Press](#)

**U Alberta's John England on Fracture of Ward Hunt Ice Shelf:** A large parcel of ice has fractured from a massive ice shelf on Ellesmere Island in Nunavut, marking the third known case of Arctic ice loss this summer alone. The chunk of ice, which scientists estimate is roughly the size of Bermuda, broke away from the Ward Hunt Ice Shelf on the island's northern coast around Aug. 18. "The cracks are going right to the mainland, basically, right to Ellesmere Island," John England, a professor of earth and atmospheric sciences with the University of Alberta, told CBC News on Tuesday. "So, in the core of the ice shelf itself, the fracturing is occurring." [CBC News](#)

**U Toronto PhD Student David Roberts Examines Lasting Effects of World Cup on Citizens:** You'd think David Roberts is a soccer nut. The University of Toronto PhD candidate is a FIFA scholar, one of a handful of academics chosen annually by soccer's governing body to study the impact of sports on society. Roberts arrived in Durban, South Africa's second-largest city, in April to research the lasting effects of the World Cup on citizens of the host country. "I'm looking at the ways in which the World Cup and how South Africa is addressing perceptions of insecurity are affecting people who live here," says Roberts, whose work began in January 2009. The former Seattle social worker wants to see what repercussions the dramatic increase in security will have on South Africa during the event, which culminates Sunday with an all-European final featuring Spain and the Netherlands. [thestar.com](#)

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**UVic's Phil Dearden Reports Impact of Developing Whistler U Negligible:** A report by University of Victoria geography professor Dr. Philip Dearden confirms indicates that a small university development near Alpha Creek in Whistler can be done in an environmentally sensitive manner through "state-of-the-art engineering techniques" used to control of run-off from the site. Dearden, whom Doug Player, a retired former school administrator who has been leading the Whistler U. charge, described as a leading expert in the establishment and management of protected areas, spent several days on the site in June and July and produced the new report. [Whistler Question](#)

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### **Geographer of the Week: Dr. Heather Castleden, Dalhousie University**

Dr. [Heather Castleden](#) is an Assistant Professor in the School of Resource and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University. Heather has a BA Anthropology and Native Studies from the University of Manitoba, as well as an MEd Adult and Higher Education and a PhD in Human Geography from the University of Alberta. A SSHRC and NEARBC funded postdoctoral program of study involved training in and exploration of digital/visual methods. Two overarching themes have guided her research: inequality and social/environmental justice; and culture, location, and relations of power. She is particularly interested in understanding and comparing Indigenous and non-Indigenous risk perspectives regarding environment and health impacts and adaptations in resource-dependent communities associated with environmental change. A stream of research on ethics is allowing Heather to build on her postdoctoral studies through inquiry into the distinctive nature of ethics associated with community-based and Indigenous research. Heather was awarded the [Julian M. Szeicz Award](#) by the Canadian Association of Geographers in 2010 in recognition her contribution to the geography of environment, health and indigenous community-based research.

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### **Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers**

Darcy L. Gray, Rosaline Canessa, Rick Rollins, C. Peter Keller and Philip Dearden. 2010. [Incorporating recreational users into marine protected area planning: a study of recreational boating in British Columbia, Canada](#). Environmental Management 46(2):167-180.

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### **Other "Geographical" News**

**How are Tour de France towns are picked?** Jean-Louis Pagès, a bespectacled former geography professor, spends nearly half the year on the road scouting future Tour de France towns – incognito. Here's how his job works: if a town is interested in hosting a start, finish or both, local officials send a letter to Tour de France director Christian Prudhomme. Mr. Prudhomme relays the town's coordinates to Pagès, who heads out to do incognito reconnaissance, like a food critic examining a new restaurant. The Tour alternates clockwise and counter-clockwise directions around France each year, so much of his travel is based upon the envisioned route. The most important criterion for a town's selection is geography, according to the Amaury Sports Organization (ASO) which owns and manages the Tour. [Christian Science Monitor](#)

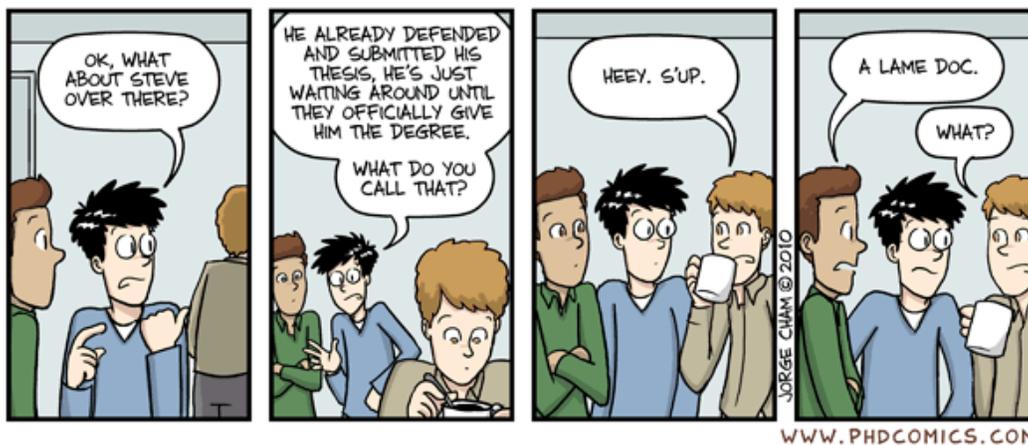
**El Niños Are Growing Stronger:** A relatively new type of El Niño, which has its warmest waters in the central-equatorial Pacific Ocean, rather than in the eastern-equatorial Pacific, is becoming more common and progressively stronger. "These results suggest climate change may already be affecting El Niño by shifting the center of action from the eastern to the central Pacific". "El Niño's impact on global weather patterns is different if ocean warming occurs primarily in the central Pacific, instead of

the eastern Pacific. If the trend we observe continues it could throw a monkey wrench into long-range weather forecasting, which is largely based on our understanding of El Niños from the latter half of the 20th century." [ScienceDaily](#)

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### **Some not so "Geographical" News**

**Wine-Sipping Cattle Start B.C. Culinary Trend:** Angus cattle in British Columbia's Okanagan wine and cattle region are being fed red wine with their grain. The idea is the brainchild of Janice Ravndahl of Kelowna's Sezmu Meats. Ravndahl said the beef produced has an enhanced flavour, the marbling is finer and the fat tastes like candy. Ravndahl said she started with one young cow who took to the bottle immediately, quickly earning the epithet Wino. "It definitely changes their personalities. They moo a lot more with each other. They get really chatty," she said. [CBC News](#)



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