



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Lakehead U's Adam Cornwell an Optimist When it Comes to Climate Change: Dr. Adam Cornwell is an optimist. The assistant geography professor at Lakehead University said he has to think positive when working as a climatologist. Cornwell said it would take a lot of work and a possible difficult transition for a fossil fuel dependent society. But there're a few small steps residence can do to begin that change. Driving less, using energy efficient vehicles and appliances are some of the ways people can help to lower the CO2 emission, he said. tbnewswatch.com

Memorial U's Geography Department is Fifty Years Young: The Faculty of Arts' geography department is turning 50 in the academic year 2010-11 and the celebrations are already in full swing. The newly redecorated geography seminar room was re-named the William F. Summers Room in honour of the first department head. The 91-year-old Dr. Summers was on hand for the dedication ceremony as were members of his family, retired faculty members, current faculty, senior members of the university's administration, students and honoured guests. Department head Dr. Charles Mather sees the geography department's milestone as an opportunity to showcase the field's uniqueness. "It's a discipline that integrates both the physical and social sciences," said Dr. Mather. "Geographers are so much more than map makers – they are planners, researchers, educators and decision makers whose interests focus on some of today's most pressing questions, including climate change and the impact of globalization." [Today at MUN](#)

UVic Geography Graduate Student Laura May Wins Best Student Poster Award: Laura May, a MSc student working with Dr. Terri Lacourse, for winning the Best Student Poster Award for her poster "Morphological differentiation of *Alnus* pollen from western North America" presented at the Joint International Meeting of the American Association of Stratigraphic Palynologists, the Geological Association of Canada Paleontology Division, and the Canadian Association of Palynologists in Halifax, Nova Scotia. [UVic Geog News](#)

Mount Allison Geographer, Mike Fox, Wins Inaugural Teaching Award: This year marks the awarding of the inaugural SAC Excellence in Teaching award, which was created last year in order to recognize the strong and effective teaching by faculty and staff at Mount Allison. Recipients of the award demonstrate approachability, excellent communication with students, innovation in course delivery, and leadership in progress on student evaluations of teaching. This year's recipient, Dr. Michael Fox, is well known on campus as an innovator in teaching. His work towards bridging the gap between students and their community has led many students to rethink the way they are educated, and his enthusiasm in the classroom has created a genuine love of learning amongst his students. He has been described by students and colleagues as engaged, approachable, and innovative. "Embodying a teaching style intimate enough to engage students in the subject matter," VP Academic Affairs, Nathan Walker reflects, "Dr. Fox has galvanized many students' eagerness to learn." [Mount Allison University News](#)

U Calgary's Shelley Alexander Puts Calgary's Coyote Sightings Online: Calgary's coyotes are now under the Internet scrutiny of a million pairs of eyes. A new interactive website allows Calgaryans to log where they've spotted the wily canines and describe their behaviour. With no let-up in coyote-human confrontation in communities all across Canada, such a research tool has become increasingly vital, said Dr. Shelley Alexander, a University of Calgary geography professor. "Through our studies, we know 16% at a minimum of their diet is coming from garbage, so we may be coming to a point where we'll have problems," said Alexander, who's studied local coyotes for the past five years. [UC News](#) | [cbcnews](#) | [cnews](#) | [Toronto Sun](#)

York U Geography Students Enjoy Maui Field Trip: How do you like the sound of this geography field trip? Ten days in Maui climbing cinder cones, snorkelling amongst coral reefs, trekking through rainforest – and doing research every step of the way. In mid-August, Chan, Zoe Davis, a fourth-year environmental science student, and 16 other York undergraduates packed their swimming suits and hiking boots and flew to Honolulu then on to Maui. For the next eight days, they went all over the island on excursions led by geography Professors Kathy Young and Peter Vandergeest, and graduate assistant Jane Assini. Blue skies, brilliant stars and tropical heat tempered by gentle ocean breezes made for an idyllic visit – perfect for doing the research they'd come to do. [Ylife Newswire](#)

Protected Areas and Climate Change in Canada: Challenges and Opportunities for Adaptation



Christopher J. Lemieux (Department of Geography & Environmental Management, University of Waterloo); *Thomas J. Beechey* (Canadian Council on Ecological Areas); *Daniel J. Scott* (Department of Geography & Environmental Management, University of Waterloo) and *Paul A. Gray* (Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources).

