



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

U Lethbridge's Sarah Boon on Impact of Retreating Glaciers on Water Resources: New data released by Natural Resources Canada on Wednesday shows that glaciers in Canada's High Arctic and in the mountains of Western Canada have shrunk significantly over the past 50 years. "It's pretty clear that glaciers are continuing to retreat," [Sarah Boon](#), a professor of geography at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, said Wednesday. "And that's going to have a major impact on water resources in the future." Boon has conducted her own extensive research on glacier melt, including on the Devon Ice Cap in Nunavut, which was included in the data. She said several Western Canadian cities could be affected if the amount of water from spring and summer glacier run-off is significantly reduced. [Canada.com](#) | [Vancouver Sun](#) | [Montreal Gazette](#) | [Regina Leader-Post](#)

McGill U's Nigel Roulet and Tim Moore on Saving Bogs in the St. Lawrence Valley: With its acre upon acre of sphagnum moss, stunted blueberry shrubs, and spindly black spruce trees, it looks more like the sub-Arctic, than the familiar landscape of Eastern Ontario. In fact, much of the St. Lawrence Valley once looked like this, said [Nigel Roulet](#), head of the Peatland Carbon Research Team that works in the bog. But over that past few centuries, settlers have drained those wetlands for farming, and now Mer Bleue is one of the few remaining peatlands in the southern part of Canada. That's what makes it so important for research: because it's accessible, scientists can install permanent equipment and monitor it 365 days a year. [Ottawa Citizen](#)

Queen's Anne Godlewska Takes Part in Videotaped Lecture Pilot Project: A pair of Queen's University professors are using video-captured lectures this year as part of an ongoing pilot project. Anne Godlewska will videotape her Geography 101 lectures during the fall term and make them available online to the students enrolled in the course. For the same course during the winter term, the professor will substitute the in-class lecture with smaller group sessions by asking students to watch the recorded lectures from the fall semester on their own time. [Queen's News Centre](#)

Carleton U's Elyn Humphreys Presented with Mer Bleue Wetland Conservation Award: Dr. [Elyn Humphreys](#), professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, was awarded for her contribution as a member of the Peatland Carbon Research Team. Dr. Humphreys studies the exchange of carbon dioxide, water vapour and energy between ecosystems and the atmosphere, as well as the effects of natural and human-induced disturbances on this type of ecosystem function. Mer Bleue, a northern boreal landscape just 15 minutes from Parliament Hill in Ottawa, plays an important role in protecting the diversity of plants and animals in the capital region and in stabilizing the climate globally. It may well be the single most studied bog in the world. It was acquired by the National Capital Commission more than 50 years ago. [Carleton Newsroom](#) | [Ottawa Citizen](#)

Queen's U's Betsy Donald on Mobilization of Tenants and Neighbourhood Associations: Betsy Donald, a geography professor at Queen's University, says the recent mobilization of apartment

tenants and rise of neighbourhood associations is the result of governments withdrawing from services and downloading them to families and communities. “It has a lot to do with a shared vested interest and passion for your place,” Professor Donald explains. “It’s a shared emotional geography. It’s territorially bound. It’s not just about property values – it’s a deeper emotional connection to a place.” [The Globe and Mail](#)

York U’s PhD Student David Hugill Publishes New Book



Missing Women, Missing News. *Covering Crisis in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside*

David Hugill

Missing Women, Missing News examines newspaper coverage of the arrest and trial of Robert Pickton, the man charged with murdering 26 street-level sex workers from Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. It demonstrates how news narratives obscured the complex matrix of social and political conditions that made it possible for so many women to simply ‘disappear’ from a densely populated urban neighborhood without provoking an aggressive response by the state. Grounded in a theory of ideology, this book argues that the coverage offers a series of coherent explanations that hold particular individuals and practices accountable but largely omit, conceal, or erase the broader socio-political context that renders those practices possible.

Carlton U’s Derek Smith Awarded Research Grant to Investigate Forest Resource Use in Panama:

Professor Derek A. Smith was recently awarded a research grant as Principle Investigator from the Secretaría Nacional de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación, a federal agency of Panama. The project is entitled “Use of Participatory Cartography to Investigate Forest Resource Use Patterns and Establish a Protected Area in the Ngöbe-Buglé Comarca” and includes co-investigators Alicia Ibáñez of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Francisco Herrera of the University of Panama, and Jesús Alemancia of the Centro de Estudios y Acción Social Panameño. [Carleton Geography and Environmental Studies News](#)

CAGONT 2010
Annual Meeting

Geography Works!