This 2010 publication, sponsored by the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) in collaboration with the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo, reports on the results of the first national synthesis on the state of climate change adaptation in Canada's expansive protected areas sector. The report covers five aspects: 1) provides an overview of global and Canadian climate change issues and impacts and their implications for protected areas in Canada; 2) summarizes the results of a national survey to report issues, needs and constraints facing protected areas agencies and organizations across Canada; 3) reports case work on selected jurisdictional activities and initiatives in Canada, currently underway or planned, that are directly relevant to protected areas; 4) offers provisional thinking on issues, mitigation and adaptation strategies regarding critical aspects of policy, planning and management for protected areas; and, 5) provokes a call to action for protected areas agencies in Canada to develop a coordinated approach to climate change adaptation. Available for [order or download](#).

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Chris Fletcher, University of Waterloo

Dr. [Chris Fletcher](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo. Chris received his B.Sc. at University of Manchester; his M.Sc. University of Reading, and his Ph.D. at University College London. He was awarded a [SHARCNET research chair](#) effective August, 2010.

Chris's research program is intended to better understand the impact of climate change on atmospheric circulation patterns over Canada, the US and Europe, on timescales ranging from seasons to decades. I use state-of-the-art computer models to perform numerical experiments on the climate system on some of the world's most powerful supercomputers. Some of his key research interests are large-scale climate dynamics and teleconnections; seasonal-to-decadal climate prediction; land-ocean-atmosphere interaction; atmospheric general circulation; and, the representation of climate feedback processes in general circulation models.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Michael Andreae. 2010. "Performing trade shows: the case of the Taipei International Cycle Show". Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Glen Norcliffe.

Rashaad Bhamjee. 2010. Assessing spatial and temporal variability of ephemeral streamflow in Southern Ontario. Unpublished MSc thesis. University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario.

Melanie Bedore. 2010. "[The just urban food system: Exploring the geographies of social justice and retail food access in Kingston, Ontario](#)". Unpublished PhD dissertation. Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisor: Betsy Donald.

Ryan Bullock. 2010. [A critical frame analysis of Northern Ontario's 'Forestry Crisis'](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario. Supervisors: Bruce Mitchell and Derek Armitage.

Tao Cheng. 2010. "[Application of continuous wavelet analysis to hyperspectral data for the characterization of vegetation](#)". Unpublished PhD dissertation. Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta. Supervisor: Benoit Rivard.

Wendy de Gomez. 2010. "[Vulnerability to climate related events: A case study of the homeless population in Waterloo Region](#)." Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario. Supervisor: Dr. Johanna Wandel.

Anne-Marie Debbané, 2010. "Producing uneven waterscapes: a political ecology of water and agrarian change in the Ceres Valley, South Africa." Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, York University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Philip Kelly.

Anca Dobrinescu. 2010. "Nested multispectral-multiresolution measurements to characterize boreal clearcut boundaries and revegetation sites: a biophysical variable perspective." Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, York University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Tarmo Rimmel.

Marlène Elias. 2010. "Transforming nature's subsidy: Global markets, Burkinabè women and African Shea Butter". Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervisor: Sarah Turner.

Michael P. Ferber. 2010. "[A leap of faith: Scale, critical realism and emergence in the geography of religion](#)." Unpublished PhD dissertation. West Virginia University. Morgantown, West Virginia.

Jonathan Gerber. 2010. "From farm plot to cooking pot: regional and local fruit and vegetable commodity chains supplying Hanoi, Vietnam." Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervisor: Sarah Turner.

Alicia Hayman. 2010. Collaboration as a governance strategy for integrated water resource management: an evaluation of two watershed partnerships in the SIDS of Jamaica. Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario.

Jessica A. Henderson, 2010. "A study of the response of the northern mixed-grass prairie in Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan to a changing climate". Unpublished MSc Thesis. Department of Geography. University of Regina, Regina. Supervisor: Dr. Joe Piwowar.

Adrienne Johnson. 2010. "Becoming a Boundary Organization: Sawit Watch and the Governance of Smallholder Palm Oil Producers". Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisors: Robin Roth and Elizabeth Lunstrum.

Peter Johnson. 2010. "[Visioning local futures: Agent-based modeling as a tourism planning support system](#)." Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec. Supervisor: Renee Sieber.

Kenji Kitamura. 2010. "[Common Property Protected Areas](#)". Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Alex Clapp.

Karen Kowalchuk. 2010. Inuit knowledge of mammal distribution in Nunavut: Applications in wildlife management and risk assessment. Unpublished MA thesis. University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario.

Jennifer Logan. 2010. "There's no place like home": a snapshot of the settlement experiences of newcomer Tibetan women in Parkdale, Toronto". Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Valerie Preston.

Patrick Mojdehi. 2010. "Methane emissions from pools and ponds in Hudson Bay Lowlands". Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, York University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Rick Bello.

Ann Marie Murnaghan. 2010. "Spaces of nature, places for children: the playground movement at the turn of the Twentieth Century in Toronto, Canada". Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, York University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Ranu Basu.

Vesta Mather. 2010. Climate relationships and sub-ring parameters of four conifer species in the Kootenay Region Of British Columbia, Canada. Unpublished MSc thesis. University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario.

Jeff Ord. 2010. Large vegetative controls on aeolian processes. Unpublished MSc thesis. University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario.

Z.R. Romano. 2010. "Re-membering Tlowitsis Nation: Ameliorating displacement through the Tlowitsis Citizens Advisory Group." Unpublished MA thesis. University of British Columbia.

Megan Shrubsole. 2010. "Gentrification and redevelopment: planning, power, and politics surrounding urban transformation in Mimico, Toronto." Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, York University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Alison Bain.

Pamel Tudge. 2010. "[Cultivating Change: using the GeoWeb to map the local food system in the North Okanagan of British Columbia.](#)" Unpublished MA thesis. University of British Columbia. Supervisor: Jon Corbett.

Kim R. Turchenek, 2010. "The impact of snow cover variability on snow water equivalent estimates derived from passive microwave brightness temperatures over a prairie environment". Unpublished MSc Thesis. Department of Geography. University of Regina, Regina. Supervisor: Dr. Joe Piwowar.

Jianjun Wang. 2010. "Satellite remote sensing of suspended sediment concentrations in turbid rivers". Department of Geography, National University of Singapore.

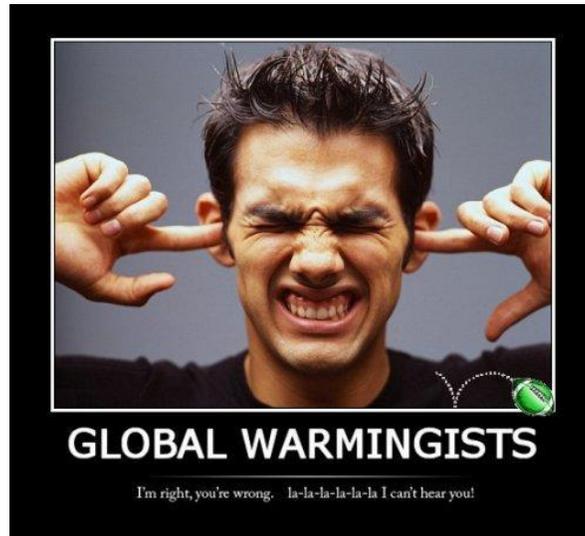
Other "Geographical" News

Aboriginal Documentary Heritage: This Libraries and Archives Canada "web exhibition recounts first-hand information illustrating the complex and often contentious relationship between the Canadian government and Canada's Aboriginal people from the late 1700s to the mid-20th century." Visitors interested in reading about the importance and meaning of these documentary resources to the aboriginal people, should read the link entitled: "The Resources from an Aboriginal Perspective". Visitors unfamiliar with the current and historical vocabulary used regarding Aboriginal people should refer to the "Glossary" on the left side menu to learn the definitions of such words as "band", "Métis", "Indian Act", and "First Nation". The "Treaties, Surrenders and Agreements" link contains the following sections: "Essay", "Gallery" and "Database". The Gallery contains images of original treaties that, among other things, ceded vast amounts of land to Canada. [Aboriginal Heritage](#)

13,000 Years of Mi'kmaw History to be Documented: A digital atlas and website documenting more than 13,000 years of Mi'kmaw presence in Nova Scotia, including place names, traditional land uses and oral histories, could be available to the public in the next few years. "The Pjila'si Mi'kma'ki:Mi'kmaw Place Names Digital Atlas and Website will help us to accomplish our long term goal of increasing public awareness of the Mi'kmaw place in the Nova Scotia landscape," says Tim Bernard, chairman of the Culture and Heritage Working Committee and director of Culture and Heritage, Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq. The project received a \$250,000 Aboriginal Research Pilot Program grant from the federal Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. [St. Mary's U Media Release](#)

National Resources Inventory Map Room: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides a range of documents and materials to stakeholders from the private sector, government agencies, journalists, and scholars. One of their projects is the National Resources Inventory which produces maps and charts based on their surveys. On this site, visitors can look over these documents, which are divided into eleven different themes, including "Soil Erosion", "Wetlands", and "Land Capability". Each thematic area contains several dozen maps, and a brief description of what each map illustrates. [NRI Map Room](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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