Upcoming Ontario Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting: A reminder of the CAGONT meeting next weekend. The Department of Geography (Faculty of Arts) and the Centre for the Study of Commercial Activity (Ted Rogers School of Management) will host the Canadian Association of Geographers - Ontario Division (CAGONT) 2010 Annual Meeting from October 15-16, 2010. [Details at CAGONT 2010](#)

Atlantic Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers: The Atlantic Division held their 22nd Annual Meeting, October 1-3, 2010, at Memorial University, St. John's. The meeting program and abstract volume is available for downloading. [ACAG Meeting Program](#)

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Ron Buliung, University of Toronto Mississauga

Dr. [Ron Buliung](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto Mississauga. Ron completed his BA (Hons) at McMaster University, MA at McMaster University, and his PhD at McMaster University. His research interests focus on transportation geography; interaction and feedback between transport; land use and environmental systems; activity-travel analysis and modelling; family, gender and daily activities; accessibility; spatial behaviour; spatial analysis and geographic information systems (GIS); built environment and active transportation; and, technology, mobility and the city.

Ron directs [The Transportation and Environmental Change Lab](#) located in the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto at Mississauga. The mission of the lab is to advance current thinking on the relationship between accessibility and mobility in physical (e.g., the built environment) and virtual (e.g., Cyberspace) environments, the spatial structure of cities and regions, and the sustainability of human activities. The lab supports basic and applied research in four thematic areas: Human Activities, Transportation & the Environment; Mobility, the Built Environment & Health; Information Technology & the Sustainability of Human Activities; and, the Spatial Analysis of Human Behaviour in Urban Environments.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Alexander Al-khoury. 2010. "The Struggle to get Back to the Land: New Farmers and the Future of Agriculture in Ontario". Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Tony Weis.

Soheil Boroushaki. 2010. "ParticipatoryGIS: A Web-based Collaborative GIS and Multicriteria Decision Analysis". Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jacek Malczewski.

Abel Chikanda. 2010. "Emigration of Medical Doctors from Zimbabwe: Migrant Experiences, Transnational Linkages and Prospects for Diasporic Engagement". Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Belinda Dodson.

Leith Deacon. 2010. "Environmental Justice in Canada: A Media and Case-Study Analysis". Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jamie Baxter.

Tekleab Gala. 2010. "Satellite-based Mapping of Near-surface and Surface Water in the Prairie Pothole Region of Central Canada". Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Irena Creed.

Bradley Lehrbass. 2010. "Object-based Urban Tree Cover Extraction from High Spatial Resolution Optical and LiDAR Imagery: Techniques and Data Integration". Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jinfei Wang.

Tristan Martel. 2010. "Modelling Turbidity Current Driven Lacustrine Sediment Deposition". Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Marco Van de Wiel.

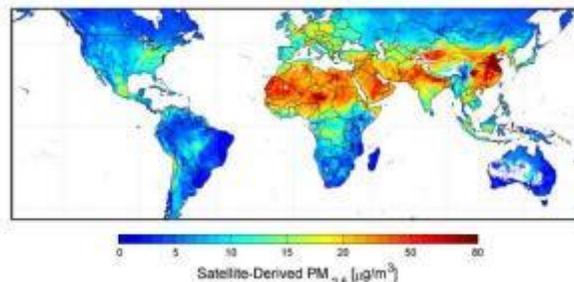
Joshua Tobias. 2010. "Embodied political ecologies of health: Examining the relationship between alcohol misuse and hepatitis in the Upper West Region of Ghana". Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. University of Western Ontario, London. Supervisor: Dr. Isaac Luginaah.

Other "Geographical" News

Experimental Geography: The manifestations of "experimental geography" run the gamut of contemporary art practice today: sewn cloth cities that spill out of suitcases, bus tours through water treatment centers, performers climbing up the sides of buildings, and sound works capturing the buzz of electric waves on the power grid. In the hands of contemporary artists, the study of humanity's engagement with the earth's surface becomes a riddle best solved in experimental fashion. The exhibition presents a panoptic view of this new practice, through a wide range of mediums.

[Experimental Geography](#)

New Map Offers a Global View of Health-Sapping Air Pollution: In many developing countries, the absence of surface-based air pollution sensors makes it difficult, and in some cases impossible, to get even a rough estimate of the abundance of a subcategory of airborne particles that epidemiologists suspect contributes to millions of premature deaths each year. The problematic particles, called fine particulate matter, are 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter. To fill in these gaps in surface-based PM2.5 measurements, experts look toward satellites to provide a global perspective. [ScienceDaily](#)



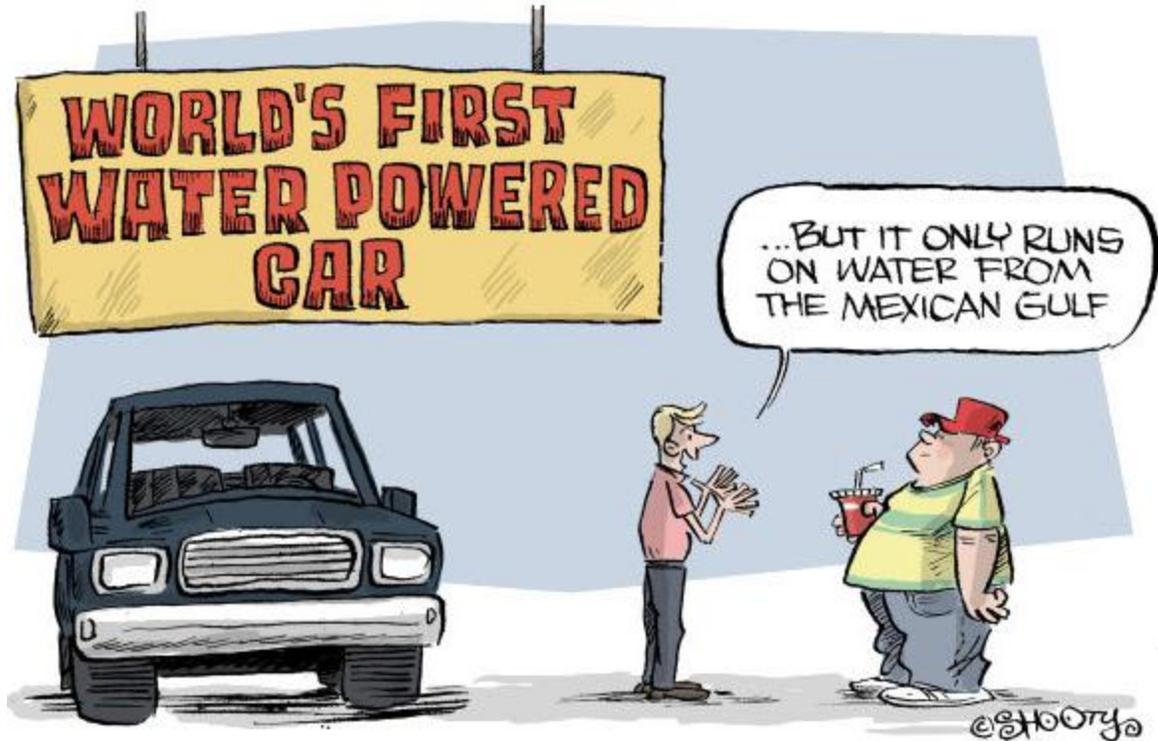
China Tops World in Catch and Consumption of Fish: China leads the world in tonnage of fish caught annually as well as the amount of fish consumed. China's top ranking results from its enormous population, despite its very low per capita footprint of fish catch and consumption. Japan is high on the list too, a result of its rate of consumption (often by importation) of fish rather than its catch. The "top 20" lists of fish catch and consumption are published in the [October issue of National Geographic](#) magazine. [UBC Media](#) | [Science Daily](#)

Computer Simulations of Real Earthquakes Made Available to Worldwide Network: A Princeton University-led research team has developed the capability to produce realistic movies of earthquakes based on complex computer simulations that can be made available worldwide within hours of a disastrous upheaval. The videos show waves of ground motion spreading out from an epicentre. The easily downloadable videos can be viewed at: global.shakemovie.princeton.edu.

Research Suggests Climate Change Target 'not safe': An analysis of geological records that preserve details of the last known period of global warming has revealed 'startling' results which suggest current targets for limiting climate change are unsafe. Professor Chris Turney and Dr Richard Jones, both from the University of Exeter's Department of Geography, have reported a comprehensive

study of the Last Interglacial, a period of warming some 125,000 years ago. The results reveal the European Union target of limiting global temperature rise to less than 2 C above pre-industrial levels shouldn't be considered 'safe.'

Some not so "Geographical" News



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